

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifteenth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXIII contains Nos.11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 06, 2018/Shravana 15, 1940 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone, please be seated. I have some tasks at hand, they are not just mine alone, but belong to all of us.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

11.01 hrs

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

73rd anniversary of the dropping of atom bombs on Hiroshima and
Nagasaki

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you may recall that 73 years ago, atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August, 1945 respectively, which wreaked havoc of unimaginable dimensions. This catastrophe resulted in death of thousands of innocent persons including women and children and millions were injured and crippled for life. They have been through enormous pain all these years.

Today, even after 73 years, the innocent residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continue to suffer from the dreadful aftereffects of

nuclear radiations. India has always had unflinching faith in and commitment to its long cherished principles of non-violence, peace and brotherhood. We have always pioneered the cause of world peace and stability. India has always endeavoured to attain the ideal of 'Sarve Bhawantu Sukhinah'.

Let us on this occasion, reaffirm our resolve to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and to work together for the propagation of peace and brotherhood. Let us pray:

Om Sarvesham Swastirbhavatu

Sarvesham Shantirbhavatu.

Sarvesham Poornam Bhavatu

Sarvesham Mangalam Bhavatu.

Om Shantih Shantih Shantih.

Now, this House will observe a brief moment of silence in remembrance of those affected by the dropping of atomic bombs in Japan, and we may also reiterate this prayer silently in our hearts.

11.02 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: After Question Hour time will be allocated.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

11. 04 hrs

At this stage Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

HON. SPEAKER: After Question Hour, time will be allocated. Please sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No, after the Question Hour, you will be given time.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

11.04 ½ hrs

***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

HON. SPEAKER: Question number 261, Shrimati Neelam Sonkar.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 261)

SHRIMATI NILAM SONKAR: Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Minister has provided a satisfactory response regarding the shortage of skilled workers in the country. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister has brought so many schemes for skill development. ... *(Interruptions)*

11.05 hrs

At this stage Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.

We have a large number of educated individuals here, however, even after completing their matriculation, non-matriculation, Bachelor's, or Master's degrees, many are unable to receive skilled training. ... *(Interruptions)*

I wish to inquire from the Hon. Minister if the Government has formulated any new policy during high school and college to provide education to these children under the Prime Minister's Skill Development Scheme? . . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will give you the opportunity to speak after the Question Hour. Please be seated.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Hon. Madam Speaker, with the growing population, and increasing expectations of the people, how to meet the needs of the people and how to give them jobs, for this, under the leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, we have started many schemes. In this, one of our schemes is that we will give training to one crore people, we will make them self-employed. Therefore, the work that has started on a large scale through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Yojana, this scheme has been started for those very people, just as our Hon. MP has said. I am happy to state that and today we have seen that 40 percent of the people whom we have only tracked, because we cannot track everyone, our Skill Ministry tracks them. But among those who have been only tracked, 40 percent of them got some job or some opportunity to work in the first 90 days.

It is very natural that after 90 days, more people would have also got jobs and those who were not tracked would have also got them. The scheme is running successfully on a large scale and just as you have asked, in the same way, the Government is fully committed to meeting the needs of such people and many steps are being taken for it..

SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKAR: Hon. Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister has given a very good response. I would also like to inquire

from the Hon. Minister about the significant deficiency in skill development across both private and public sectors in the country, leading to inefficiencies in their operations. The district from which I come, is one of the largest districts in Uttar Pradesh. There, we also have 60 percent of our self-help group sisters who actively participate in it. Their biggest problem is a lack of employment due to the absence of skill development centres there. I want to say to the Minister that for all those children and our sisters who are working by stepping out of their homes, there should be a good centre for them in every district, so that by doing their skill development, we can promote employment. Is any such scheme being made by our Government to open such training centres in every district, so that our sisters and our children can take advantage of it and contribute to the development of our country?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Hon. Madam Speaker, indeed, the initiative to commence such programmes has been undertaken by our Ministry of Skill Development. In this endeavour, our plan entails the opening of such centres, one by one, in each district. The scheme has been implemented in many districts. Wherever it has not been implemented, our continuous effort involves engaging in ongoing

discussions with State Governments to determine how this scheme can be initiated. It is correct that in our country, more than 70 percent of manufacturing takes place in the private sector. The fundamental question you posed was indeed about how jobs can be created in the manufacturing sector. For this purpose, we have formulated plans by holding meetings with individuals from the private sector. We have identified 34 sectors where the need for skill development is paramount, as you rightly pointed out that where there are people, there should be opportunities for employment. Efforts are underway to engage in dialogue with private sector companies to devise plans for providing training tailored to the industries present in areas with dense populations. The Government is actively pursuing initiatives to involve them in this endeavour.

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister, in his reply, has stated the purpose of evaluating the Skill Development Programme. It has been said that the Government has formed a National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to meet the skill development requirement. He has also mentioned that

the policy is linked to skill development and also to increase employment potentiality and productivity. It is a good programme.

But, Madam, you know very well what is happening in the country. The Government is saying that productivity has increased and also GDP has reached a high level. But it is not correct. Most of the small-scale industries are being closed down. In my Constituency, Karur which is famous for textile and mosquito nets, Skill Development Programme is going on.

All of them are small-scale units, but most of them have closed down. It is because the Chinese are dumping their products in our country. So, most of the people are purchasing only the Chinese products.

Somehow, this is happening here as our industries are not up to the mark. If you take Bangladesh, they are dumping their products. Especially, in my Constituency, all the mosquito net manufacturing units are closed down now. This is happening because of the cheap products that they are bringing into the country. I have represented many times to the Minister also requesting that this type of dumping policy must be stopped, and they are also illegally sending the

products from Bangladesh to India. Therefore, my Constituency is suffering a lot.

You are talking about skill development, but the quality of the product must be number one, which is not so in our country nowadays. Hence, other countries are dumping their products in our country and our people are purchasing the same. Further, the cost of the product is also very high. How will our economy develop if the cost of the product is high and quality is also low? Therefore, in order to save such industries, you will have to train and develop the skills of the rural people.

Another issue is that most of the engineering colleges are on the verge of closing down. Instead of giving it to any private agency to conduct the skill development programme, you can use the infrastructure that is already existing in the country in such engineering and polytechnic colleges and you have to see to it that the quality of the product is of high-level and its cost is also reduced. Will the Government seriously take up this issue? Madam, through you, I want to know this. What is the policy that you are going to adopt to ensure that our exports are increased so that our economy remains in good shape?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, I must thank the Hon. Deputy-Speaker for actually analysing the problem correctly. The whole problem lies in low productivity; not so good quality; not having scalability; and at the same time, not allowing the products to be globally competitive. This is the reason why it happens, and I fully agree with him on this.

To address it fundamentally, we are coming out with a new industrial policy, which will be announced very soon. My Ministry has already finalized it. The inter-Ministerial consultation is over, and it will go to the Cabinet very soon. The whole idea is to essentially target the issues that you have mentioned.

Secondly, the other part of the problem that you have correctly analysed is not having standards. It is because sometimes we say that my product is the best, but we must have the standards that can evaluate the quality not in an abstract way, but in a real way to understand what quality really means. So, we have launched a major programme for standards.

Thirdly, what you are saying is to ensure that dumping does not happen. We have not only created the Anti-Dumping Authority, but for the first time we have brought together various agencies. I must

thank the Prime Minister for it. Earlier, the aggrieved importer / party had to go from one place to another, but we have amalgamated all those functions into one and we have created a unified authority to deal with it. At the same time, whenever we find out that there is dumping taking place, then we immediately take anti-dumping measures to protect the domestic industry. A good example for it is steel. Now, the steel production is going up, and the steel industry is surviving because of this measure. As far as agricultural products are concerned, we do the same thing. Black pepper is a good example. Whenever there was a problem with black pepper and the imports were exceeding the requirement and it was causing problems to the domestic farmers, we have taken those measures.

As far as training is concerned, what you are saying is right. When we do district analysis, which my colleague, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan's Ministry does, they take all the Districts into consideration. It is a dynamic process. Sometimes, as you said, mosquito nets may be a good idea, but after some time mosquitoes may disappear. Therefore, we will have to go into the other issue and try to do it.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: The mosquitoes will never disappear. They are growing more and more day by day.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Yes, I understand. I am just saying that from time to time we have to find out which is that industry that would need such a training, and we keep doing it.

At the same time, to also ensure the exports, that you have mentioned, we have come out with a strategy on how to increase India's exports by another \$ 100 Billion. Madam, I am happy to say that in 2017-2018, our exports recorded the highest growth in the last six years. In the first few months, our records have been almost more than 20 percent on month to month basis. So, our exports are also rising. In an atmosphere where trade is becoming a challenging issue globally, and you must be reading in the newspaper that we do not talk about 'war for territory', but we are talking about 'war for trade'. In that context, India is doing and trying to do its best, but all your points are well taken. We will definitely take them as an input to formulate a policy.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: As I had suggested earlier, kindly use the existing infrastructure available in our country like engineering colleges and polytechnics, as an input to formulate a policy, to train the youth first.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Madam, the Minister has stated in his reply that there is a shortage of skilled manpower in the industry, particularly in the manufacturing sector. The shortage is to the tune of 126 million. I am really surprised. There are many programmes and training programmes under various schemes like PMKVY, DDUGKY, NAPS, ITI, etc. My constituency is one of the largest industrialised constituency in the district of Pune. Many multinational companies adopt students from ITIs to give them proper training. According to the syllabus, these companies take the employees.

The problem is that skilled workers and employees have increased in Maharashtra, particularly in Pune district. The Minister has shown that there is a shortage of 34 lakh skilled workers in electronics and automobile sectors, which is not the correct picture, particularly in Pune. Most of the companies employ people who have taken training under PMKVY or under a scheme called NEEM. Highly educated engineers are given a salary of Rs.12, 000. Majority of multinational manufacturing companies in Chakan, MIDC or Pune, MIDC do not employ people directly. They employ people only through NEEM,

and they give them a salary of only Rs.12, 000 to Rs.14,000. That is the maximum salary.

So, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether there is any policy to keep control over the manufacturing sector because they are taking advantage of these schemes, and they don't give proper employment.

Madam, 80 percent of the employees in MIDC are all employed by multinational companies like Mercedes, Volkswagen, GE, etc. on the contract basis or under NEEM or Learn and Earn Scheme, and only 20 percent employees are permanent. There is some disparity. The Government should look into this important factor and put control on the companies, particularly manufacturing companies who come from abroad.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: When you ask a long question, it necessitates a lengthy response as well. I won't be able to go beyond three questions.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Thank you, Madam.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: He represents a district, which is also one of the most developed districts not only in Maharashtra but also in India. I think, he himself is an industrialist, and he knows the problem correctly. So, I agree with him.

At the same time, he has raised too many issues. Actually what he was conveying is, firstly, there are too many people seeking job, and therefore, they are getting employment. This is what he was saying. Secondly, at the same time, he is saying that they are getting a salary not commensurate with their expectations. It is possible. Thirdly, what he was saying is that the private sector companies, and particularly the companies he has mentioned, are coming to India. He should be happy with the fact that many companies, whose names he has mentioned, are Fortune 500 companies, and they find it necessary to be in India to do business.

He has mentioned about the Apprentice Programme. For some time they get training, and eventually when they get trained, they get higher salaries. Wage depends on demand and supply. Minimum wages are prescribed by the Government from time to time. That minimum wage, every company is supposed to pay. In addition to that, what the company gives, depends on his qualification, performance,

etc. At the same time, as he has stated, we would look into this issue to find out whether there is any need to bring in further improvement in the policy.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Madam, skill development is the dream project of the Hon. Prime Minister. The DGCA, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is against the wishes of the Prime Minister. Airline industry is growing very well and very much. India today has over 600 aircraft. We are expecting another 1,200 aircraft in the next 10 years. The DGCA is the agency for conducting exams for AME. Unfortunately, the DGCA has reduced the intake by half, by permitting only 60 students against the existing 120 students. Will the Minister take initiative to create an advantageous situation by discussing with all the stakeholders, including DGCA, recognised institutes, etc.? If so, what are the modalities for the same?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The Hon. Member knows that Indian civil aviation sector is the fastest growing sector in the world. We are growing almost by 20 percent. We are adding new passengers every day. Therefore, it is an exponential growth that we are experiencing as a result of which there is a need for huge trained manpower in this sector at all levels like for safety, operations, ground handling and

many other things. So, we have prepared a policy to find out as to how many people can be absorbed in this sector. We are actually accrediting training centres for doing this.

As far as the Director General of Civil Aviation is concerned, it is not the only agency which recruits people. The DGCA is a regulatory body. I am talking about the sector which is growing exponentially, particularly, the private sector in aviation is growing at a much, much faster rate than what we could even imagine. Therefore, what the Hon. Member mentioned is not just 600, we may have to buy more than thousand planes in India. Madam, to make sure that it happens, we are already preparing manufacturing of aircrafts in India. We have set up task force under my chairmanship. We have also set up a task force to manufacture drones in India so that we can benefit from it. So, manufacturing will increase along with the increase in the volume of traffic and that will also create jobs downstream.

The whole idea is that even MRO facilities will be growing in India. Many of our aeroplanes go out for servicing or repair. All of that can happen in India. Just imagine the number of jobs that will be created through this.

So, do not go by the DGCA which is a regulatory body. In fact, we should be happy that the regulators are not increasing in number. If the number of regulators increases, you may not be happy one day. So, I think that there should be a very quality regulation without having too many people sitting on a judgment. We are working on a very robust regulation but not necessarily by having too many people.

SHRI ANIL SHIROLE: I want to ask the Hon. Minister through you, Madam, whether the Government has thought of crowd sourcing from the unemployed, entrepreneurs, farmers and the like to assess the need for the job to draw up an appropriate training programme.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, the Minister of Skill Development is running a very ambitious programme. As I said that one crore people are to be trained. One of the ideas is that the Government works with so many top-class institutions wherein they actually work as collaborators and providers of key people. I will not call it an outsourcing programme but rather a partnership programme or a collaborative programme under which the Government works with several institutions including non-Governmental organisations, technical institutions, State Governments and local-self Governments.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M. I. Shanavas -- Not Present.

Shri Nihal Chand.

(Q. 262)

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend congratulations to the Union Government for initiating Schemes such as 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'PRASAD' from a tourism perspective.

Through you, I would like to inquire with the Hon. Minister about the measures undertaken by the Union Government to attract tourists from both domestic and international spheres.

Although the Government has taken many steps to promote tourism, Rajasthan is famous for its culture and historical monuments. A large number of tourists visit here. Has the Government done any work to improve the condition of the monuments that are in ruins here?

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask only one question. I will give you the opportunity for the second question later.

[English]

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, 2017 has been an extremely good year for Indian tourism. While global tourism has grown at about average of 5 percent, foreign tourist arrivals to India has increased by 14.00 percent and the receipts from the foreign tourists have increased by 19.10 percent in US dollar terms. We are the highest growing tourism economy in the world. We are doing extremely well. In fact, last year, from foreign tourists, we received \$27 Billion which is equivalent to Rs.1,77,874 crore which is an extremely large amount. Our share of global tourism is only 1.18 percent while we have a receipt of approximately 2.10 percent from global tourism. We rank 26th in global tourism arrivals but we are 13th in terms of receipts from foreign tourists.

In Asia, we are the 7th in foreign tourist arrivals but we are 7th in terms of receipt. So, we are doing extremely well.

Madam Speaker, we have been doing a lot of things to attract foreign tourists. In fact, this year, we have made five promotional movies. Four of them have been put in the social media and, cumulatively, we have got 100 million viewers on these three promotional movies. So, this is an incredible figure. I think, we have beaten any other Government in terms of promotional movies and in

having many views like this globally. We hope that a lot of people who see these promotional movies come to see India. The promotional movie on Yoga has got 23 million viewership. The one on wildlife has got 42 million viewership. ...(*Interruptions*).

As far as India is concerned, we have 69 projects in which we are investing Rs. 5711.79 crore in Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Under PRASHAD Scheme, we have twenty-four schemes in which we are investing Rs. 727.16 crore.

As far as Rajasthan is concerned, we have four projects under Swadesh Darshan. One is the Desert Tourism which was approved in 2015 and the completion period is two years. This has an outlay of Rs. 63.96 crore and we have already released Rs. 4698 crore. The project is 85 percent complete and it is almost ready for inauguration. The second project is Krishan Circuit which has an outlay of Rs. 91.45 crore for which we have already released Rs. 41.78 crore and about 30 percent of the project is complete. The third project is the Spiritual Circuit at an outlay of Rs. 93.9 crore for which we have already released Rs. 43.69 crore to the State Governments. They have completed about 15 percent of the project. The fourth one is the

Heritage Circuit with an outlay of 99.60 crore for which we have already released 49.80 crore.

Apart from this, we have also sanctioned one more project under PRASHAD Scheme which is an integrated development of Pushkar and Ajmer at an outlay of Rs. 40.44 crore for which we have already released 19.41 crore and about 25 percent of the project has been completed.

For large revenue generating schemes, we have approved a project of Rs. 3.27 crore to the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation for making the Luxury Trains – Royal Rajasthan on Wheels. That has already been completed. So, the completed amount has been released. For fairs and festivals in Rajasthan, we have released Rs. 40 lakhs. So, this is all what we have done for Rajasthan. If the Hon. Member has any further questions, I would be very happy to answer them.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Madam, there are three Martyrs Memorials in the border area of Rajasthan State. These villages are Naggi, Lakhahakam, and Hindumalkot. In addition to these, the village of Kalibanga in the State of Rajasthan is a settlement of the Mohenjo-Daro civilisation dating back eight thousand years. For this purpose,

you allocated Rs. 45 lakh in 2015, but the commencement of that work has not occurred to date.

I would like to inquire from the Hon. Minister about the steps the Government is taking to advance the civilisation of Kalibanga and to further the tomb of Laila Majnu on the border.

[English]

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, the process, as I explained last time, is very simple. We receive projects from the States and then we ask them to make a presentation before a Committee headed by the Secretary. Of course, modifications would be made. So, we send it back to the State Government to modify the proposal and then it comes before our Mission Directorate which is headed by the Joint Secretary and these projects are again considered. If the project is approved by the Mission Directorate, it goes to the Committee headed by the Secretary. This project has not been forwarded by the State Government. Our process is very simple. It must be forwarded by the State Government to us and then we would examine it. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: You gave Rs. 45 lakh for the civilisation of Kalibanga. ... (*Interruptions*) Work has not been carried out there. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: We do not ask question upon question in this manner. Nihal Chand Ji, please take your seat now.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nihal Chand Ji, you have asked two questions. Now, please sit and listen. Allow the other individuals to ask questions.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, I can also inform this House which are the pending projects which have come from the State Government, if you give me the opportunity.

HON. SPEAKER: Whatever you have answered is okay.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Madam Speaker, Kerala is known as God's own country. When Ananth Kumar-ji was the Central Tourism Minister and I was the Tourism Minister of Kerala, we had started the Model Tourism Village scheme. My native village Kumbalangi is

known as a model village which was inaugurated in 2002 by the then Planning Member Sompal-ji. One of the characteristics of these model tourism villages is the homestays, the Hon. Minister knows that. If I have got a house and I have got one or two rooms vacant, I can give them to the tourists to stay with me and they may take my food. This is spreading throughout the country. That is one of the fast-moving tourism sectors. But unfortunately, this sector has to get the approval from the Union Government and the State Government and then there is the issue of tariffs differing from State to State. My request to the Hon. Minister is, as this sector is fast moving, why does not the Government of India monitor this sector so that throughout the country there is one regulation? When applications are made for classification, it takes more than six to seven months. The tariffs are so high that these homestays cannot be run. So, I request the Hon. Minister to monitor the homestay system and make it a viable proposition.

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member has done fantastic work in his home village Kumbalangi. It gets a very large number tourists and has a very large number of homestays. It is in Ernakulam, Cochin itself.

Madam Speaker, there is a shortage in India of 200,000 rooms. That is mainly in the mid segment. Not enough of investment is coming into this sector in the mid segment. Of course there is a lot of investment coming into the luxury segment like 4-star, 5-star hotels, but in the mid segment there is a shortage of rooms. So, we are encouraging homestays in a big way. It is extremely easy, in fact. You do not need any permission from the Government of India for starting a homestay.

However, the State Government has a system of registration. The Government of India also has a system of registration but it is not mandatory. If anybody wants to register with us, it is fine. But the State Government also has a system of registration which I do not know whether mandatory or not. I think this is one thing which we are encouraging in a big way because people come and stay at homes, experience the cuisine, the culture, the locality, the flavour of the place. I think this is one of best things that is happening. We in the Government of India and the Ministry of Tourism are hugely encouraging homestays.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Madam Speaker, two States of India, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are two important tourism

States. Winter sport is one of the major growing events all over the world and these two States offer skiing facilities in a big way. I would request the Minister to kindly visit these two States, particularly Sonamarg in Jammu and Kashmir which is the new emerging site for skiing. Would the Minister inform the House whether he has any intention of visiting these two States to see how we can promote skiing which is supposed to be the cheapest in India compared to anywhere in the world?

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, I have not had the privilege of visiting Jammu and Kashmir recently but I have visited Arunachal Pradesh. Madam Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir has one of the largest number of projects sanctioned by the Government of India. Under Swadesh Darshan, we have sanctioned six projects worth Rs.569 crore. This is the largest amount which has been sanctioned to any State.

HON. SPEAKER: He is only inviting you to see for skiing only. Otherwise, he is not interested. So, at that time you can go there. That is all.

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, I could give the details of the projects sanctioned in case the Hon. Member would like to have.

HON. SPEAKER: Not necessary, he knows it. He was Chief Minister two times.

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, 70 percent of Himalayas are in India. This year we are promoting adventure tourism in a big way. So, we are doing everything necessary to promote skiing as adventure tourism.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister has provided an excellent response, stating that one crore tourists visit the country annually, and he has listed the names of ten States. I wish to inquire from the Hon. Minister about the significance of Kurukshetra within the context of the Krishna Circuit. Kurukshetra holds profound importance, being the sacred ground where Jyotisar, a revered pilgrimage site, and Brahma Sarovar are located. Additionally, it includes Panipat, the site of three major battles. Furthermore, within Aghroha lies the primary pilgrimage destination of the Agarwal community.

Similarly, there are the heritage sites of Rakhigarhi. Carbon dating up to eight thousand years old has been obtained from here. We have consistently discussed this matter in the Assembly and have also raised the demand for its development. Mahesh Sharma Ji is present here, he has assured three times in this House that a committee will be formed by the Union Government, which will take steps for the development of these sites. I have received written correspondence from the Haryana Government continuously, and I have also personally requested the Hon. Prime Minister to develop historical sites like Rakhigarhi. Kurukshetra should be revitalised.

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

The Hon. Member wishes to inquire about the plans for the development of Kurukshetra.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: I would like to inquire from the Hon. Minister if the Government of India has constituted any committee to date to work on the development of Rakhigarhi and to address the rehabilitation of the residents living there. How much funding has your Government allocated for Kurukshetra? Please provide the details.

[English]

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Hon. Madam Speaker, we have approved one project under *Swadesh Darshan* for Haryana which is development of tourist places related to Mahabharat in Kurukshetra under the Krishna Circuit. I would also like to inform the House that, we have approved two projects worth Rs. 188.80 crore under the Krishna Circuit, two projects worth Rs. 202.76 crore under the Ramayana Circuit and one project worth Rs. 52.39 crore under the Tirthankar Circuit. Regarding Madam Speaker, If the Hon. Member wants to know the names of projects regarding Haryana, I can explain the projects which are pending with me if you give me a couple of minutes. The first one is the development of heritage circuit Rewari-Mahendragarh-Madhogarh-Narnaul. The second one is the development of Gita Gyan Sansthan in Kurukshetra under the Krishna Circuit; the third one is the development of Kurukshetra under Krishna Circuit-II and the development of tourism place of Sheikh Musa situated at Mewat district under the heritage circuit; the fifth one is the development of tourism infrastructure at tourism place of Pandav Mandir situated at Nalhar in Nuh district of Haryana under Krishna Circuit-III; the sixth one is the of Ashoka Edicts Park at Topra Kalan in Radaur block of district Yamunanagar of Haryana under the Buddha Circuit. These are the six projects.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: What measures are you taking to develop Rakhigarhi?

[English]

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: It is not in the list of projects which have been forwarded to us by the State Government.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Not like this, Hon. Minister. You have answered his question; that is all.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam, I have the information regarding all the pending projects. These are the six pending projects with the Government of India. We don't have any other pending projects.

(Q. 263)

[Translation]

SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL: Madam Speaker, the main question was whether any funds have been allocated for the festival in the States of Jharkhand and Maharashtra. However, in response, no such funds have been allocated for the State of Maharashtra because no proposal for it was received from the Maharashtra State Government.

Madam Speaker, over the past four years, our Government has undertaken numerous commendable initiatives to boost the tourism sector. Indeed, the positive outcomes of initiatives aimed at promoting tourism are becoming evident. Notably, Schemes such as Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD have played a significant role in this regard.

Madam, the tourism sector has immense potential for earning foreign currency and trade. There is a need to take new measures to establish the country on the world map in the tourism sector. In Maharashtra, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj constructed many citadels, forts, and castles for the establishment of a Hindu nation and the protection of Swaraj. Today, these lie neglected. By restoring these forts, a fort tourism plan can be developed. In the same way that there are Terracotta in China and the Haifa War Memorial in Israel, does the

Government have any intention of starting a fort tourism scheme by restoring the citadels, forts, and castles from the time of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj?

[English]

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, for fairs and festivals in Maharashtra, we have given them Rs. 50 lakh: one was for the Kalidas Festival, Rs. 25 lakh; the other was for the Elephanta Festival, Rs. 25 lakh. The Government of India has disbursed Rs. 99.99 crore for fairs and festivals all across the country. If Hon. Members are interested in getting the details, I can come out but it has many pages and would take a long time.

We have approved two projects in Maharashtra under Swadesh Darshan Scheme which is worth Rs. 136 crore. The first project is a coastal circuit at an outlay of Rs. 82.17 crore. We have already disbursed Rs.12.79 crore and they have spent about 20 percent of the amount. There were some problems with the Coastal Regulation Act; that is why there was a delay in the implementation of the project.

The second one is a spiritual circuit at an outlay of Rs. 54.01 crore. This is for the development of Waki, Adasa, Dhapewada, Paradsingha, Chota Taj Baj, Telankhandi and Girad. This is under

implementation; it was approved only in 2017-18 with a project time of 254 months.

Under PRASHAD Scheme, we have approved a scheme for development of Triambakeshwar at an outlay of Rs. 37.81 crore. This has just been approved; so, no money has been released yet.

Under Central Assistance to States, we have funded three projects: one is development of Khanoji Angre Lighthouse area at an outlay of Rs. 15 crore which is being completed; the second project is modernisation of the port at Mumbai to receive larger cruise vessels. We have disbursed Rs. 12.5 crore and that work is going on. ...
(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, if you do not want me to complete, it is fine for me; I can give him more details. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, he wanted to know only whether port linkage was there; that is all.

Second supplementary please.

[Translation]

SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL: Madam Speaker, through the Swadesh Darshan Yojana or Prasad Yojana run by the Ministry of Tourism,

funds have been made available for which places in the state of Maharashtra? Is there any plan to provide more funds for the state of Maharashtra? Many proposals have been sent to them. I have also given three proposals, for which I have not yet received a reply. That is why I have asked this supplementary question.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Have you got any proposal from Maharashtra?

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: I had visited the Raigarh Fort of Chhatrapati Shivaji. It is a hugely impressive fort. We are asking an international consultant to do a study of the Fort to see what we can do.

There are nine more projects which we have received from the Government of Maharashtra. These are under consideration. If you like me to give the details of those projects, I can.

HON. SPEAKER: It is not necessary to give any detail.

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh – now it is on Jharkhand.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to question on an important subject.

Madam, first and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India and the Hon. Minister for providing central financial assistance for the Itkhori festival in Jharkhand, which comes under my parliamentary constituency. For this, I thank the Government of India and the Ministry of Tourism very much. As you all know, nature has blessed the state of Jharkhand with unparalleled beauty and limitless tourist destinations. Rich in forests, mountains, valleys, waterfalls, wildlife, history, civilisation, and culture, Jharkhand stands as a part of heaven on earth. In my parliamentary constituency, there are Netarhat, Betla, and the forests associated with them. I am mentioning them because Netarhat is the Switzerland of the old Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.

Tourists visit there throughout the year, but no effort has been made to develop any basic infrastructure from a tourism perspective. In addition, Betla National Park has been notified as the Palamu Tiger Reserve since 1973. Not much can be done there from an eco-tourism perspective. Along with this, Itkhori, which has been given Rs. 25,000

lakh, Itkhori and Koleshwari are a confluence of these three, Jain, Shakta, and Shaiva. Along with this, they are also very important from the point of view of Buddhism and Jainism.

HON. SPEAKER: Please only ask questions, do not encompass the entirety of Jharkhand.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: The Buddhist Mission has talked about opening a university. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what the Government of India's plan is for eco-tourism for Netarhat and Betla, along with Itkhori and Koleshwari in the coming time? I have written letters to the Hon. Minister and his predecessor many times.

Madam, along with this, I would like to ask one more small question. Today is Monday. Baidyanath Dham, that is Deoghar, is included in two Prasad schemes. It is famous as the 'Manokamna Linga' among the 12 Jyotirlingas. The amount of money that was allocated under the Prasad scheme has not yet been sent. Therefore, I would also like to know when that money will be sent and what the plan is for Netarhat, Betla, Itkhori, and Koleshwari?

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: You may reply only about Betla.

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, I am very happy to inform you that this morning I have signed a File sanctioning a project under Swadesh Darshan for Jharkhand which is worth Rs.52.72 crore. This includes Betla National Park, Dalma, Chandil, Getalsud, Murisaiya and Netarhat. Possibly, all the Members from Jharkhand would be very-very happy about this.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA: Madam, concerned with tourism, my constituency Chamarajanagar, South interior of Karnataka, is having many tourist destinations. It has two Tiger Projects, two National Parks and two Falls; Hogenakkal Falls and Bharachukki Falls. Central Archaeological monuments called Talakad and Somanathapura also come under my constituency. We are lacking basic facilities. In this connection, the Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal called Mega Cauvery Tourism Circuit on 19.3.2015 but till today we have not received any money. The Government has not accepted our Mega Cauvery Tourism Circuit Project. I would urge upon the Minister to give positive reply to my question.

HON. SPEAKER: Actually, the main Question is only related to Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam, I always try to be very-very positive. Whatever is within our limitation, we try to approve every project. We have one project under Swadesh Darshan which is being implemented now in Karnataka. This is about the Development of Coastal Circuit in Dakshina Kannada District, Uttara Kannada District and Udupi District in Karnataka. The outlay for this is Rs.95.67 crore and we have already released Rs.19 crore. We have three projects which are forwarded by the State Government and they are now under the consideration of the Ministry. Madam, if you like me to give the details of those I can give. The Hon. Member has asked about a specific place. If I inform the Hon. House which are the projects which are pending, probably these would be the places which are under consideration. First is, a Spiritual Circuit, the development of Jain Spiritual Circuit at Mandargiri, Kambadahalli, etc. These places are a little complicated and so it is difficult for me to pronounce. Second is, development of Eco-tourism Circuit in Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada. Third one is a Heritage Circuit in Bidar, Gulbarga and Yadgir. Madam, these are the only three proposals which we have received from the State Government.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Jay Prakash Ji, what constitutes tourism in Bihar?

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Hon. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to speak on tourism.

HON. SPEAKER: Please refrain from speaking, you are only required to ask one question.

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: I want to know from the Hon. Minister of Tourism, sir, whether there are immense possibilities to attract domestic and international tourists to Banka, Bhagalpur, Munger, Jamui, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, and Nalanda in Bihar.

HON. SPEAKER: That's fine, please only mention the proposal that has been received.

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: There are several pilgrimage sites such as Mandar Ropeway, Banka, Vikramshila, Sitakund, Ashokdham, Rishikund, Lachhuar, and others. I would like to inquire from the Minister if they intend to allocate funds to establish the Munger Circuit, so as to attract tourists to those regions?

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Have you got any proposals from Bihar?

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, the project to create a Buddhist Circuit connecting Nalanda, Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Vaishali, etc, has been forwarded by the Government of Bihar to the Government of India. It is under consideration.

May I also inform the House that we have five projects under Swadesh Darshan which are under implementation in Bihar. It is one of the largest ones in number with an outlay of Rs.301.61 crore. I want to inform you that the project which you have mentioned about Nalanda, Bodhgaya, Rajgir and Vaishali, is under the Buddhist Circuit. That is under the consideration of the Government of India.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire, the question is from Maharashtra, so you may speak.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Madam, I would like to inquire from the Hon. Minister about the Ajanta-Ellora World Heritage Centre in my constituency. We have been celebrating the Ellora Festival for many years, but for the Ellora Festival...

HON. SPEAKER: Funds have been allocated for the Ajanta Festival.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: They do not provide the funds, and it has been closed for two years. I would like to inquire from the Minister whether you have ever visited Ajanta-Ellora? For many years, we have been celebrating the Ellora Festival in Ajanta-Ellora, but it has been discontinued for the past two years. Because my constituency is the tourism capital of Maharashtra. Therefore, I would request the Hon. Minister to allocate a substantial amount of funds for the Ellora Festival, so that this celebration can be held on a grand scale. Because tourists from both domestic and international destinations visit there.

[English]

SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM: Madam Speaker, I have visited Ajanta-Ellora, in detail, as an IAS Probationer. It is one of the monuments which I admire a lot.

Madam Speaker, we shall provide whatever assistance is required, if there is a festival. We do not have a problem. They can forward it through the State Government. We will provide an assistance of Rs. 25 lakhs. That is not a problem at all. We will do that.

Madam Speaker, kindly allow me to mention about the projects which we are implementing in Maharashtra. There are two projects

under Swadesh Darshan which we are implementing. One is at an outlay Rs.82.17 crore for the development of Coastal Circuit in Maharashtra. Second one is at an outlay of Rs.54.01 crore for the development of Waki-Adasa, Dhapewada, Paradsingha, Chota Taj Bagh, Telankhandi and Girad, under the spiritual tourism.

Now, there are nine proposals which are being forwarded by the Government of Maharashtra to us. As I said earlier, we shall consider all these projects which we receive from all the States on the similar footing and whatever is feasible for us.

(Q. 264)

[Translation]

DR. KIRTI P. SOLANKI: Hon. Speaker, I thank you for granting me permission to ask my question. First and foremost, I extend my congratulations to the Hon. Minister for providing such a comprehensive response. India is a youthful nation on the global stage, and our people are endowed with skills and talent. Hence, we refer to several classes by the name Vishwakarma.

HON. SPEAKER: Why do you satisfy your hunger for a speech during Question Hour?

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam, I am coming to the question now. Our Prime Minister recognised this very skill development and implemented the skill development scheme in a very strong way. The Prime Minister has planned to prepare a workforce of almost 500 million, which is skilled and talented, by 2022 and many schemes have been prepared for this.

I want to ask the Hon. Minister what plan our Government has made to prepare a workforce of five hundred million and through what means we will achieve this target in the coming time?

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member has inquired about our relationship with Germany.

HON. SPEAKER: I mentioned that we are now moving on to the general topic.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Furthermore, he has broadened the scope of the question significantly.

HON. SPEAKER: He has encompassed the entire world.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I respectfully accept his question. The written reply available in this regard, we will give that to him.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam, our Indo-German agreement has been finalised. The German system is a dual system. In this agreement, vocational education, which entails both theoretical and practical aspects, will be emphasised. Our ministry has identified three locations, Bangalore, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, as clusters. I wish to request the Hon. Minister and inquire whether there will be any further expansion of clusters in the upcoming times, particularly if there will be a cluster in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, the cooperation between Germany and India in the skill sector has a longstanding history. The concept of ITI has been envisioned here since the 50s and 60s, primarily observing Germany. In our country, whether it be in the realm of ITI or in the current short-term skill ecosystem, we have gradually begun to emphasise the dual education model. As the Hon. Member has stated, due to the agreements between our current Government and the Government of Germany, three clusters are currently being developed.

Madam, through you, I wish to inform the House that the Indian Government institution NSDC, along with the Indian business groups CII, and a similar organisation from Germany, GIZ, are collaborating to organise a Skill Connect Roadshow in India. The primary objective is to implement the dual education system across all States of India. We will also proceed to conduct a roadshow in Ahmedabad.

[English]

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Madam, Germany is known for very high quality products, high precision products and their skilled workforce. But their skilled workforce is honed through

apprenticeship system and not 40 to 45 days skill development system.

Now in this Indo-German Vocational and Educational Training System, the focus is on skills. But skills do not produce high quality workforce. In fact, the apprenticeship system is for a minimum of one to five years as opposed to 40 days skill development system. All the globally competitive products whether it is French wine or Swiss watches or Japanese knives are through apprenticeship system. Through the current skill development system, we are ensuring low quality workforce with low quality skills.

So in the Indo-German partnership, why are we not focussing on apprenticeship system and why are we focussing on short term skill development courses?

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, the Indo-German system is a model. I would like to inform the House through you that since assuming office, the Hon. Prime Minister has prioritised skill development, and arrangements totalling ten thousand crore rupees have been made for apprenticeship model tie-ups in the country. The benefit of this apprenticeship system has been extended to various

arrangements of the Indian Government, State Governments, and the private sector in India. For this purpose, financial management of ten thousand crore rupees has been undertaken. The Indo-German model, with the collaboration of India's industrial groups, State Governments, and the Indian Government, aims to advance the apprenticeship model, thereby unleashing a skilled workforce of high quality. As the Hon. Member is suggesting, we are indeed working in that direction.

HON. SPEAKER: Very good.

Question No. 265 - Shri Rajesh Kumar Diwakar.

(Q. 265)

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR: Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask questions.

Madam, I am totally satisfied with the answers given by Hon. Minister to the questions. The name of my Parliamentary Constituency, Hathras, is not included in the list of workshops, conferences, exhibitions, cultural festivals, etc., organised by the Ministry of Culture.

Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that in my Lok Sabha Constituency, Hathras, we have the distinction of being the birthplace of the world-renowned poet, Kaka Hathrasi. Is the Government currently planning any cultural programmes or events in its name, or is it considering doing so in the future?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Madam, the Hon. Member raised a pertinent subject, which falls under the purview of our North-Central Zone Cultural Centre in Allahabad. If a proposal comes through the Hon. Member of Parliament via the Allahabad Centre, I shall propose that Kaka Hathrasi be recognised as a prominent figure, and that a sum of money be allocated in his name for this festival.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. You make a proposal. Now please proceed to the next question.

12.00 hrs

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR: Madam Speaker, through you, I want to say to the Hon. Minister that in India, the Braj region, which is situated within 84 kos, and in Hathras, there is the famous Dauji temple, this temple is one of the pilgrimage sites of Mathura and Vrindavan. The Chief Ministers and Ministers of every Government have participated in the fair here. Folk songs like Rasiya, Malhar, Swang, etc., are performed well here by local artists. In this, those aspects of our history, along with our Puranas and scriptures, are touched upon, from which our new generation today is deprived. These artists have not received any encouragement from the state Government or the Union Government at the national level. The number of such artists is also decreasing.

Madam, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government has any provision to provide a monthly honorarium to these artists to promote the cultural programmes of Mathura and Vrindavan along with the Dauji temple?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Madam Speaker, Braj culture and art are world-famous. The Minister of Tourism of the Government of India has also given this reply, that through the 'Krishna Circuit' and the Ministry of Culture, we continuously provide such facilities to all these artists through our 'Cultural Functions Grant Scheme,' 'Artists Pension Scheme,' and various other means. 'Cultural Mapping of India', which is a very ambitious scheme of ours under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, is a scheme worth about Rs. 490 crore, in which we have specifically included the Braj region.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, I have something to say ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please remain calm and hold your position for the moment.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Your point is not in the context of Question Hour, is it?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices for adjournment motions from some Members on various topics. Although these matters are important, it is not necessary to disrupt today's proceedings for this. These matters will be allowed to be raised on other occasions. Therefore, I have not granted permission for any notice for an adjournment motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I'll give you some time, but first, let the papers be laid.

... (*Interruptions*)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 266 to 280

Unstarred Question Nos. 2991 to 3220

12.02 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND
MINISTER OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN):**

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions): -

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9595/16/18]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the GAIL (India) Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9596/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9597/16/18]

(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre,

Nagpur, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9598/16/18]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2016-2017.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9599/16/18]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gaden Rabgyeling Monastic School, Bomdila, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gaden Rabgyeling Monastic School, Bomdila, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9600/16/18]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9601/16/18]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of The Asiatic Society,

Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of The Asiatic Society, Kolkata, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9602/16/18]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Both Hindi and English versions) between the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9603/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the U.T. of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Silvassa, for the years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the U.T. of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Silvassa, for the years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9604/16/18]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Telangana Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Hyderabad, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Telangana Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Hyderabad, for the year 2016-2017.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9605/16/18]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.[English]

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9606/16/18]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Puducherry, Puducherry, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Puducherry, Puducherry, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9607/16/18]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshadweep Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Kavaratti, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Kavaratti, for the year 2016-2017.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9608/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017. 4
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9609/16/18]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology

Goa, Goa, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Goa, Goa, for the year 2016-2017.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9610/16/18]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Calicut, Calicut, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Calicut, Calicut, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9611/16/18]

- (7) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shri Lal Bahadur Shashtri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9612/16/18]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science

Education and Research, Mohali, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9613/16/18]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, Jaipur, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, Jaipur, for the year 2016-2017. 5

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9614/16/18]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9615/16/18]

- (15) A copy of Notification Nos. R/2018/Statute Amendment/311 and R/2018/Ordinances/312

(Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 27th June, 2018, relating to Ordinances No. 7, 9, 10, 18, 22(A), 22(B), 23(B), 33, 34, 39, 42, 53, 55 and 57 and amended Statutes 2(4) and 13 of Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh under sub-section (2) of Section 43 of the Central Universities Act, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9616/16/18]

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

I will allow you afterwards.

... (*Interruptions*)...^{2*}

^{2*} Not recorded

12.03 hrs

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF
THE HOUSE**

HON. SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their Twelfth Report presented to the House on 3 August, 2018 have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members as indicated against each:

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Shri Ram Prasad Sarmah | 18.07.2018 to 10.08.2018 |
| 2. | Prof. Richard Hay | 05.03.2018 to 06.04.2018 |
| 3. | Shri Vitthalbhai Hansrajbhai
Radadiya | 29.01.2018 to 9.2.2018,
05.03.2018to 06.04.2018,
18.07.2018 to 31.07.2018 |

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.03 ½ hrs

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

(i) 22nd and 23 Reports

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY (ANANTAPUR): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2017-18): -

- (1) Twenty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their 20th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).
- (2) Twenty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their 21st Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

(ii) Action Taken Statements

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY: Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the Final Action Taken Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the following Action Taken Reports of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2017-18):-

- (1) Seventeenth Action Taken Report on the subject,,
Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution“.
- (2) Eighteenth Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) (16th Lok Sabha) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).
- (3) Nineteenth Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) (16th Lok Sabha) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

12.04 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

146th Report

SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA (NIZAMABAD):

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the 146th Report (Hindi and English versions) on 'Impact of Banking Misappropriation on Trade and Industry'.

12.05 hrs

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

56th Report

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI
ANANTH KUMAR):** Madam, I beg to present the 56th Report of the
Business Advisory Committee.

12.05 ½ hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 255th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 248th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism^{3*}

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 255th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 248th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism.

^{3*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9618/16/18

12.06 hrs

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 295th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 284th Report of the Committee on 'Issues and Challenges before Higher Education Sector in India', pertaining to the Ministry of Human Resource Development^{4*}

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 295th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 284th Report of the Committee on 'Issues and Challenges before Higher Education Sector

^{4*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9619/16/18

in India', pertaining to the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

12.06 ½ hrs

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 25th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 'Marketing, Supply, Distribution, Dealerships and Pricing of kerosene and other petroleum products' pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas^{5*}

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND
MINISTER OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN):**

I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 25th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 'Marketing, Supply, Distribution, Dealerships and Pricing of kerosene and other petroleum products' pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

^{5*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9617/16/18

12.07 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Court of Aligarh Muslim University

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) of clause 1 and clause 2 of Statute 14 of the Statutes of Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920 the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, six Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, subject to the other provisions of the said Statutes.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) of clause 1 and clause 2 of Statute 14 of the Statutes of Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920 the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, six

Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, subject to the other provisions of the said Statutes.”

The motion was adopted.

12. 08 hrs

JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) AMENDMENT BILL, 2018^{6*}

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: I introduce the Bill.

^{6*} Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part – II, Section- 2 dated 06.08.2018

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Before we commence with the Zero Hour, I would like to bring something to your attention. Our House Committee is building dwelling houses for the Members of Parliament. They will come today. Some new ones are being built, and some are also ready. I have seen them, they are quite good. You all also go and see them, and if you have to give any suggestions on them, you can give your suggestions before they are completed. They are being built in North-Avenue. It is a very good thing that they are doing.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Saugata Roy Ji, what were you saying?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will allocate time for everyone to speak. Will you all speak together? Alright, everyone speak together.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, I have given a notice of Privilege Motion against the Home Secretary and DGP of Assam.

As you know, last Friday, four Hon. Members of Lok Sabha, namely, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Dr. Ratna De (Nag) Shrimati Arpita Ghosh and Shrimati Mamata Thakur had gone to Silchar to assess the situation in Assam after the publication of the National Register of Citizens. They were manhandled and were not allowed to go outside the Airport area. ... (*Interruptions*) I want a decision in the matter at the earliest. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is under my consideration. I have given enough time for them to raise it.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, it is under my consideration.

12.10 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: Reported missing of a key witness in sexual abuse
of minor girls in Muzaffarpur**

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjanji.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance, too.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Madam, please give me a chance of 5 minutes. On the 24th, I raised my voice in this very House regarding the incident of sexual assault in Muzaffarpur. The Minister of Home Affairs had responded to this matter. A day or two

later, permission was granted for a CBI investigation into the matter. I would like to inform you sequentially. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The CBI investigation is underway.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Madam, you have to give 5 minutes. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you say 'you will have to,' I will not give you at all.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: This is very important.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: A systematic CBI investigation is going on. State what you want to say in a few words. Later, Jay Prakash Ji also wants to say the same thing.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Madam, we have passed the Criminal Law, but if evidence is tampered with, who will receive justice? I would like to mention that the test report will arrive on March 28. The Department of Social Welfare keeps the report hidden

for two months. An FIR order was issued on May 30. On May 31, the FIR is filed. However, on May 28, prior to the filing of the FIR, the 40 girls confirmed to have been sexually assaulted were relocated to three different locations: Madhubani, Patna, and Mokama. On June 8, all 40 are subjected to medical examination. Despite medical examinations conducted on June 8, the medical report was provided to the Muzaffarpur police approximately one and a half months later, around July 20. She was a good SP, being a woman, this issue could be addressed openly, hence we were able to raise it here. The case was set before the CBI was involved.

HON. SPEAKER: Not such allegations. Now, Jay Prakash Ji, please speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Madam, my point is not over. ... (*Interruptions*) The main witness of the Muzaffarpur rape case was kept in Madhubani. ... (*Interruptions*) She has disappeared from Madhubani. The NGO there is accepting that the girl is missing, we don't know. ... (*Interruptions*) The main mediators, Madhu and Dilip, have disappeared after going to Nepal. 11 women, 4 girls are missing from another shelter. ... (*Interruptions*) My question again is, why are

those 14 institutions not being investigated? ... (*Interruptions*) Why are the test reports of those 14 institutions not being made public? Why were the security arrangements for those girls not made? Today, where are those girls, in which place are they, no one knows. ... (*Interruptions*) All the evidence has been destroyed. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: All of you, please be cooperative.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dhananjay Mahadik, Shri N. K. Premchandran, Shri Mullapally Ramachandran, Shri P. K. Biju, Shri M. B. Rajesh, and Shrimati P. K. Shreemathi Teacher are permitted to be associated with the issue raised by Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan.

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Madam Speaker, the issue that the Hon. Ranjeet Ji just raised, the Hon. Home Minister is sitting here, I was the first to raise this issue on that day. In the Muzaffarpur, Bihar shelter home, those 40 orphan girls were molested, were mistreated, were raped. ... (*Interruptions*) Their bodies were tampered with as if they were wooden toys. ... (*Interruptions*) The head of Bihar has bowed in shame in the country. ... (*Interruptions*) Evidence is being destroyed. ... (*Interruptions*) The girls are being replaced. ... (*Interruptions*) This should be monitored

by the court. The girls should be brought to Delhi safely. The FIR is being changed. ... (*Interruptions*) Evidence is being destroyed. The culprits are being saved. ... (*Interruptions*) The Government has a direct hand in this. That is why the head of Bihar has bowed in shame in the country and the world. When Sita was abducted, Lanka was burnt... (*Interruptions*) When Draupadi's honour was stripped... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: All of you, please associate with him. You write down your names. Everyone will not be allowed to speak.

[English]

No, I am sorry. Now, Shri Gopal Shetty.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)... ^{7*}

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (NORTH MUMBAI): Madam Speaker, the Maharashtra Government has allocated 35 acres of land in my constituency of North Mumbai Lok Sabha to the Sports Authority of India. It has been more than ten years since this occurred. I have been striving for this since I was an MLA. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, that is not how it works. What will they repeatedly state while the CBI investigation is underway? I am speaking. The orders for the CBI investigation have been issued. The CBI is conducting an investigation.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This does not concern you?

... (*Interruptions*)

^{7*} Not recorded

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Madam Speaker, in my constituency of North Mumbai, a 38 acre land has been reserved by the Maharashtra Government for sports facilities.

12.15 hrs

At this stage, Shri Jayadev Galla and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Madam Speaker, it has been over ten years since 35 acres of land were allocated to the Sports Authority of India.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: You go to your seat. It cannot be done like this every day. I have allowed No Confidence Motion also.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Madam Speaker, three acres of land have been encroached upon... *(Interruptions)* but despite the availability of funds, the development of the land by the Sports Authority of India is not progressing.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: If you want to raise anything, you go to your seat and raise, not like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Hon. Speaker, the Prime Minister of India, through the 'Khelo India' initiative, is advancing sports in the country.

... *(Interruptions)* Our children are enhancing the nation's pride, but due to the arbitrary dealings of officers, despite having the funds, the development of 35 acres of land is not progressing. ... *(Interruptions)*

During those days, Gajanan Kirtikar Ji undertook the representation of this segment, and he also followed up on it. Madam Speaker, with deep regret, I must state that Mumbai is a city with a population exceeding 1.25 crore. ... *(Interruptions)* The issue at hand involves land and money. The Maharashtra Government has allocated land to the Sports Authority of India, but the Sports Authority of India insists that the land be transferred to their name before they proceed with the development work. It has been ten years since then. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I will not allow this.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: When CBI inquiry is going on, you please wait.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Madam Speaker, in ten years, slums have developed there, and there are no facilities for children to play. Through you, I wish to request the Government to promptly develop this land. When Sarbananda Sonowal was the Minister of Sports... (*Interruptions*) he visited there, and when Mr. Vijay Goel became the Minister of Sports, he also visited. I will now request the new, young, and energetic Sports Minister and the Government of India to develop that land as soon as possible. ... (*Interruptions*)

In my constituency, I have been trying for more than eight years to develop a bungalow and a piece of land in the name of Balasaheb Thackeray Ji and Pramod Mahajan Ji, who ran 'Dyuti' for more than twenty-five years. ... (*Interruptions*) The compound wall has been built, but the work is not progressing. I want to bring this issue to the attention of the Government through you. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Permission is granted to Shri Arvind Sawant, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Kulmani Samal, and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra to associate with the issue raised by Shri Shri Gopal Shetty.

12.17 hrs

At this stage, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan and some other Hon.

Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR): Madam Speaker, Bilha, in my constituency of Bilaspur, is an important place where a lot of commercial and industrial work is carried out. ... (*Interruptions*) Along with this, agricultural produce is also in abundance. Mumbai-Howrah rail operates from this place. The High Court of Chhattisgarh is very close to Bilha. I had previously requested the Minister of Railways that the Jan Shatabdi Express, 12101 and South Bihar Express 13287 be given a stoppage at Bilha. He also had it investigated. The necessary criteria for this are also being met. ... (*Interruptions*) I will request the Minister of Railways through you that, in view of the need of the region's demand and to fulfill the demand of the people, Janshatabdi Express and South Bihar Express

should be given a stoppage of one or two minutes at Bilha. You gave me the opportunity to speak, thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu.

SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. ... (*Interruptions*) The Naga Agreement was signed on 3 August, 2015. I want to speak about the territory of Arunachal Pradesh in this context. ... (*Interruptions*) The people of Tirap, Chang Longding, are suffering. They are deprived of education and healthcare there. Mon District and Tirap, for Chang Longding... (*Interruptions*).

12.19 hrs

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12.30 p.m.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past

Twelve of the Clock.

12.31 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Thirty One Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

... (*Interruptions*)

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS ... Contd.

**Re: Reported missing of a key witness in sexual abuse
of minor girls in Muzaffarpur**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Ninong Ering Ji, you had not finished your statement.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Speaker, I want to express my views in the House ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Hon. Madam Speaker, this is a very serious matter. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Jay Prakash Ji, please listen to me for one minute.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Ranjeet Ranjan Ji, Jay Prakash Ji, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You should understand what I am saying.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, we need an answer from the Government ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The matter that you people have raised is not only your case. Everyone agrees that no one can tolerate any form of violence against women and girls anywhere. The Government has ordered an immediate CBI inquiry into the matter. I will also say today that the CBI inquiry should be conducted properly. The pain expressed here today should be acknowledged by the Government. I urge the Government to ensure proper monitoring and resolution of every issue. I understand that what happens to women is indeed a sensitive matter. The Government has accepted the CBI probe.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I would like to make a humble request, please take it seriously. That is all.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Speaker, I want to speak for one minute.

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone is not supposed to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The Minister of Home Affairs was here; he could have given clarification. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He will not make a statement daily.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, if you wish to further elaborate on this, it is entirely up to you.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: This is not right.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Minister Sir is here.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Speaker, the Home Minister is right here; he has heard the whole matter. When he has heard the whole thing, what is the problem in coming here and replying? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What reply will he give when the investigation is going on?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: He can respond to the objection they raised. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Zero Hour doesn't allow for daily replies.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: They are destroying evidence, suppressing it. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharge, you are understanding my point.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, we respect you. Please ask the Home Minister to come and reply. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: That is why I have told the Government. The CBI is investigating. There is no reply in Zero Hour every day.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Jay Prakash Ji, you sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: We are walking out.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): We also walk out with them.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Ananth Kumar, do you want to say something?

... *(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND
THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI**

ANANTH KUMAR): Hon. Speaker, Jay Prakash Ji is walking out, please listen to the matter and then walk out. ... (*Interruptions*)

12.34 hrs

At this stage Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Shri Dinesh Trivedi and some other Hon. Members left the House.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I want to say one thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I understand your point; now, let him speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not conducting a discussion here yet.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Many pieces of evidence will be destroyed before the CBI inquiry. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Minister was here, he did not provide a statement, therefore, we walk out.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.35 hrs

At this stage Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan

and some other Hon. Members left the House

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Hon. Speaker, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan Ji and Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Ji have exposed the things in the House many times about the atrocities meted out to the children regarding the Muzaffarpur barbaric incident. After bringing this to light, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has already replied to this issue, and following his response, the announcement of a CBI investigation has been made.

You know, the CBI investigation will be impartial. Madam Speaker, I would also like to mention that I will bring the issue raised by Hon. Members to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: If you want to say something, you can say so.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shrirang Appa Barne Ji. You have no issue. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone else be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu, what do you want to say? Listen, I will not allow you to show placards like this every day.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Madam, this is a very important issue. You also understand, Madam, that for the previous six or seven months, we have been raising issues about the justice for the State of Andhra Pradesh. The one that I want to pick up, right now, is the funds that have been promised for the backward districts of Andhra Pradesh. There are seven districts, four in Rayalaseema and three in Uttar Andhra. The promise of the Government of India was as such that the package will be given on

the lines of Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh and KBK in Odisha. As per KBK and Bundelkhand packages, they were giving Rs. 4,000 per person but the package that they are trying to give to Andhra Pradesh....*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: First, I just do not understand, what is all that is happening? What do you want to show to the whole India? Your Party people are showing placards. They should not show it. You are also doing the same thing. Please, sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Madam, this is regarding the same issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I know. But, with placards, you cannot do like this. What is this happening? Is this a playground? Anything has been maintained.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Let me explain the issue, Madam. ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, the package that we were promised was on the lines of Bundelkhand and KBK. We were supposed to get Rs. 22,000 crore if similar package was supposed to

be given. But what they have given is just Rs. 50 crore per district for six years which amounts to Rs. 2,050 crore. That is a grave injustice which is being done. On top of that, for three years, they have given Rs. 350 crore for three years. In the fourth year, on February 9th of this year, they have given Rs. 350 crore. They have put it in the account of the State Government and within a week, undemocratically and in an unprecedented manner – it is such a shameful act from the Government of India – they have taken that Rs. 350 crore back without any intimation to the State Government or the Chief Minister. For six months, just because of an order from the Prime Minister's Office, they have kept these funds with the Union Government. This is our right. They have to give. They have to release this Rs. 350 crore. I come from one of those backward districts. This is the hope that we had for developing our districts. Even this kind of atrocity that is being done with our districts, what do we do or where do we go? That is why, we are asking, Madam, Rs. 350 crore from the Union Government. It has to be released immediately. There was an Unstarred Question that has been asked by Hon. Member Butta Renuka Ji also.

HON. SPEAKER: I will also allow her to speak but after this and not immediately. I will allow her.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Madam, I am just taking it as a reference. In the answer, they have constantly used the reason of not submission of Utilisation Certificates. I want to put it on record that the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted 95 percent of the Utilisation Certificates. In the entire country, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is at number three position in submitting the Utilisation Certificate. Even then, they are using this reason just because they have an order from the PMO ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No, not like this. Shri Ninog Ering.

[Translation]

SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST): Hon. Speaker, I would like to address the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs that the demand for autonomy by the Mon and Patkai regions in Arunachal Pradesh is for the distressed and marginalised people there. Even the Student Union ABSU is against it; they are opposing it. This time, the meeting between the Arunachal Pradesh Government, the Home Ministry, and the NSCN-IM, which is scheduled, is being opposed. If we give the Autonomous Council to these two districts, territorial integrity is essential and necessary to diagnose our distress.

Madam, for this, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs through you that these areas, namely, Patkai and Mon, which are Autonomous Councils, should be announced soon.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shrirang Appa Barne - not present.

SHRI VIKRAM USENDI (KANKER): Madam, mining work for iron ore is going on in the mines in the mountains of Hahaldi of Vikas Khand Durgakondal under Kanker district of the state of Chhattisgarh, besides villages affected by it like Medo, Chachad, Padgal, Hahaldi, Bhuski etc., mining of iron ore is going on in the village Metabodeli mine of Khand Koyilibeda. In both development blocks, such as Chargaon, Chhotebodeli, Metabodeli, Sodwa, etc., due to the mining of iron ore during the monsoon season, the red water that emerges after mining affects not only the rice crop of farmers, but also other crops cannot thrive there. Their growth is hindered. Due to this, the fields are getting damaged. Provision has not been made for water drainage at these two locations, even by the mining management. With that being said, farmers are suffering greatly from the red water seeping out of mines, causing significant damage to their fields.

Madam, to prevent red water from entering the farmers' fields there, the construction of drainage channels should be carried out immediately, along with a system for the filtration or treatment of the red water. Until such a system is in place, the mining work there should be stopped. The flow of red water into the farmers' fields is causing great damage, due to which the farmers there are angry. At the same time, arrangements should also be made there, where the mining managers are getting profits of millions and Billions of rupees, but no work is being done in the interest of the farmers, due to which the farmers there are going to stage a protest. For this, through you, I would

like to urge the Hon. Minister of Mining to make such arrangements in the interest of the farmers, so that the farmers do not have to suffer any loss there. The mining work should also continue there, but such arrangements should be made by giving priority to the interests of the farmers first.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Vikram Usendi.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter regarding encroachment on Railway land in Mumbai. Some slums have come up on the Railways land 50 years ago. The Government of Maharashtra has a specific programme for rehabilitation of such old slum-dwellers, but there is no such policy on the part of the Railways. Moreover, the Railways are not coming forward to issue NoC for such redevelopment. At least, in Maharashtra State, particularly for Mumbai city, a special proposal to issue NoC may be taken up immediately by the Railway Board. The vacant land can be utilised for creating infrastructure facilities. Alternatively, a joint venture with the Government of Maharashtra for

rehabilitation of eligible slum-dwellers and development of such land may be approved by the Railway Board. That is my request to the Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Arvind Sawant, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Shri Rahul Shewale and Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Madam, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications to the matter relating to responsibility of the Government to revive BSNL. It is a matter of concern that while private telecom operators like Jio, Airtel, Idea etc. are providing 4G service in rural areas, why BSNL is lagging behind? Even the consumers of rural areas of our country are deprived from using 3G service of BSNL. It may further be stated that the Government should also ensure enhancement of range of signal by installing Wi-Fi hotspot under the Universal Service Obligation Fund. The Fibre to the Home (FTTH) service should also be extended to district as well as

block headquarters so that the people of that region can have an access to flawless and high-speed internet service. Hence, the Government should invest more in this PSU in order to put modern technology and infrastructure facilities in place to attract more consumers and to generate good amount of revenue. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and Shrimati V. Sathyabama are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kulmani Samal.

[Translation]

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): Madam Speaker, through you, I want to say that two new trains, numbers 19029 and 19030, the Mahuva-Bandra Express and 22993 and 22994, the Mahuva-Bandra Superfast Express, were started from Mahuva to Bandra on April 3, 2017. Currently, this train is run from Mahuva to Bandra only two days a week.

Because it runs for only two days, the seats on both these trains are always full, due to which the railways are issuing waitlisted tickets. This causes a lot of trouble for the passengers. Through you, I want to say that this train passes through about 12 districts of Gujarat, such as Amreli, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Surendranagar,

Ahmedabad, Kheda, Anand, Baroda, Bharuch, Valsad, and Navsari to reach Mumbai. Since Mumbai and Surat are commercial cities, there is a lot of employment in Amreli, Junagadh, Bhavnagar, and Surendranagar's textile and diamond industries. Therefore, people have to travel frequently. Hence, our request to the Government through you is that this train be run daily.

I have also met the Minister several times in this regard, and a delegation of 12 MPs met with him. Therefore, the nearest station to Amreli district, Liliya Mota, is 15 km away. Due to the lack of a stoppage there, passengers have to go to the Dadsa and Savarkundla stations, which are 50 km away, to catch this train. Therefore, my request is that a two-minute stoppage for this train be given at Liliya Mota station.

In conclusion, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that both trains be operated on a daily basis so that the Ministry of Railways can earn good revenue and at the same time, the problems of passengers can also be solved. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sharad Tripathi, and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are granted permission to associate with the issue raised by Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Madam Speaker, I have consistently been speaking in this House about how the services of MTNL are deteriorating. If you make a call today, it becomes a one-way call and calls get dropped. On the other hand, private companies are talking about 4G and 5G. Government companies are not able to provide these services well. The main reason for this is that both these companies are running at a loss. The other day, a bankruptcy and insolvency Bill came here. On that Bill, our fellow Member said about Bhushan Silk that if the Government had not helped, the company would have sunk. People would have lost their jobs. If the Government adopts the same policy for MTNL and BSNL, those companies will also move forward.

Hon. Madam Speaker, this is a very important issue because there is discrimination. The Government is paying some attention to BSNL, but it is not paying full attention to MTNL. Now, regarding the 3rd TRC and salary, the Government has written to the DoT that both companies are running at a loss. The Government is writing for one company that they should be given it, but it is not talking about MTNL.

Secondly, the company that went into loss, did so because it did not receive financial assistance. Therefore, my request to the Government is that the Government should give them more and more funds, and if the Government provides financial assistance, both companies will emerge.

Finally, if the management sitting there is inactive, the Government should get it investigated by the CVC. I feel that due to their inactivity, there has been sabotage. The Government says that we have given the OFC, but they are not providing it. In this situation, if an investigation is done, it will also be known who is sabotaging it. If these three things are done, the companies will emerge. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati V. Sathyabama, Dr. Kulmani Samal, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena, Shri Rahul Shewale, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandele, and Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Arvind Sawant.

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Speaker, floods have occurred in many states within this country, and many states are facing drought. Therefore, our Government, under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, has devised an extensive plan to connect rivers across the

entire country. Similarly, in Rajasthan, rivers are being interconnected, and the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project has been formulated. Through this scheme, 1437 MCM of water from the Chambal Basin is being wasted and going into the ravines. The Government has devised a plan to construct the interlinking of rivers Parvati, Kalisindh, Megh, and Chhoti Ghatis in Rajasthan by facilitating water transfer as part of this project. A 272 km long canal will be constructed, along with several dams, and by halting the flow of melting snow, water will reach the fields of farmers in 14 districts of Rajasthan, such as Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Sawai-Madhopur, Dausa, Jaipur, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, and others, covering an area of two lakh hectares.

In 14 districts of Rajasthan, people are consuming water with high fluoride content, and there is a scarcity of drinking water. I hope that after the completion of this project report, every individual in those 14 districts will be provided with drinking water, and every field will receive irrigation water.

Madam Speaker, when the Hon. Prime Minister visited Jaipur, the Chief Minister had raised this issue. This is such a significant project that it will be the mainstream of Rajasthan's development. A

comprehensive plan will be implemented to provide water to every farmer, youth, labourer, and every farm. With this, the Industry Corridor will also get water and the industry will flourish there.

Through you, I urge the Hon. Prime Minister to designate this project as a national project so that Rajasthan can progress towards new development.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Dr. Kulmani Samal, Shri Harish Meena, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Om Birla.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. I have been elected from the Nalanda parliamentary constituency in Bihar. The NPCC is the Central Agency responsible for road construction in my parliamentary constituency. Five roads were to be constructed by them in my parliamentary constituency. However, these roads have not been built since the time of the previous UPA Government until now.

Their names are as follows- Harnaut-Jal Govind Path (from Basti to Daily), Package Number: BR-24/101, Link Road from Sarmera

Deeh to Kazich, Package Number: BR-24/39, Govindpur via Gaus Nagar, Package Number: BR-24/39, Rajgir-Chhabilapur Path to Tilaiya, Package Number: BR-24/92, and Rajgir-Chhabilapur Path to Bhiyar, Package Number: BR-24/92.

Madam, this is a Union Government agency, and it has not been working continuously for the last five or six years. There is resentment among the villagers, who ask, "What is our fault?" Action should be taken to get the work done there.

Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to get the agency investigated under his supervision and to be kind enough to get the work done.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Kulmani Samal, and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

[English]

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): Thank you Speaker Madam for allowing me to speak on an important matter regarding Mahanadi Coalfields situated in my parliamentary constituency, Bargarh.

Madam Speaker, we all know about the importance of coal in the Indian economy. The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has an outstanding record in operating several coalmines in Western Odisha. It has achieved record production in 2017-18 while keeping in mind the rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families. The MCL, over the years, has developed an effective system for close coordination with the local authorities and the local communities for land acquisition, rehabilitation and settlement of the affected people, which is so essential for operationalisation of coalmines. But now the Ministry of Coal has decided to allot four coalmines of Odisha, namely, Rampla, the Dip side of Rampla, Ghogarpalli and Dip Extension of Ghogarpalli not to MCL but to the Western Coalfields Limited which has its headquarters at Nagpur.

I would like to request, through you, Madam, the Coal Ministry to review its decision and allot these four mines of Odisha to the MCL,

instead of allotting it to another Coal India Limited subsidiary located far away from the field of operation.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and Dr. Kulmani Samal are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): This is the third time I am submitting this matter in this august House, through you, Madam. Among all the ESI hospitals in Kerala, the ESI hospital situated in Thottada near Kannur is a significant one. It is a 50-bedded hospital situated very near the National Highway. Now the hospital has seven specialities. But I request, through you, Madam, to include super specialities like cardiology, cardiothoracic, nephrology, urology because a large number of patients are suffering from these diseases and especially the diabetic patients want to get dialysis. Dialysis is required. Nephrology is also needed.

Hon. Speaker, I would request the Government as well as the Hon. Minister to upgrade the ESI hospital. It also has a 20 acre piece of land with it. As the hospital is near to the national highway, I request the Hon. Minister to sanction a trauma centre unit there. It will be

beneficial to a large number of poor people, especially the workers engaged in handloom, bidi and coir sectors. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: S/Shri Innocent, Dr. P.K. Biju, Adv. Joice George, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and M.B. Rajesh are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, in our election system, we are using the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The neutrality of these Electronic Voting Machines has been questioned and we feel that it has been compromised. The Trinamool Congress has demonstrated outside Parliament on the demand that ballot paper system should be brought back in the election process. Our Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, when came last week, gave a call to all opposition parties to come together to demand that ballot paper system is brought back.

Madam, an advanced country like America still have ballot paper system in elections. The same goes with Germany as well. We have no proof that Electronic Voting Machines cannot be compromised. So, 17 opposition parties are planning to get together to represent to

the Election Commission. But basically this has to be implemented through the Ministry of Law, which is in charge of conducting elections and is supervising over the Election Commission, which is an independent body under Article 324.

That is why, Madam, through you, I reiterate the demand of Trinamool Congress and of all opposition parties that the Electronic Voting Machines should be scrapped and ballot paper system should be brought back to ensure a fair voting so that there is no hacking and no manipulation of the EVMs by the Ruling Party and their cohorts. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rahul Shewale and Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Prof. Saugata Roy.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to speak on a very important issue, which is part of the Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act, 2014. A special development package in line with Bundelkhand was promised for seven backward districts of Andhra Pradesh. Though it is being in line with Bundelkhand, the amount has been reduced and it is Rs.300 crore for each district.

Madam Speaker, I represent a backward district, Kurnool and I know the difficulties that backward areas are facing. The reply by the Government to one of my Unstarred Questions is very disheartening and disappointing. The answer given is in order to sanction a fund to Andhra Pradesh from Demand No.40. It says:

“The releases are based on the recommendation of the NITI Aayog after checking the Utilization Certificates (UCs). Thereafter the approval of the competent authority is obtained. In this case, all necessary approvals were not available and inadvertently the amount of Rs.350 crore was released and then withdrawn. The release has not yet materialized.”

Madam, this is really sad. The State Government has submitted all the UCs. We have checked it with the officials concerned and it is very clear. This kind of injustice to Andhra Pradesh, especially to its backward areas is not fair on the part of the Union Government. I request the Government to release the amount immediately and support the backward areas with special development package and funds. Thank you.

13.00 hrs

[Translation]

DR. RAGHU SHARMA (AJMER): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, I want to draw the Government's attention to the problem of thousands of poor people in my constituency who were compelled to build toilets in their homes under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Hon. Madam Speaker, the Government gave targets to the officials for this. The Government officials pressured those poor people, who do not have enough to eat, into building toilets to meet the targets. The whole of India knows this. This is a factual truth. If the Government had arranged for water there, I believe that building these toilets would have been beneficial for the common man's life. Rajasthan is the largest state in the country geographically, but we have only one percent of the water. People were told that they would receive twelve thousand rupees per toilet from the Government of India. Those people took loans and constructed these toilets. Now, two years have passed since the construction of these toilets. Madam, the

interest on the loans of those poor people has started. Due to the lack of water, the people were forced to open shops selling betel and sundry items in the toilets that were built.

I want to say, through you, that before running such campaigns, the Government should consider the geographical conditions of a place. I also want to say, through you, that it should be ensured that the funds are disbursed to those millions of poor people on time, so that they can be freed from the burden of interest and debt. Thank you.

SHRI DHARAMBIR (BHIWANI- MAHENDRAGARH):

Madam, nowadays, seasonal vegetables, whether in Delhi or Mumbai, onions, potatoes, and tomatoes do not cost less than Rs. 50 a kilo anywhere. Exactly forty days ago, the same tomatoes in my area were sold for one rupee a kilo, but neither the Government nor any other person bought them.

Through you, I want to request the Government to build cold storage facilities for this, regardless of whether the officials belong to the central or state Government. We have been seeing for many years that this is only ever mentioned, but due to the lack of cold storage, the same vegetables that are thrown on the streets for one rupee a kilo are sold for up to Rs. 50, 60, and 70 a kilo today.

Through you, I want to say that the Government should make arrangements for this, otherwise, Governments often change because of the prices of these very tomatoes and onions. Similarly, mustard was bought at the Minimum Support Price. Only 18 percent of mustard was bought at the Minimum Support Price. Every grain of the upcoming crops, whether it is millet, cluster bean, or cotton, should be bought at the Minimum Support Price. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dharambir.

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA KAUSHIK (SONIPAT): Hon. Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour.

Madam, through you, I request the Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to instruct the Health Department to establish a Health Centre in my parliamentary constituency, thereby alleviating the healthcare-related concerns of the people. My parliamentary constituency, Sonipat, is in the NCR. There is no health centre there, even though there are thousands of Union Government employees in our area. I have met the Minister many times regarding this, and we

have also talked, and I was assured every time that the health centre would be started this year, but it has not been started yet. This is my plea to you, so that this very big problem of the people of our area can be solved. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Dr. Kulmani Samal and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramesh Chandra Kaushik.

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU): Hon. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

Madam, tearing the chest of the earth with the tip of a plough, the farmer produces grain and feeds everyone from an ant to an elephant. Through you, I want to speak to the Government of India about his very big problem. This year the monsoon has been good, and the Kharif crops are standing in a very good condition everywhere, but believe me, due to stray animals, the farmer cannot even sleep for half an hour at night.

Madam, the number of Nilgai and stray animals has become very large. Small farmers are not even able to afford fencing. I had also

raised this issue once before. You also come from a similar area. All the farmers are also in contact with you. Therefore, on my behalf and on behalf of all the farmers, please convey this matter to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture.

I want to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister. Many schemes have been made to double the farmer's income by 2022. Because of this, the farmer is also very happy. I have just come from the area. During the rainy season, the poor farmer makes a hut in the field and keeps watch all night, sometimes his wife, sometimes he himself, and sometimes his children. Madam, it is very important that this problem of the farmer is solved. I thank you once again.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhagwant Mann, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati, Shri Harish Meena, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Devji M Patel, Shrimati Rekha Verma, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar and Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise a very important and urgent matter of public importance of Kerala.

Madam, in Kerala, in the last few years, more than 400 cashew factories have been closed down due to the policies of State Government as well as of the Union Government. Shri N.K. Premachadran, Shri K.C. Venugopal and myself come from Kollam district of Kerala. Kollam is a cashew producing district. More than two lakh workers work in this sector. Now, they are losing their employment due to this crisis. The cashew workers who work in private sector are also losing their stipulated ESI and PF benefits.

I would like to urge upon the Union Government and also the Ministry of Commerce to take urgent steps to call a high-level meeting at the earliest to settle this crisis in cashew sector.

SHRI M. B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Madam, I thank you for allowing me to raise this issue. I had given a notice of Adjournment Motion for this. I have been patiently waiting to raise this serious issue. Unfortunately, the least priority has been given to my notice. It is a very serious issue concerning the safety and security of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Who is shouting while sitting? Is this appropriate?

[English]

SHRI M. B. RAJESH: Madam, there was a serious security lapse on the part of Delhi Police regarding the safety and security of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala who was staying in Kerala House, New Delhi last Saturday. A man armed with a deadly weapon managed to reach in front of the room in which the Hon'ble Chief Minister was staying, but Delhi Police did not act and remained silent spectator. It was only because of the timely intervention of the security guards of Hon'ble Chief Minister that, that man could be prevented and arrested. This is a very serious issue because Delhi Police did not intervene. Madam, this cannot be taken lightly.

Madam, in the past also, there were two such incidents. One month back, a man, through Facebook, openly declared that he was coming to Kerala to assassinate Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala. He was arrested by Delhi Police at Delhi Airport. Delhi Police is well aware of that.

One year back, a man declared that he would give Rs.one crore for beheading the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala. I do not want to

mention here to which organisation he belongs to. So, there has been serious threat to the life of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Despite that, Delhi Police did not act and there has been a serious lapse. Unfortunately, the Hon'ble Home Minister is not present here.

So, I would like to request the Government to order an enquiry and take action against those who are responsible and the Government should also respond to this.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, Dr. P.K. Biju, Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Shri Innocent and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M.B. Rajesh.

[Translation]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to inform the House about the attack on me yesterday and to seek justice from this House.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, after finishing the DPC meeting in Dhule, as I was returning by car, 200-300 people started vandalising my car. They broke the front windshield, where I was sitting, with a foot and tried to kill me, and they also gathered around my car and

tried to overturn it. Madam, when all this was happening, there were four police constables there. But they did not try to stop any of this; on the contrary, they stood and watched the entire spectacle.

When some people saw my car being overturned, some of our workers who were standing there pulled me out of the car. If I had not gotten out of the car, I might have been crushed under it and could have died. When I lodged a complaint at the police station, the police took about 15-20 people into custody. An FIR was registered in that case. After the FIR was registered, those 15-20 people were released. They were released instead of being arrested. When asked repeatedly, they said that they would conduct an inquiry. Many MLAs from different communities had come to that DPC meeting. When I, a tribal woman, went to that place, only my car was attacked. The car of an MLA who left five minutes before my car was not even touched by anyone. When I told the police department that people from different communities were present here and I, a female MP from a tribal community, was the only one whose car was attacked, they should also register an offense under the Atrocities Act. But an offense under the Atrocities Act was not registered. I also want to tell you and the House that when I was in the car, people were climbing on top of my

car and trying to vandalise it. After I got out of the car, my entire car was attempted to be crushed. The person who committed this whole act was released by the police department within two hours. That person was garlanded, as if he had done a very good job, and a procession was taken out for him throughout the city.

Madam, I am a woman from the tribal community. In our state, instead of providing protection to women, the Police Force is providing protection to these criminals. Through you, I demand from the Union Government that these individuals be arrested as soon as possible and the SP in that area be suspended, with action taken against them. Apart from this, the offence of atrocities should also be registered in all these incidents.

You have given me the opportunity to speak, for which I express my gratitude.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Ravindra Kumar Jena and Dr. Kulmani Samal are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit.

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Madam, the whole House has to condemn this incident. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Hon. Speaker, all of us in this House, whether it's you or us all, pledge to work towards the unity and integrity of this nation. Today, I stand here with sorrow, not just because Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Beant Singh was my grandfather, but because he was also the elected Chief Minister of the Punjab state of this very nation. He sacrificed his life for peace and tranquillity in Punjab. He was bombed. However, some Members of this House and the Home Minister are going to the President to seek a pardon for the one who martyred the Chief Minister.

Madam, kindly refrain from repeatedly testing Punjab, as Sardar Beant Singh won't be born again and again. Already, a referendum 20-20 is underway, in which...^{8*} is working to add fuel to the fire. They should seek forgiveness from Punjab and the nation. ... (*Interruptions*)

^{8*} Not recorded

HON. SPEAKER: Accusation and counter-accusation against anyone will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)...^{9*}

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson, I come from the state of Jharkhand, and the condition of farmers there is very poor. There, only 8 percent of irrigation facilities are available. The Congress Government constructed three dams in the year 1951-52, including one called the Masanjore Dam, which is located in my constituency, and the Mayurakshi River, which originates from my Lok Sabha constituency, Deoghar. The Cabinet Minister of the Jharkhand Government, Louis Marandi, is currently sitting on a dharna (protest), and a continuous agitation is underway. Masanjor, Panchet, and Maithon dams were built on the land of Jharkhand. At that time, it was decided that water would be provided to the Raneshwar block of our Santal Pargana. In the year 1978, there was a revisitation, and at that time, the then Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Karpoori Thakur, and the Chief Minister of West Bengal signed an agreement on July 19, 1978. I am telling this to you forty years later.

It was decided that in exchange for these dams, the West Bengal Government would construct two dams.

One is the Noon Dam, and the other is the Kalai Hill Dam to be constructed. Even after 40 years have passed, those dams have still not been constructed. It is on our land, and the dam where there is a gate installed, the Bengal Government has encroached upon it. The SP and the DC of Veer Bhumi district went there yesterday, and they are ready to fight with us. Through you, I request that, as per the agreement made in 1978, the arbitrator will be a Supreme Court judge if this agreement is not implemented. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to deliver justice to us. The pot calling the kettle black - Those who aspire to become Prime Minister should intervene in the work that Hon. Chief Minister is doing to suppress small states like Jharkhand, and ensure justice for us.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Dr. Kulmani Samal are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Nishikant Dubey.

SHRI DEVJIBHAI GOVINDBHAI FATEPARA

(SURENDRANAGAR): Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I will speak in Gujarati.

[English]

^{10*}Hon'ble Madam Speaker, my parliamentary constituency Surendranagar is a backward district in the State of Gujarat. It is the highest producer of cotton in the State. In spite of this, there is no industrial setup in the district to promote cotton-related products. If Surendranagar district is developed as a cotton hub, the farmers will get remunerative prices for their crops and youth will get employment opportunities. It is a dream of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that Surendranagar district should be self-reliant from farm to fiber. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to consider my request and take necessary steps for promotion of cotton industry in Surendranagar district. Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat. Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat.

[Translation]

^{10*} English translation of the speech originally delivered in Gujarati

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Devjibhai Govindbhai Fatepara.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Madam, before independence, the settlements in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were referred to as British. There are many people residing in villages and cities like this. Then came the era of settlement, which happened around 50-60 years ago. During that time, they did not have a revenue officer. The survey number of the land was provided, but the location of the land was not shown as to where the land would be available. For the same reason, they have possession of land in a quantity greater than the area for which they were allotted land for the past 70 years. I urge the Government of India, through you, to remember that when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji Government was formed for the first time, based on the '61 survey, a lease was given for the excess land that was in their possession, without any premium, in 8 villages of Port Blair city in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

I request the Government of India, through you, that a survey should be conducted for the excess land where the P-42 settlers have been residing for 50-70 years in the Revenue Village Settlement Meeting, and they should be given a land lease premium.

At the same time, the same situation exists in urban areas as well. I request you to give a lease premium there too. In a parliamentary question in December 2014, it was said that a survey would be done in the entire Andaman Revenue Village. An assurance was given in December 2014, but the survey has not been done. Please take immediate action on this as well.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Dr. Kulmani Samal are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bishnu Pada Ray.

SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT (VADODARA): Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Through you, I want to make a demand to the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to start a hub-and-spoke operation at the international-level airport in my Lok Sabha constituency of Vadodara. Madam, the country's second newly constructed green airport terminal building in Vadodara was inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister on 22.10.2016. The Vadodara

airport handles 10 to 12 domestic flights daily. Until now, all air passengers from Gujarat's 33 districts have been dependent on Ahmedabad International Airport for international travel.

The newly constructed international-level green airport terminal building has been established as a new option not only for Vadodara and the surrounding 10 districts but for the whole of Gujarat. Vadodara is the country's 18th and the state's third-largest city. Madam, through you, I want to state that this newly constructed international-level green airport terminal building in Vadodara has the capacity to offer many commercial and business opportunities with the inclusion of customs, immigration, security, and air cargo facilities.

This can give a new momentum to the economy of the markets not only of Vadodara but also of other cities in Gujarat.

Madam, through you, I make this demand to the Minister of Civil Aviation. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Kulmani Samal and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati Ranjanaben Bhatt.

[English]

SHRI PARTHA PRATIM RAY (COOCHBEHAR): Madam, I want to draw your attention to Rajbanshi language which is largely spoken by the Rajbanshi Community and some other communities who are settled across the country. It is spoken mainly in North Bengal, in some parts of Assam, Meghalaya and Bihar. In Nepal and Bangladesh, the language is also known as Rajbanshi.

The speciality of this language is that it has complete grammar, there are so many books on literature and other things. Rajbanshi is spoken by 8 million people in India, around 1.3 lakh people speak Rajbanshi in Nepal and nearly 10 million people in Bangladesh. A renowned linguistic Dr. Grierson in his book of Survey of India called the language spoken by the people of North Bengal and north part of Assam as Rajbanshi dialect.

I am very glad to say that the Government of West Bengal under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has taken an initiative to include Rajbanshi language as one of the official languages of West Bengal.

The West Bengal Government has also established Rajbanshi Bhasha Academy in 2012. Several institutions and universities, namely, North Bengal University, Panchanan Barma University, NEHU and JNU are also working on Rajbanshi language. Dr. Girija Shankar Ray was awarded by Sahitya Akademi for 'Eminent Rajbanshi Writer'. I therefore, request the Government to consider the inclusion of Rajbanshi language in the Constitution of India.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Madam, in my constituency of Krishnagiri, there are thousands of families residing in Rayakotta and about thousands of people from surrounding places are also traveling from Rayakotta Railway Station. Many of them are traveling from Bengaluru to Hosur, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur and Coimbatore. There are two platforms at this Station and the passengers cross the railway track to catch the train from either of the platforms which causes many difficulties to the students, office-going staff, old people and lady passengers. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Railways to take necessary steps to construct a foot-over bridge at Rayakotta Railway Station.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): I have already given an adjournment motion today.

HON. SPEAKER: You should have some patience also. I know this is an important issue. Ever body has an important issue.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: I have also given an adjournment motion.

HON. SPEAKER: That does not mean that you should be given first priority.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Last week, when we discussed the Commercial Tax (Amendment) Law, entire august House had a feeling that the Parliament is supreme. The Supreme Court cannot dictate the Parliament. We all have the same voice. But what happened today is that the entire national media has projected one issue. Some of the Supreme Court Judges are also approaching

the Chief Justice of India regarding appointment of a judge in the Supreme Court.

As we know the seniority of the Supreme Court Judge who is appointed on the same day is decided by the President by issuing the warrant of appointment by the Government.

One of the Judges has been appointed and, actually, the Collegium has recommended his name four months before. The Government did not give its assent for his appointment. What was he guilty for? We parliamentarians would like to know as to what was his fault. As per the recommendations of the Collegium, he is one of the honest, efficient and eligible judges. But the recommendations of the Collegium had been rejected by the Government. Then, again, the Collegium recommended the same name.

If you point one finger at the Judiciary for independence, you should know that four other fingers are also pointed at the Government. Now, what is happening? The Government's independence is being questioned. In every appointment of the Judges, the Government wants its own ways. That is what the issue is. The entire country is watching what is happening in the Supreme Court. The Judges are in a different mood. They are against the Chief Justice of India. The system is not there in this country. Why is it happening day by day? It is happening because of the attitude of the Government. What has the Judge been appointed in the last? This is the question. The whole national media has projected this. I have the report. I am seeking a clarification from the Government, Madam Speaker. It should not be allowed.

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. Joice George, Shri M. B. Rajesh, Shri Innocent, Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena, Shri Rajeev Satav, Dr. P.K. Biju, Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher and Shri Dhananjay Mahadik are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K. C. Venugopal.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Madam, through you, I would like to draw the Government's attention towards a very tragic and sensitive incident that occurred in Punjab about 2.5-3 years ago. You all know that we regard Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as a living embodiment. The directive from our for all Sikhs is "Guru Maanyo Granth, Guru Granth Ji Maanyo Pargat Guru Ki Deh" (Recognize the Guru in the scripture; Guru Granth Sahib is the visible form of the Guru)."

Madam, three years ago, there was a desecration of the pages of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, they were disrespectfully treated. At that time, our Government made honest efforts to apprehend the culprits, identify them, and ensure that no innocent person was falsely accused. The information suggests the involvement of several individuals in this. The CBI was tasked with the inquiry. We have also requested Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, but we haven't received their report yet.

Madam, this sends a message across the country that whatever inquiry the CBI undertakes may just end up gathering dust. Many of our people are currently on the streets. They are protesting in the scorching heat and pouring

rain. Even for something as basic as getting a glass of water, we have to struggle to seek justice.

We demand from our Government that the CBI inquiry be expedited so that the culprits are caught and punished at the earliest. This has sparked outrage among Sikhs across the country and around the world.
...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Madam, I would like to bring an important matter to the attention of the Government against the backdrop of rising unemployment in the country. The nation may have witnessed the transition of temporary employees into permanent ones, but perhaps for the first time, we are witnessing the reversal, where permanent employees are being treated as temporary.

Recently, the Punjab and Haryana High Court issued a verdict which has rendered around five thousand employees in Haryana, who were made permanent after formulating policies and had served in various Government departments for ten years, as temporary. The decision is based on a verdict from the Supreme Court in the Uma Devi case in the year 2006. The Haryana Government did not adequately represent its case in the High Court with strength and vigour. I urge my Government to formulate a policy regarding this matter. Since 2006, there have been 15 to 20 employees across the country

who have been working as temporary employees in various states. The Government should introduce a Bill in the Lok Sabha and formulate a policy in the State Assembly to make these employees permanent after ten years of service. LPS is a significant company in Rohatak, and its 2.5 thousand employees haven't received their salaries for the past six months. The company is undergoing Insolvency Pending Proceedings as per the NPA policy. In this NPA policy, the Government should contemplate the fate of employees of a company facing proceedings under its purview. The Government should consider the plight of the 2.5 thousand employees of this company who have not received their salaries for the past six months.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Deepender Singh Hooda.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Madam, I would like to raise a very important issue. The issue concerns misconduct with an IAS officer, which was not perpetrated by anyone else but a Delhi Minister. The issue escalated significantly through June, as the reality is that there was an attempt to swindle over a thousand contracts, meaning an embezzlement of two thousand to two and a half thousand crore rupees. The officer in question repeatedly refused to comply with it. The officer had only said that their objections to the financial contract should be recorded. The cabinet can make the decision that they want to, but our objections should be noted down. Similarly, the Chief Minister, who wanted to install CCTV cameras across Delhi, turned off CCTV cameras within the cabinet meeting, and now cabinet

meetings are not even recorded. I desire that this be fully acknowledged and that this matter be given utmost importance. Especially concerning women's safety, it's observed that while some individuals talk about women's safety, neither the DCW nor the NCW is taking substantial action on it. The NCW, in particular, should take proactive measures and bring this to attention. Thank you very much.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2:30 pm.

13.29 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Thirty Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.32 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at
Thirty-Two Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377^{11*}

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. The Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today, and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over the text of the matter at the Table of the House within 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) Regarding construction of RUB/ROB on level crossings on
Gonda-Barhi railway line in Shrawasti Parliamentary
Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI DADDAN MISHRA (SHRAVASTI): In our Government for the first time, in 2015, a decision was taken to create the highest ROB/RUB in the budget. The only railway line in our region, the Gonda-Badni railway section, urgently requires ROB/RUB at various locations. For which we have been demanding since the Rail Budget of 2014.

For the last 12 years, the railway administration has stopped commuting at Gajwan and Kauwapur railway station near Bridge No. B 149 (Km 170/10) on Gonda-Badhani block of North Eastern Railway, due to which residents of 50 villages on the western side of Gajhwan station are compelled to travel a longer distance to visit Balrampur. It is known that correspondence has been ongoing since 2004 regarding the construction of the ROB/RUB, and demand is being made. However, the railway administration has yet to make a decision, remaining in a state of indecision

The closure of the railway crossing from Gopalipur to Kauwapur and Badgaon has caused significant inconvenience to farmers who used to transport sugarcane for sale using their bullock carts and tractors. This closure has resulted in heavy inconvenience to farmers on both sides of the railway line. Please kindly consider reopening the aforementioned railway crossing gate.

It is essential to construct an ROB/RUB at Km 135/6-77 railway crossing for the convenience of the residents of Gram Sabha Bakauli Dalpur, Lalpur, Bhavandi, Sonapur, Sonbarsa, Sangrampur, and Lathawardiya to access the main connecting road from three sides between the canals.

The canal crossing gate at Manakaura Kashiram village, situated between Tulsipur and Laibudwa stations, was the sole route for the village's access. Regrettably, it has also been closed due to recent developments. In the interest of the public, it is essential to construct either a level crossing or a Road Over Bridge (ROB) / Road Under Bridge (RUB).

(ii) Regarding construction of rubber barrage dams on Girna river in Jalgaon Parliament Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): In my constituency of Jalgaon, the then Hon. Minister of Water Resources, Sushri Uma Didi, had given approval to make seven rubber barrages on the Girna river a National Pilot Project after an aerial survey. After that, we have been continuously working on this project in collaboration with the state Government and the Union Government. As a result, our Maharashtra state Government is now giving all necessary approvals and is about to give the final administrative approval.

I request the Hon. Minister of Water Resources to grant immediate approval for this project from the CWC in Vadodara and to oblige the common farmers of the five tehsils in my area with irrigation and the general public with drinking water.

(iii) Need to accord status of 'Rashtra Bhasha' to Hindi language

SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR (DHAR): I want to make the point that even though there was a provision for a national language in the Constitution, Hindi was not made the national language. More than half of the current population of India accepts Hindi as a first language. Despite this, the Hindi language has not been declared the national language. Necessary steps should be taken in this direction.

(iv) Need to provide jobs to local MGNREGA job card holders in development of Defence Corridor Project in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): In my parliamentary constituency, the Union Government's very ambitious Defence Corridor scheme is being established, which, once established, has the potential to generate about two-and-a-half lakh new jobs. For this, I want to thank the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon. Minister of Defence, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, and the Hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, who has shown special interest in the development of Bundelkhand. I thank them for giving this gift of the Defence Corridor to Bundelkhand, which will surely stop the problem of migration from the region.

In this context, I want to demand from the Hon. Defence Minister that in the construction of the Defence Corridor, local MNREGA job card holder labourers should be given work so that local labourers can get long-term employment in their own Bundelkhand. Also, a National Defence Institute should be opened in the Defence Corridor itself, keeping in mind defence studies, in which the children of

farmers who have given their land for the Defence Corridor should be given special preference in admission.

(v) Regarding procurement of castor crop at remunerative price in Gujarat

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): The farmer-friendly Hon. Modi Government has made many agriculture and farmer welfare policies to double farmers' income by 2022. When the harvest season arrives, due to a large volume of production, prices in the market/mandi begin to fall. Because of this, the farmer doesn't even get the cost of production. To address this, with the aim of making farmers economically empowered, the nodal agencies appointed by the central and state Governments buy good quality crops from the farmers at a fixed price, but they cheat the farmers.

In the Kharif and Rabi seasons of 2017-18, crops such as paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, pulses, oilseeds, wheat, gram, rye, mustard, groundnut, and sugarcane were purchased, but the castor crop was not included. The highest production of castor is in North Gujarat.

My demand is that a policy should be made by the Government to buy the castor crop at an appropriate/fixed price, and the interests of the castor-producing farmers should be protected. My demand is that a policy should be formulated by the Government to procure castor

crops at appropriate/fixed prices, ensuring the protection of the interests of castor-producing farmers.

**(vi) Regarding construction of a canal/channel along
Rann of Kutch to link Rajasthan to Arabian Sea**

[English]

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): An immense salt water waste, Rann of Kutch extends from Arabian Sea in Gujarat to Bhakasar in district Barmer, Rajasthan which I represent in this august House. It would be a pleasant surprise to my distinguished colleagues to know that it is possible to construct a canal/channel along Rann of Kutch to link Rajasthan at Bhakasar in Barmer Distt. to Arabian Sea — a distance of about 300 kms. Rann's land is almost flat and there are no hindrances on the entire route like huge rocks and hillocks. It is a barren land devoid of vegetation as well as human life. Its soil is a mixture of sand, mud and salt. As such, its construction is feasible like the Suez Canal in Egypt and Haldia port in West Bengal (India). The route of the canal/channel shall be almost wholly via Gujarat. It would be of great benefit to Gujarat, Rajasthan and the country. I am told the British Govt. also carried out feasible survey during year 1902.

2. Geological evidences suggest that whole of Western Barmer was under sea in earlier geological times and a Gulf extended from Rann of Kutch in Barmer upto South of Jaisalmer. The construction of this

link canal was envisaged during British-rule also and I have been taking up this issue in the House from time to time since the year 1996. If need be, I shall give literature. The Sanchor-Barmer Basin of Rajasthan is an extension of Cambay Basin. Oil has been discovered in Barmer and currently being produced by Cairn India Limited th partnership with ONGC. Further discoveries of oil and natural gas are imminent which are being explored in the area by various agencies. If this canal/ chanal is connected with Arabian Sea, following main gains will be achieved.

- a) It will help in reclamation of salty land, mostly in Gujarat measuring about 20,000 Sq Kms.
- b) It will strengthen second line of Defence, as Canal network in Punjab sector.
- c) A new Sea Port connecting Western Rajasthan Distt. like Banner, Jaisaimer, Jalore, Pali, Sirohi, Nagour, Bikaner etc. This will facilitate movement of many mierals like Marble, Granite, Lignite, Bentonite, Lime stone etc.
- d) There are rich deposits of Crude oil and Gas in Western Rajasthan, especially in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Carriage

of oil and Gas, especially to Kandla Sea Port will be much cheaper (25%) Compared to Road transport.

3. I raised this issue in the House under Rule 377 on 10 August, 2015 and by Unstarred Question No. 3230 on 15 March, 2018. The Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping advised vide his letter dated 15 October, 2015 about pre-feasibility study prepared in this regard. I also took up the matter with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan to take up this project expeditiously. However, I regret to note that no progress has been made in this regard.

4. Therefore, I urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister for Shipping to carry out Feasibility report and DPR so that life line project of Western Rajasthan can be undertaken.

**(vii) Need to set up Aangandwadi Centres for
West Pakistan Refugee girls**

[Translation]

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Several schemes under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative are being implemented by the Union Government. While the Government has not taken any steps for the girls of the WPR (West Pakistan Refugee) community. I wish to appeal to the Government to make efforts to extend the benefits of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiatives to the girls of the WPR (West Pakistan Refugee) community. Additionally, the Anganwadi Centres, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Indian Government, are not providing any benefits to these children.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to kindly consider opening Anganwadi Centres for the girls of the WPR (West Pakistan Refugee) community.

**(viii) Regarding introduction of cashless vouchers
through DBT for school students**

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHERI): Including cashless school vouchers for parents from the economically weaker sections through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in the New National Education Policy would be highly beneficial for ensuring education for all. Article 21-A of the Constitution guarantees every child the fundamental right to quality education, and our Hon. Prime Minister also acknowledges that education is the most powerful tool to fight poverty. While the Government is making significant efforts, the expected results are not being achieved. According to a report by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, approximately 4.5 crore children are currently out of school.

As per my knowledge, a committee chaired by Shri Kasturirangan is drafting the proposal for the New National Education Policy with the aim of providing quality education to all children in the country. I request the Government to consider discontinuing the Right to Education Act of 2009 while focusing on improving the quality of education. Instead of providing other facilities, parents should be provided with cashless school vouchers linked directly to the DBT

(Direct Benefit Transfer) scheme to ensure quality education with affordability for all children.

**(ix) Regarding improving rail connectivity in
Thawe in Gopalganj district, Bihar**

SHRI JANAK RAM (GOPALGANJ): The main junction of the Gopalganj District is Thawe. From a religious and tourism perspective, Thawe is a historic land of Bihar. Thousands of pilgrims and cultural enthusiasts from across the country and abroad visit Thawe for religious and cultural journeys. However, regular train services on this railway line have not yet commenced. Thawe Junction is directly connected to Gorakhpur and Siwan. People of Gopalganj are forced to travel to Siwan or Gorakhpur to travel to cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata etc. Several thousand residents of Gopalganj travel outside daily for medical treatment, employment, higher education, etc.

The train travelling to Delhi via Siwan and Gorakhpur could potentially be rerouted via Thawe and Gorakhpur, instead of Siwan. While 12565/12566 Bihar Sampark Kranti Express runs from Darbhanga to New Delhi, which has a stoppage at Gorakhpur after Siwan. Rerouting this train via Thawe would benefit thousands of travellers from Gopalganj, and the Gopalganj district of Bihar could

be connected to the mainline. This would provide the benefit of this train to lakhs of travellers. I request the Hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal, to initiate the operation on this route as soon as possible. I was also verbally assured by the Hon. Minister that operations on this route will commence soon.

**(x) Regarding construction of ROB on Latur - Kallamb Road
near MIDC in Latur Parliamentary
Constituency of Maharashtra**

[English]

DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR): Latur - Kallamb road is one of the busiest stretches of road in my constituency Latur, Maharashtra. Hundreds of trucks, buses, cars, two wheelers, besides several hundred pedestrians use this road every day. But people are facing a lot of difficulties as there is no Railway Over Bridge in this area. Sometimes the traffic gets stranded for hours together. Over the past few years there has been a growing public demand for construction of a Railway over Bridge (RoB) in the Latur - Kallamb road near Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). Repeated public appeals have failed to evoke any response from the Government in this regard. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take step for the construction of a RoB on the Latur - Kallamb road near MIDC to ease the traffic congestion in the area as early as possible.

(xi) Need to simplify ITC-04 return

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA (BHILWARA): With the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), a one nation, one tax system, national unity will be strengthened, and India will stand as an economic power. I express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance. I want to draw the Government's attention to the difficulty that has arisen in the textile industry after the implementation of GST, in relation to filing the ITC-04 return. I am elected from the Bhilwara Lok Sabha constituency in Rajasthan, where a record production of textiles takes place. Filing the ITC-04 return is necessary for small entrepreneurs because they buy yarn and get cloth made through job work. Since the tax on yarn is high, they get an input tax credit. For this, filing the ITC-04 return is essential. The process of filing the ITC-04 return is difficult and impractical. Not only entrepreneurs, but also chartered accountants, software programmers, etc., have given up. Small businesses are troubled; they are not able to get the input tax credit. This provision of the return has no effect on the Government's revenue. My request is that the ITC-04 return be simplified and that it be kindly postponed until then.

**(xii) Regarding development of Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve
in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI): I want to urge the Hon. Minister of Environment that the Dubri Sanjay Tiger Reserve, located in the Dhauhani assembly constituency within my parliamentary constituency of Sidhi, is a natural habitat for tigers and a centre of attraction for tourists. It is known that the first white tiger was seen here, but due to the lack of basic facilities for tourists, people are not drawn to it, despite it being a high-class tourist destination and full of natural beauty. Because of this, the development of both the region and the environment is being hindered.

Therefore, in view of the development of the environment and the region, please be kind enough to make a sufficient budget available to the Dubri Sanjay Tiger Reserve to provide basic facilities and to develop the entire tiger reserve area.

(xiii) Need to set up cow sanctuaries

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Since the use of bullocks in farming has decreased in the country, we have been consistently witnessing calves on the roads. They roam around in a careless manner, and therefore, State Governments are responsible for addressing this issue. I appeal to the Union Government to recognise that this issue is nationwide and therefore immediate management of cow sanctuaries should be undertaken. This will serve two purposes- firstly, the calves won't end up in the hands of slaughterhouses, and secondly, their cow dung and urine will aid in providing organic fertiliser for our farming. Therefore, I advocate for turning this plan into a nationwide scheme and implementing it accordingly.

**(xiv) Need to give incentives to develop and manufacture
drugs for rare diseases**

[English]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): World Health Organization defines rare diseases as often debilitating lifelong disease or disorder condition with a prevalence of A or less, per 1,000 population. India has recorded 450 of such rare diseases, according to the National Policy of Treatment of Rare Diseases (NPTRD) 2017 and 70 million of the population suffers from such rare diseases. The drugs for these diseases are extremely expensive and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has put a price cap on these drugs because of which the pharmaceutical companies don't find it viable to develop and sell drugs for rare diseases depriving a vast majority of these life saving medicines. I propose that 'Orphan Drugs' should be exempted from the price control and the Government should provide incentives to develop, innovate and manufacture drugs for rare diseases. Also at the same time the Government should give subsidies to people suffering from rare diseases

**(xv) Regarding financial assistance to coconut growers
in Karnataka**

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the House towards the fact that in my Constituency, Coconut is one of the major plantation crops of Chamarajanagar District grown in an area of 10020 hectares. With an annual production of 863 lakh nuts. But for the last 6 years, this District has been suffering from severe drought and during 2016-17 all the Taluks of this District have been declared as Drought affected. Out of 10020 ha. Coconut area, 6032 ha. is severely affected (6,60,176 Trees damaged and 6,658 Farmers affected) due to drought.

As per NDRF/SDRF norms Rs. 18,000/- per ha input subsidy is need to be provided immediately. This input subsidy amount covers only maintenance cost and further the farmers' loss also need to be compensated. Hence, instead of Rs. 18,000/- per ha. at least Rs. 50,000/- per ha. is to be proved as a special package to drought affected Coconut area.

Hence, I hereby urge the Union Government for sanction of at least Rs. 50,000/- per ha. Special package for drought affected coconut garden in Chamarajanagar District as per Kerala District

mode for re-planting and rejuvenation of coconut orchards and allocate adequate additional budget to cover the huge area affected by drought at the earliest.

**(xvi) Regarding shifting of SSB Reserve Battalion from Yelki
in Hingoli Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): In Maharashtra and South India, the only battalion of the SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) was stationed in my Lok Sabha constituency, Hingoli, Yelki. The Sashastra Seema Bal has relocated the 65th Battalion from Maharashtra, Yelki. This move by the SSB is going to hinder the development in Maharashtra. As a result of the battalion's relocation, the youth and local population of Maharashtra are being deprived of employment opportunities, and there will also be reduced representation of the local population in the SSB. I request the Union Government to cancel the relocation of the only SSB battalion in Maharashtra, which is situated in my Lok Sabha constituency, Hingoli, Yelki.

**(xvii) Regarding electrification of Salem-Cuddalore
railway line in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI): The Salem to Cuddalore Railway line was established during the British period. This railway line was converted into broad gauge about 10 years ago. The trains from Chennai Egmore to Coimbatore pass through Viruddachalam and Salem. Due to alignment of the railway track, the trains have to make a loco reversal of the rail engines at Viruddachalam and Salem, because of this trains to and from Chennai Egmore and Coimbatore are taking more time to reach the destination. This results in the under-utilization of the railway line for passenger and freight transportation. The loco reversal of the engine and the time delay could be solved if the Salem to Cuddalore railway line is electrified. It will also enable the Railways to introduce more new trains on this route.

Therefore, I urge the Minister for Railways to electrify the Broad gauge line between Salem and Cuddalore and take necessary measures to introduce new trains between Chennai Egmore to Coimbatore via Viruddachalam and Salem and between Salem and Cuddalore.

**(xviii) Regarding establishing an Integrated Medical
Plant Conservation Park in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI R. PARTHIPAN (THENI): India has one of the richest medicinal plant clusters in the world. Several places in my Theni Parliamentary Constituency are known for the presence of exclusive medicinal plants hitherto not grown in any part of the world. Theni is known as the birth place of many exclusive medical plants from which formulations for several drugs and medicines are extracted. So there is an urgent need of setting up of an Integrated Medical Plant Conservation Park in my Theni Parliamentary Constituency.

It can be implemented through support of the National Medicinal Plants Board. The main aims of integrated Medical Plant Conservation Park are to conserve the medicinal plants in its natural habitat and preserve its gene pool.

Medicinal plants from this area are the true backbone of a wide range of local health traditions, in addition to the codified medical systems such as Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy. Several medicinal plants species constitute many classical drug formulations and hundreds of home remedies. Medical plants are largely put to use in 3 different forms: Curative, Promotive and Preventive.

Medicinal plants are not only a major resource base for the traditional medicine and herbal industry but also provide livelihood and health security to the people of Theni constituency. Besides this there is a possibility for revenue generation through the marketing of these precious rare herbs in both domestic and international arena.

Therefore, I urge the Union Ministry of AYUSH to establish an Integrated Medical Plant Conservation Park through the generous support of National Medicinal Plants Board and the Union Government.

(xix) Regarding promotion of Sanskrit in the country

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Thakur Godadhar Adarsha Sanskrit Mahavidyalay at Kalipur ARambagh was set up by some benevolent Sanskrit-loving person in the year 1983-84. Now the financial grant has been stopped. I urge the Minister to look into the matter for development and improvement of our vedic culture by way of spreading Sanskrit in our country.

(xx) Regarding leakage of database of IRCTC

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): When a passenger gives the Railways their data, they don't expect the data to be sold for profit. However it is a very well known and perturbing fact that in 2016, the IRCTC database was leaked and the information of around 1 crore people was feared stolen. Today the IRCTC website has around 2 million site visitors every day, and it issues 700,000 tickets on an average each day, adding to a treasure trove of over 100 terabytes of passenger data. I understand that the Government is re-assessing the disinvestment of IRCTC, as it wants to tap the data that the platform has collected. This is the first instance of privatisation of citizen data by a Government department, leaving data scientists and public concerned. This is a matter of grave importance and I urge the Government to look into the matter as it is a threat to right to privacy and leads to data manipulation.

**(xxi) Regarding construction of new railway line in
Jajpur Parliamentary Constituency of Odisha**

SHRIMATI RITA TARAI (JAJPUR): Biraja Kshetra at Jajpur town in Odisha is a famous place of pilgrimage in India at par with Dwaraka in Gujarat and Kashi in Uttar Pradesh. Jajpur is one of the three old capitals of Odisha. A large number of pilgrims visit the place regularly throughout the year. Absence of a railway line has made their journey to Jajpur difficult. The State Government on their part has recommended for this proposal several times. An RET survey for this new line was sanctioned in the Rail Budget 2012-13, but beyond this no progress has been made. The Ministry of Railways is requested to complete all the spade works expeditiously and connect Jajpur Kendujhar Road — Jajpur Town - Dhamara with a new railway line keeping in view the demands of the people of the area.

(xxii) Regarding resolution of issue of land acquired from residents of Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Pune under the Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Around 2,58,797 ha has been acquired under the 'The Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975'. As per section 22 (A) of the Act, the whole or part of the land can be restored to the original owner, if due to the acquisition under the Act, his land holding has become less than 12 ha. 87,006.74 ha. land have been thus restored. In the Bombay Govt. Notification (29.03.1956), notices under sec 35(3) and/or notification under Sec 35 (1) of Indian Forest Act, 1927 were issued by Maharashtra Government almost 60 years ago but the land was never taken over. Now, these areas have been recorded as forest and all activities stopped. Lakhs of residents are living under constant fear. Therefore, I request to resolve the matter expeditiously, considering the future of lakhs of residents from Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Pune.

**(xxiii) Regarding establishment of Jawahar Navodaya
Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas in newly formed districts
of Telangana**

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): The idea of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas was conceived by former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi. The concept of opening a JNV in every district of India was born as a part of the National Policy on Education, 1986 with an aim of providing excellence coupled with social justice. The Kendriya Vidyalayas are a system of Union Government schools in India that were instituted under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). All the schools are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Its objective is to educate children of the Indian Defence Services personnel who are often posted to remote locations. With the army starting its own Army Public Schools, the service was extended (but not restricted) to all Union Government employees. Telangana was carved out with 10 districts from Andhra Pradesh. Now, 21 New districts were created on 11 October, 2016 which led to 31 districts in Telangana. The division of districts is to make the administration more effective and thereby making the public service delivery reach the last mile.

I hereby request Government of India to establish Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in every new district that was formed and Kendriya Vidyalayas in the headquarters of the newly formed districts.

**(xxiv) Need to develop Murshidabad in West Bengal as a
tourist circuit**

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD):

Murshidabad is a historical place of interest for many decades. Hazarduari (Nawab Palace), Imambara, Katra Mosque, Nashipur Rajbari, Katgola Garden, Topkhana, Moti Jheel, Khosbaag Graveyard and so many other places of historical interest are there. Every year at least 10 to 12 lakhs tourists from all over the country and abroad come to visit these spots. Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has taken the charge of some monuments. We can generate employment of local people in this sector if we utilize it planfully. But due to lack of planning, publicity and infrastructure development we are not getting full benefit from this sector. Government of India is now encouraging tourism by forming some Tourist Circuits. Now, I appeal to the Ministry of Tourism to form a new tourist circuit in Murshidabad naming 'Nawab Circuit'.

**(xxv) Need to review the decision to cancel export of
sheep & goats to UAE**

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI):

Following a protest and petition in the Bombay High Court by the Jain community, the Union Government decided to cancel the export of over one lakh sheep and goat to the UAE from Nagpur last month. This export of live sheeps and goats was intended to generate additional revenue for farmers of the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra, which has high farmer suicide rate. It was expected to increase the income of the Dhangar community of traditional shepherds, butchers and farmers who could be the primary beneficiaries of the international transaction. Export of livestock, mainly goats, is a significant source of non-farm income to rural households in India. India has considerable export potential in livestock exports. In 2015-16, India exported nearly 7385.61 tonnes of livestock. I urge the Union Government to look into the plight of Maharashtra's farmers and the Dhangar community in particular, which has suffered the most by the cancellation of the export by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(xxvi) Regarding formulation of a National Library Policy

SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV (MAINPURI): Libraries play the pivotal role by providing access to information/knowledge resources/services to meet informational, educational, recreational and cultural needs of the community through a range of national, institutional and public libraries. Yet Library and Information Services (LIS) sector in India has not developed to keep pace with the paradigmatic changes taking place in society. At present, Libraries being a State subject and without a National Library Act, there is no common direction or coordination among them resulting into pathetic condition of public libraries in the country.

Government has formulated National Policies like Education Policy, Tourism Policy etc. for overall development of various sectors. Due to partial and ineffective implementation of state legislation, a National Library Policy is needed to make India a knowledge society. I request the Minister of Culture to formulate a **NATIONAL LIBRARY POLICY** at the earliest to facilitate coordinated development of libraries systems and services in country.

**(xxvii) Need to provide banking facilities in all the villages
adopted under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana**

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): The Union Government in the year 2014 had initiated the scheme Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana with the intention of developing model villages in every Lok Sabha constituency. Under this scheme, Members of Parliament were asked to adopt one village every year in their respective constituency so as to provide necessary support for development of that adopted village. Accordingly, I had adopted three villages till now in my Hisar Lok Sabha constituency and have been taking various initiatives to promote these villages with all basic facilities. However, in spite of my numerous attempts, till today these adopted villages do not have banking facility. The same situation remains in various other villages of my constituency which are entitled as per the norms of Reserve Bank of India namely villages Badala, Mohala, Kharbala, Masoodpur, Beer, Chainat, Kumbha, Sultanpur, Balak, Bhagana, Bhaini Ameerpur, Jamawadi, Shekhpura, Matloda, Bobua. Therefore, I urge the Government to take necessary action to provide basic banking facilities in those villages including the villages adopted under Sansaad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

14.33 hrs

**SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
(PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) AMENDMENT BILL, 2018**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up item no. 17. It is a very important Bill in which, I know very well, most of the Members are interested to participate. Now, the Hon. Minister Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT):**

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move: -

"That the Bill further to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Deputy Speaker, through you, I want to request the House that we all know that in order to protect the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in 1989, Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was enacted. For a long time, attempts have been made to provide protection and secure the rights of the people belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories under that law. Based on some practical experiences, it was realised, and many suggestions came, that there was a great need for improvement in the Act of 1989. In the year 2015, the Government led by Narendra Modi Ji amended the law of 1989.

This act covers 22 offences. We have included 25 new offences in it, now in total 47 offences are covered under it. Based on these offences, efforts were made to ensure justice and penalise the offenders. Efforts were also made to provide relief to the affected families along with ensuring justice. On certain issues writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court. Hon'ble Supreme Court delivered a verdict on 20th March, 2018. Based on it, we enacted an Act, in which Section 18 has been referred. Hon'ble Supreme Court while interpreting Section 18 delivered its verdict with certain restrictions. Due to the decision to add provisions, it seemed that this act had lost its significance. In continuation to the decision of Supreme Court we have filed a review petition regarding that decision and urged that the decision seemed to almost nullify the significance of

this Act. This law was enacted with the aim of ensuring the rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but it is becoming futile. Therefore, a re-evaluation should be conducted, and arrangements should be made to take action according to the original provisions. The review petition is currently under consideration, and it's indeed a positive development that review petitions are generally heard in chambers. The Court has accepted our request to hear this review petition in Open Court, but the review petition is still under consideration. In view of this delay and the amendments made, there was widespread anger and dissatisfaction across the country. Many organisations also called for a nationwide strike on April 2, 2018. During that nationwide strike, some unfortunate incidents also occurred, which were distressing. In view of delay in the decision by the Hon. Supreme Court the Government realized that the justice to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being delayed. Offenders were escaping punishment, and relief was not reaching affected families. Therefore, the Government unanimously decided in the cabinet to amend Section 18 to uphold the significance of this Act and to achieve its intended purpose. Hence, we have taken a decision for that.

I want to state that we have introduced a new provision in Section 18, which has been done as Section 18(A). The Supreme Court, in its interpretation of Section 18, had given a decision that if a victimised family comes to file an FIR, instead of directly filing the FIR, an officer of the DSP rank would investigate, and if their conclusion is that an FIR should be registered, then the FIR would be registered. A big problem was created due to this restriction. In addition to this, there was one more provision in it.

If an FIR is filed, the arrest can only be made with the permission of an officer of the SSP rank. Many states do not have an SSP system. I am from Madhya Pradesh. There are no SSPs there except in Gwalior, Indore, and Bhopal; all other districts have the post of SP. This was also causing a lot of difficulty. In addition to this, due to the Supreme Court's decision, another provision was introduced, that if the accused, against whom an FIR has been filed, is a Government officer or employee, their arrest would be made with the consent of the Appointing Authority. This directly means that the appointing authority would also call for the police's case diary and investigate it, and even then, if they found it appropriate, they would give their consent, but if not, they would say that the person is not worthy of

arrest, which would then create an obstacle. This would cause a lot of delay. There would be an excessive delay in taking action on the provisions in the IPC and CrPC as well. Because of this, criminals would get protection, and the victimised families, who have been subjected to an atrocity, would face great difficulty in getting justice. These would have been very wrong provisions had they become law in accordance with the Supreme Court's decision. We felt that taking all these actions would directly mean that the victimised families would not get justice, and the criminal would get protection. That is why we have added sub-sections. For the purpose of Section 18(A) of this Act, I will also read out Section 18. Following Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the following clause shall be inserted, namely, clause 18 (A)(1), which states that no preliminary inquiry would be required for the registration of a First Information Report against any person for the purposes of this Act. The Supreme Court had stated that initially, there shall be an investigation, and thereafter, if deemed necessary, the First Information Report (FIR) shall be registered. We have taken a decision to nullify this. Along with it we have made a provision of 18(i)(b) which enables that if necessary, the investigating officer would not be required to obtain any approval before arresting such

person. No authorisation from any officer shall be required for the arrest of the investigating officer. He will proceed with the arrest through legal action. Furthermore, it has been added that no separate procedure distinct from the provisions under this Act or Section shall be applicable to the accused against whom an allegation of committing any offence under this Act has been made, meaning thereby that no other law shall be binding apart from the provisions made in this Act and any provisions therein. He shall not be bound by the provisions of this Act.

Finally, we made a provision that Section 438 of CrPC will not be applicable under this Act. The Court had said that anticipatory bail could also be taken. We have, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, introduced Section 18, clause 2, to make it consistent with those provisions. It states that, notwithstanding any judgment, order, or direction of any court or judicial institution, the provisions of Section 438 of the Code will not apply to any case under this Act. That is to say, through these amendments, we have made a provision to reinstate the restriction that we had placed on anticipatory bail.

A detailed discussion on this Bill has already taken place. There is no need for a lot of discussion on this, so I do not consider it

appropriate to say much more at first glance. I will only state that many people were informed that when the Supreme Court considered the matter, it also considered the issue on the basis of false cases.

I do not deny that false cases happen. But it is not the case that FIRs are registered only under the sections of the Atrocities Act, and false cases happen only in those. False cases also happen under the sections of the IPC. The data from the Crime Records Bureau, Government of India, shows that generally, six to seven percent of false cases are found under the sections of the IPC. In SC/ST cases, ten to eleven percent of false cases are found. For example, if 10-11 or even 12 percent of false cases were found, this decision would prove to be an injustice to 88 percent of the people. We had implemented this Bill as a law in the country with the goal of providing justice to the people. We have decided to maintain it in the same manner. The Cabinet of the Narendra Modi Government has taken a historic decision. I would request the House to pass this Bill unanimously.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the Bill further to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, be taken into consideration.”

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill might have been brought as an ordinance three or four months back, but it has been delayed. In the meantime, we have passed at least six ordinances on various other subjects. The SC/ST Act, Prevention of Atrocities Act, should have been brought in earlier, there has been a delay in this regard. Hon. Minister also acknowledges this, I believe. ... (*Interruptions*) I support this Bill. I listen until the end and then respond. You mentioned that six ordinances have been issued, and the seventh ordinance could have been issued among those six ordinances, but it wasn't done. That's why I'm saying this. Has this Bill only just come now? An ordinance to help corporate companies came first, and the Bill to help 30 crore people has come today. Until there is pressure on you, you do not bring a Bill. Secondly, the Minister himself admitted that a Supreme Court judgment came and completely nullified this Act. People belonging to dalit and backward communities felt that the judgement given by Hon. Supreme Court is a great injustice to them. Thus an agitation was held from 1st to 3rd April to revoke this judgement, in which thousands of people went to jail, there was violence, property

worth crores was damaged, buses were burnt, shops were burnt, and small-time traders also suffered losses. All this happened. The Government thought that if they did not make this law, they would suffer a great loss in the upcoming elections. This came to your attention, and after this, pressure from the Scheduled Castes' MPs also mounted on you.

You are doing everything for the benefit of the elite, while the Supreme Court has rendered injustice to people like us. Why didn't you bring a law as soon as possible to rectify this? The pressure from your side increased, but the pressure from the public was more severe. On March 20, the judgment came, and on March 27, all Members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha jointly staged a protest in front of Gandhiji's statue and also raised this issue and protested in the House. We are getting the answer now. If that answer had been given at that time, the injustices and atrocities that were happening or are happening could have been stopped for at least four months.

I am not speaking individually; please don't take it individually, you always do. The difficulty here is that when we talk about society, justice, and the law, Thaawarchand Ji takes it personally and says whatever is necessary to defend the entire Government. Please don't

do this. This is a problem for 24 percent of the people; it is a question of their rights, a question of their self-respect. You counter every argument we make; you say the opposite of what we say. ... (*Interruptions*) Patel Ji, the day before yesterday, said he came from the Lodhi community, which also comes under the backwards community, that is why I am explaining. You are also a Patel, ... (*Interruptions*) you are also an OBC, you also listen.

This is not just an effort by today's Government; you have also acknowledged this fact. When Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar drafted the Constitution, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and all the leaders strongly supported it. At that time, Article 17 was introduced in it. At that time, while introducing it, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar himself stated that Article 17 is necessary because at least untouchability will be abolished in the country, the nation will be saved, and only then will all people come together and work. That was his intention. Many people had kept untouchables at a distance in the name of religion and still have no contact with them to this day. Baba Saheb had the intention of bringing laws for them. Mr. Manmohan Das of West Bengal expressed a point regarding Article 17. I rise before the House

to elucidate how this evolved and how the Act came into being. I want to explain how the time has come to strengthen it in today's situation-
[English]

In the Constituent Assembly debate, Manomohon Das Ji, said:

“This clause does not propose to give any special privilege and safeguards to some minority community but it proposes to save one-sixth of the Indian population from perpetual subjugation and despair, from perpetual humiliation and disgrace. The custom of untouchability has not only thrown millions of the Indian population into the dark abyss of gloom and despair, shame and disgrace but it has also eaten into the very vitality of our nation. I have not an iota of doubt that this clause will be accepted by this House unanimously.”

Not only the INC is pledged to but for the sake of fairness and justice to the millions of untouchables of this land for the sake of sustaining our goodwill and reputation beyond the boundaries of India, this clause makes untouchability a punishable crime.

[Translation]

It should have been a punishable crime at that time itself, this was the view of a Constituent Assembly Member. Not yours or ours. You and I wrap things up in one word, one sentence, or three or four sentences. But even in those days, the Members of the Constituent Assembly supported the idea of fulfilling the dreams of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and said, - Makes the practice of untouchability a punishable crime and must find a place in the Constitution of free and Independent India. This is the contribution of Congress. Congress made an effort, the Congress party said, and independent Members said, I am not saying this. To raise a voice against untouchability before independence, keeping these very things in mind, this Article was included in the country's Constitution after independence. In the year 1955, an Act, the Untouchability Offence Act, was passed. Finding that Act to be ineffective, an amendment was made in it in the year 1976.

[English]

Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Elayaperumal from your State, who was a prominent Scheduled Caste leader, one Committee was constituted under his leadership and he gave, after touring the entire country, a

Report and based on that Report one more Act came into force and that is the Civil Protection Act regarding the Scheduled Castes.

[Translation]

For this, provision was made in the constitution. Secondly, an Act was made in the year 1955, then based on the recommendations of the Elayaperumal Committee, a new Civil Protection Act was made in the year 1976. They provided their report in the year 1969. This process continued, and yet the Civil Protection Act appeared weak. Later, during Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's time, a law was brought to strengthen this law.

[English]

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989.

[Translation]

That Act is still in force today. Despite the existence of this Act, atrocities against Dalits occur every 15 minutes. I must emphasise that these statistics do not originate from me. The figures from the NCRB indicate that atrocities are being committed against dalits every 15

minutes. In the country, on average, more than 11 Dalits are killed every week.

15.00 hrs

Approximately 6 dalit women are exploited sexually everyday. Here, we often discuss rape and harassment of women, we express so much concern. This is commendable, and we all support it, but here, sexual harassment against 6 Dalit women occurs every day. The conviction rate in the country is so low because there are no witnesses. The police register cases, but when it comes to the final decision, during judgment, those who have been subjected to harassment, when questioned, are pressured and intimidated, resulting in hostility towards them. The witnesses become hostile. When witnesses are intimidated, there is no question of conviction. When there is no conviction, you say that all those figures are bogus cases, so repeal this Act. This has been brought only for harassment. Who makes such claims? People belonging to the upper castes, who are less interested in this Act, tend to make such statements. I request all of you, and through this House, I request people from all over the country that those who are the root cause of this, go to them to find out why this is happening. Why are such atrocities committed against those people?

We talk on the one hand that all Hindus are one, they are your brothers, but you do not go with them. You want to make Hindus strong, but you do not even provide them with water. If he gets married and rides a horse to pass through a neighbourhood, they pull him down and beat him. It's not just that; if someone has a moustache, Deputy Speaker, Sir, even a moustache like yours, he does not have the right to keep it. They pull it off and throw it away. ... *(Interruptions)* ... I am speaking about the entire community; I am not speaking about any individual. ... *(Interruptions)*... ^{12*}

[English]

Sir, please ask him to keep quiet. If he would have been born in my community, then he will know the suffering and pain. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If I say that atrocities against Dalits have increased by about 45 percent in the last four years, it irritates them even more. That is why I said that I am appealing to the

^{12*} Not recorded.

whole country, and I am also appealing to you: why is this happening? When we are all one, why are you not taking them closer? Why this misbehaviour with them? Why are you not considering them your own? It will not happen just by us speaking, by our saying, by our shouting here. Unless people from all sections of society and all religions rise up and say together that we are all one, the situation will remain the same, and you will keep speaking like this. If you keep excluding 25 percent of the people from your religion, keep committing atrocities against them, and keep suppressing them, the situation is going to worsen; the situation in the country is not going to improve. Therefore, I only request this of you: now clause 18A is being included in this act which will provide relief for all the concerned persons, but I have been saying from the beginning that it would have been much better if you had brought it sooner.

Der aayad, durust aayad (Better late than never), by speaking on this matter, I do not want to create a big commotion. But there is a mistake, and they should accept their mistake.

Apart from these atrocities, I also wish to suggest four to six additional points in this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* It reminds me of a statement made by Mr. Gadkari, although I am not aware of the

context. Regarding reservations, he said, "When there are no jobs, what is the use of reservations?" What will they gain by holding on to reservations? Well, my dear Sir, reservation is for those who, due to reservation, are now receiving basic human rights. They are living with dignity and pride. Do you wish to abolish that too? Out of the numerous Government positions available, approximately 24 lakh vacancies remain unfilled. Elementary school teachers - 10,10,000, ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA (CHHOTA UDAIPUR): Sir, how many such vacancies are there in Karnataka? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, I will present data for the entire nation, not just Karnataka. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

Do not talk in a limited way for Karnataka. You are ruling throughout the country. You are responsible for that. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Police- 5.4 lakh, Railways- 2.4 lakh, Anganwadi workers- 2.25 lakh, Health centres- 1.5 lakh, Armed forces- 62084, Paramilitary forces- 61509, Postal department- 54263, AIIMS- 21740, other higher

educational institutions- 12020, courts including the Supreme Court, sessions courts, and all other courts- 5853, totalling 23,18,000.

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: When you were in power, why did you not fill this backlog? ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain order. Rathwaji, please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We need not talk about who is responsible. What he is stating is the real vacancy position. That is all. The issue is not about this Government or that Government. This is a fact and that is all.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, the concerned Minister should be present here. At least you should direct the concerned Minister to be present here.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are so many Ministers present here including Cabinet Ministers. There are one, two, three, four, five Cabinet Ministers present here.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, I am giving the facts and figures as to how many vacancies are there in each department.

[Translation]

Despite this, Mr. Gadkari claims, "Where will we bring jobs from?" Firstly, 24 lakh vacancies in Government sector should be fulfilled, then we'll see. ... (*Interruptions*) This has caused significant harm. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): What have you been doing all these years?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, Mr. Thakur, especially Hon. Prime Minister Modi, often mentions Buddha, Phule, and Sant Kabir. Just recently, he was in Karnataka, remembering Visvesvaraya and always recalling Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. ... (*Interruptions*) We welcome the realisation that has dawned upon you after 20-25 years. ... (*Interruptions*) We welcome you. ... (*Interruptions*) We welcome the change that has come within you. ... (*Interruptions*) Because you have embraced these ideas. ... (*Interruptions*) These include Buddha, Phule, Kabir, and Visvesvaraya, and you also adhere to Dr. Ambedkar's ideology. These names are on your lips, but Manu is in

your heart. ... (*Interruptions*) The Constitution of this country is for show, but Manusmriti runs through your veins. ...(*Interruptions*) All your efforts are directed towards promoting Manusmriti, and it's evident in your actions. ... (*Interruptions*) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said one thing. Despite enduring immense pain and suffering, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar made efforts to unite this country. ... (*Interruptions*) Who appointed them as Law Minister? ... (*Interruptions*) Did you appoint them as Law Minister? ... (*Interruptions*) Did you make them the Speaker of the Constituent Assembly? ... (*Interruptions*) Did you appoint them as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee? ... (*Interruptions*) You appointed them as Law Minister. ... (*Interruptions*) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar said one thing. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

I want to tell everyone that despite enduring a lot of pain, suffering, and oppression, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has stated that “I do not want that our loyalty as Indians should be in the slightest way affected by any competitive loyalty, whether that loyalty arises out of our religion, out of our culture or out of our language. I want all people to be Indians first, Indian last, and nothing else but Indians.” ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

This is the message of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, but what are you doing ...*(Interruptions)* You are dividing people in the name of religion, breaking in the name of caste, there is no talk of unity. ...*(Interruptions)* You are engaging in lynching, killing people. ...*(Interruptions)* You are beating the Dalits. ...*(Interruptions)* You are also eliminating those who go to skin hides. ...*(Interruptions)* You are all doing these works, but Baba Saheb Ambedkar said, I say it again. "I want all people to be Indians first, Indians last, and nothing else but Indians." ...*(Interruptions)* Those who drafted the Constitution and made the necessary sacrifices have indeed made tremendous sacrifices. ...*(Interruptions)* The Congress Party has supported all these initiatives, and you must acknowledge this fact. ...*(Interruptions)* Back then, though you were not present, our leaders before independence - Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Patel, Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, all worked together to prepare Baba Saheb Ambedkar to draft the Constitution.

It is because of them that the Constitution is still alive today. Everything has been done under the Constitution to ensure its implementation and to make humans humane. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, the Bill that has been introduced includes Clause 18A. This is

good, but I would like to make one request; I will provide five or six suggestions for it. ... (*Interruptions*) It's time for you to leave, not us. ... (*Interruptions*) My suggestion is that you place this Bill in the Ninth Schedule. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

Sir, I would request that this Act should go in the Ninth Schedule so that it would be out of the purview of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

To take away from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the SC/ST Atrocities Act should be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

[Translation]

Secondly, the case registered against the *Dalits*; the people against whom cases were filed for incidents of 2nd and 3rd April, should be withdrawn and they should be released. ... (*Interruptions*)

You repeatedly say, "What have you done?" I say that what we did, you tried to ruin. If you had not brought the ordinance, you brought this Act in 2016. If you had not let the ordinance lapse in March and had made it a law by bringing it as a Bill at that very time,

this would have happened two years ago. You could not do this because you wanted to make a name for yourself. You are 'Naamdar', you say this about others. In everything, you say, "We did this, I did this." ... (*Interruptions*) ... Oh! We are the workers (Kamdar). We told the history. From 1955 to 1989, and from 1989 to 2014, we worked to bring this Bill in the form of an ordinance, in the form of an act, and then to put it in the Constitution. ... (*Interruptions*) We say this with pride. ... (*Interruptions*)

I will tell you that these two things in particular should be done. ... (*Interruptions*) Thakur Sahab, did you go back there again? You keep changing your place. Don't change your place, stay in one party. ... (*Interruptions*)

Dilon mein aag, labon par gulaab rakhte hain,
 sab apne chehre pe dohra naqaab rakhte hain,
 hamein chirag samajhkar bujha na paoge,
 kyunki hum apne ghar mein kayi aaftab rakhte hain.

(They keep fire in their hearts and roses on their lips,

they all keep a double mask on their faces;
you won't be able to extinguish us by thinking we are a lamp,
because we keep many suns in our house.)

If you try to crush us by thinking we are weak, this will never happen. There are 25 percent of people in this country. If they rise up once, they will never sit down, and after that, you will remember all these things. ... (*Interruptions*)

So, I urge you and appeal to the Government as well to consider the suggestions I have given, to send it to Schedule Nine, and to release those who were involved in this agitation.

With that said, I conclude my remarks. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and for ignoring their disruptions.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I extend my gratitude to you for granting me the opportunity to speak on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018. I am also grateful for the trust placed in me by the leadership.

Sir, I wanted to start my speech from somewhere else, but given how Hon. Kharge Ji spoke about the Scheduled community, mentioning that they made laws for them in 1955, 1976, and 1989, I will respond to that. With great respect, I will say that if they had gone a little further back, perhaps the history of the Congress would also have become known. At the Lahore Session, Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar had made a demand of the Congress that if their intentions were clear and they wanted to remove untouchability from this country, they should amend their own constitution and make a provision. ... (*Interruptions*) Please let me speak. ... (*Interruptions*) Listen to me. He requested that if they did not believe in untouchability, they should make their people take an oath that those who believe in untouchability would not become Members of Congress. But the people of Congress said they could not do that,

because if they did, the public support for Congress from the country would end. Therefore, a response to this would have been better.

It has been said that this Bill has been brought due to some sort of pressure or elections. The current leadership of the country does not give in to any body's pressure. When he did not yield to the pressure from Pakistan and China, he will not succumb to pressure even for his chair. As for elections, whether it was the general elections of 2014 or the Uttar Pradesh elections of 2017, the Scheduled Castes of this country have expressed their full support simultaneously for the Bharatiya Janata Party and Mr. Narendra Modi. This is the reason why today, in the country, the highest number of Scheduled Caste legislators, Scheduled Caste Members of Parliament, if anyone has them, they are only and only with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Certainly, our own people betrayed us, where was the strength in strangers? It was our own who led us astray. In the Act of 1989, the work of causing the first harm was done by that leader, who the people of the Scheduled Caste of Uttar Pradesh had entrusted with their eyes closed. During the Government of 2007, if anyone weakened this law by bringing in the first circular, it was the Sister's Government of Uttar

Pradesh. As a result, in the elections of Uttar Pradesh, whether it was the election of 2014 or the election of 2017, the Scheduled Caste of Uttar Pradesh has completely rejected the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Sister.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, a decision of Supreme Court came on 20 March 2018 owing to which this law has almost ceased to exist. The Supreme Court says that there will be an investigation after the FIR is registered. I would like to respectfully ask the Supreme Court, is this not against natural justice? Shouldn't someone's FIR be filed? Then they say that permission from the SP is required before arrest.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, what will the Scheduled Caste, who for 70 years of independence was afraid to enter a bank, who couldn't even open a bank account, do to seek permission from the Superintendent of Police? Will he gather the courage for it? This is the policy of the Modi Government in the country; it is their dedication to the village, the poor, and the farmer, that today the Scheduled Caste of the country has entered the banks. The society that couldn't enter the gas agency to get their gas connection, expecting them to go to the Superintendent of Police for permission and then file an FIR, is unrealistic.

The society that couldn't even arrange for basic facilities like toilets for itself for 70 years of independence, couldn't arrange for a toilet facility, is expected to go to the Superintendent of Police and then file an FIR if atrocities are committed against them. I congratulate respected Mr. Narendra Modi; I congratulate this leadership, this Government, because of whom today, the poor, the oppressed, the Scheduled Castes of this country go to the bank with pride, stay in their homes with dignity, and use gas stoves with respect. So, the Government is definitely worthy of congratulations. The Supreme Court has given another decision that they should be granted bail.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, he showed the reasons why bail should be granted, because delays occur in investigations and court procedures take time. Hon. Deputy Speaker, will the investigation on which the Supreme Court is advocating for bail not affect the marginalised communities? If arrests are not made without investigation, will the criminals' morale increase or not? Therefore, I would like to say that when the Government filed a review petition and the Supreme Court delayed hearing it, then what should a responsible Government, a sensitive Government dedicated to the poor, villages, oppressed, and

marginalised do? Should it remain silent? It was necessary for the Government to take the initiative in this. How can a Prime Minister dedicated to villages, the poor, farmers, labourers, and the marginalised sit silently? He has surely brought this Bill today to ensure justice, security, and dignity for the 25 crore Scheduled Caste population of the country. I support this Bill. Mr. Kharge has left. It would be good if Congress colleagues listened to it. Those who invoke Baba Saheb have spread confusion in the country. They feel no shame in mentioning Baba Saheb's name. In the year 1952, during the country's first general elections, observing Baba Saheb's wisdom, and recognising his utility in the construction of the nation, there was unanimous consent in the Assembly. It was unanimously agreed upon in the country that no opponent should be put up against Baba Saheb, and with full consent, Baba Saheb should be elected. However, the people of the Congress not only put up opponents, but at that time, Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru himself campaigned against Baba Saheb not once, but twice. Even after all that, 70 years after independence, they are seeking votes in the name of Baba Saheb. This is the misfortune of this country. This is the deceitful perspective of these people. It's just an illusion from which these people continue to benefit. They invoke the name of Baba Saheb, yet the Congress, which

did not place a single brick on Baba Saheb's birthplace, and the Governments that did not place a single brick on his place of enlightenment, seek votes in his name. They are distressed as to why this Bill is four months late? This is a sensitive Government, a responsible Government. We live in a democracy; we do not run a nepotistic regime where orders come from somewhere and everything happens accordingly. This is democracy. The Bharatiya Janata Party upholds democracy. Matters are resolved through consensus. What does it signify that even after so many years of Independence, Baba Saheb was not honoured, and was not awarded the Bharat Ratna? The Members of the Congress party should certainly reflect upon this. Today, the nation is demanding an answer from them, asking whether they awarded the Bharat Ratna to Baba Saheb, in whose name they solicited votes? Baba Saheb was awarded the Bharat Ratna when V.P. Singh's Government was in power, and the esteemed Atal Ji made the request. A magnificent Memorial for Baba Saheb is constructed in his birthplace of Mhow when the Bharatiya Janata Party is in power in Madhya Pradesh. A grand Memorial for Baba Saheb is erected at his conversion site in Nagpur when the Bharatiya Janata Party is in power in Maharashtra.

The Hon. Atal ji's Government purchased land for 26 Alipur Road in the year 2004. Despite the Governments of UPA-1 and UPA-2 being in power, no progress was made on the construction work at that location. The grand Memorial is constructed there when, in the year 2014, under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi ji, the Government comes into power. Do they have an answer?

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I hail from Allahabad. Anand Bhawan played a significant role in the struggle for independence. I would like to convey, without mentioning any specific individual's name, the manner in which the wedding mandap was adorned, the attire worn, the seating arrangements, and meticulous attention to every detail during the proceedings. However, the leader of the Scheduled Castes, Baba Sahab, had used those 400 items. Among them was a typewriter, which was used to draft the constitution of the country. It was consumed by termites, but the Congress Members did not make an effort to find out where that item eventually went. Hence, the nation does not prefer to hear Baba Saheb's name from the mouths of Congress Members. Baba Saheb openly advised his followers not to become Members of the Congress, whether he was alive or not. Today, the Congress in the nation is simply involved in propagating

delusion. When they saw that the Scheduled Communities of the country were fully aligned with the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Hon. Narendra Modi Ji, they became restless and distressed, wondering how to create confusion among the Scheduled Communities. These delusions are being spread to create confusion.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would once again submit that the decision rendered by the Supreme Court has essentially brought this legislation to an almost complete conclusion. I would like to express one thing to the Supreme Court that there are many sections in the law, whether it is Section 376, Section for dowry harassment, or Section 302. The percentage of misuse may vary, but isn't there a possibility of misuse of these sections? Would you consider making a decision on these as well? All this is happening simply because there is a consensus both in the House and in the country today. The intellectuals of the country also know that until the marginalised and oppressed sections of the Scheduled Castes are not adequately represented in the judiciary, the likelihood of such decisions will persist. Several Courts have made such remarks, not just one. This has been done to insult the Scheduled Castes community. I wish to make a request to this House today that this is not merely a matter concerning SC and ST, it has the consensus

of all. Furthermore, it should be strongly emphasised that the role of the Supreme Court is solely to interpret laws, not to legislate. Another question before this House is whether the judiciary is supreme in this country or whether the elected representatives, sent here by millions of people, are supreme? Parliamentary supremacy should prevail, and for this, it is necessary that everyone speaks in support of it with one voice. This will also send a message to the judiciary.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, concluding my point, I want to urge the Hon. Minister through you that there are two or three demands of the Scheduled community on which he will certainly deliberate. One, an Indian Judicial Commission should be formed as soon as possible so that people from the Scheduled community can also have representation in the judiciary. Second, the reservation for the Scheduled community is a Government order; this also needs to be converted into an Act.

Sir, I want to ask a question to the people of Congress. Aligarh Muslim University was formed by an Act of this very Parliament. At the time of independence, three universities were given the status of national importance and central universities. But due to the inactivity and appeasement of the Congress, the reservation for the Scheduled

community in Aligarh Muslim University has ended today. It can be imagined that after 70 years, if the Scheduled community had received reservation, then certainly many teaching and non-teaching staff and many professors, doctors, and engineers could have been produced there. The people of Congress gave them the status of a minority only through a letter, which caused two losses at once. One, Parliament was insulted. A Government letter cannot end a law that was created by this Parliament and under which the university runs. The reservation to SCs in Aligarh Muslim University should be introduced.

Sir, in 1991, the country was under the Government of Narasimha Rao, who initiated liberal policies in the country, leading to a continuous decline in employment. Therefore, I urge you to consider that National Policy is needed to be introduced in the country for contract employees. Today, due to each State having its own policy, the contract workers are suffering losses. Finally, through you, I would like to make a request that the persons arrested illegally who participated in the agitation of 2nd April should be released.

Therefore, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, and I express my gratitude for your leadership as well as I conclude my statement.

[English]

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I wish to remember and extend my gratitude to my beloved leader Amma before I speak on this very important Bill brought by the Union Government in the light of the recent court rulings and issues of unrest.

On March 20, the Supreme Court had barred automatic arrests under the Act, mandated preliminary inquiries before the First Information Reports (FIRs) are registered, and said that there would be no bar on anticipatory bail. The judgment triggered widespread protests by Dalit groups which argued that the verdict had diluted the law meant to protect the marginalised communities from crime and discrimination. It seems, the growing unrest among the SCs and STs had made the Government to think seriously about the recent developments.

Sir, the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi has said: “Untouchability is a sin and my fight against untouchability is a fight against impure in humanity.” Had he been alive today, he would have

condemned the lynching and mobocracy with much stricter tone and tenor.

I am glad that our Hon. Prime Minister and his team had taken a historical decision that important changes would be made to restore the status as it was prior to the decision of the Supreme Court, dated 20th March 2018.

The three main provisions proposed in the amendments are, no prior inquiry before registering an FIR, no permission required before arrests, and no provision for anticipatory bail. The nationwide protest by Dalit groups demanding that the Government reverse the SC order had built pressure on the Government to restore the 1989 law to its original form. The law was first enacted in 1989 and strengthened in 2015 when caste slurs were also brought under its ambit. But the conviction rate under the Act remains low, and was just 15 percent in 2016, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

Sir, Dalits and the Tribals are the most marginalised sections of the Indian society. Many atrocities have been committed against them since time immemorial.

Sir, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act protects them against discrimination and atrocities.

However, *dalits* and tribals still face discrimination. On the other side, there is a widespread concern over misuse of the provisions of the Act against innocent persons. As per the Supreme Court of India, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has become an instrument of blackmailing and is being used for vengeance and to satisfy vested interests. Crimes against the people of SC/ST communities are of various forms. It is difficult to separate atrocities against SC/ST from law and order problems. So, in many instances, the case is registered under IPC or CrPC than POA.

Coming to the issue of social boycott, I would like to say that caste panchayat often acts as an arena for perpetrating atrocities against *dalits* by troubling and discriminating them from society. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had recognized that discrimination occurs in multiple axes like boycott, stigmatization, segregation and they try to fit it out on all these axes.

We need a comprehensive anti-discrimination law in lines with the Civil Rights entitlements in the United States and the United Kingdom. The Law Commission drafted the Prohibition of Unlawful Assembly (Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances) Bill, 2011 that sought to declare the caste panchayats unlawful.

In a society like India, where caste structures are still dominant in the form of endogamy, honour killings are prevalent on a wide scale. *Dalits* are always at the receiving end of the violence.

The term 'cow vigilantism' is used to describe the lawlessness happening under the name of cow protection. *Dalits* and Muslims are at the receiving end of this vigilantism. Since in most cases *dalits* are engaged in occupation of leather making from hides of cow, they are invariably targeted by vigilantes. Cow vigilantism has increased in the last two years.

In the post-Indian rural development model, OBCs became the new oppressors of *dalits* in place of traditional upper castes. Post-1990 Reforms, there was a resurgence among *dalits* due to reservation policy led to the emergence of middle class among *dalits*, who spearheaded *dalit* movements. Identity politics from leaders among *dalits* themselves began to express itself. Urbanization and other opportunities followed by 1990-Reforms led to improvement in *dalits* life. This resurgence was met with violent clashes among upper castes/ OBCs and *dalits*. But *dalits* were at the receiving end of almost all these atrocities like Bhima-Koregaon violence in Maharashtra and Una violence in Gujarat.

The people of SC/ST communities also face a lot of discrimination in Universities and colleges as well as all the educational institutions. This is the bitter truth and a very sad state of affair even when India is going to celebrate its 72nd Independence Day.

Sir, atrocities against *dalits* at Kizhavenmani, which is in my constituency in Tamil Nadu; Karamchedu and Tsundur in Andhra Pradesh, Bathani Tola, Laxmanpur Bathe and Kambalapalli in Karnataka, Bhima-Koregaon violence in Maharashtra and Una violence in Gujarat have been like wake up calls to the Governments of the day both at the Centre and the States.

There are many nuanced and subtle forms of atrocities that are meted out to the people of SC/ST communities. With every passing day, there is one or the other incident of atrocities against SC/ST people. In fact, their everyday life is a struggle against entrenched atrocities, as they are facing discrimination from every facet of life, education, employment, marriage, status, food habits and so on.

In the case of tribals, that is, the Scheduled Tribe people, it is still more alarming. Since *dalits* are widespread and live in close vicinity of other castes, atrocities against them are more frequent and more

visible. But tribals are concentrated in some areas and are more isolated from other sections of society. The Government from time to time has introduced many measures for preventing these atrocities, especially under the aegis of Article 17. But these atrocities are widespread throughout the length and breadth of the nation.

Sir, Article 17 of the Constitution outlaws the practice of untouchability. However, despite legal and constitutional provisions, SCs and STs continue to face many forms of untouchability practices as well as social, economic and institutional deprivations. The Constitution of India *vide* Article 15 lays down that no citizen shall be subjected to any disability or restriction on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. It also guarantees that every citizen shall have equality of status and opportunity.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill was passed in the year 2014 after the present Government came to power.

The Act prohibits commission of offences against Members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and establishes special courts for the trial of such offences and for the rehabilitation of victims. But the

atrocities committed against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people have increased. This is a worrisome situation.

The more worrying part is, people from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community, and minority communities were lynched and killed, while revengeful acts were committed on majority community causing communal tensions and clashes in some parts of the country. This should be totally stopped. While the Government at the Centre and in the States are responsible, equally responsible are the opposition parties, the communal elements, more importantly the media, the social media in particular. It is everybody's collective responsibility to maintain peace and harmony in the society.

In the words of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam: "Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character; when there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home; when there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation; when there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world."

The Government at the Centre and some State Governments were under attack over lynch mobs killing those suspected of cow slaughter or eating beef. A string of such incidents have been reported from

several States, including Jharkhand, Haryana and U.P., shocking the nation and prompting protests.

Vigilante cow protection group have killed people for transporting cattle. Men from minority community have been lynched by mobs, mostly for allegedly storing beef and in one case for helping an inter-faith couple elope. Many are wondering whether India is hurtling towards a 'mobocracy'. There is a sense of rapid breakdown of law and order when it comes to protecting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and minorities. But some sections of people accused the media of 'over reporting' the incidents. Hate crimes are not new in India. It is feudal in nature. Today, they shake our conscience. I think even if they are over hyped and over reported, a responsible Government cannot say lynching or hate crimes are something new.

India has a shambolic record when it comes to religious violence. Dalit women and men are routinely branded as witches and lynched to death for property in many parts of the country. In Gujarat, a group of Dalits have been flogged in public, who were allegedly skinning a dead cow near Una town. Four of them were brutally beaten with iron rods, stripped, tied to a vehicle and paraded in the main market near police station in Una. The flogging was filmed, posted on social media

and went viral within hours. This had led to public outburst and condemning of such shocking incidents.

There are various types of discrimination against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ranging from denial of entry into non-Dalit houses and places of worship, prohibitions against food sharing, denial of cremation and burial grounds, denial of access to water facilities, ban on marriage processions, not being allowed to sell milk to cooperatives, denial of barber and laundry services.

As per crime statistics of India, every 18 minutes a crime is committed against Scheduled Castes; everyday 27 atrocities are committed against them, which includes three rapes, 11 assaults and 13 murders; every week five of their homes or possessions are burnt and six persons kidnapped or abducted. This is really alarming and needs to be addressed immediately by the Government at the Centre and States.

Dalits in India are not allowed entry into temples in villages; common crematoriums too are out of bounds for them. Are we not ashamed of such incidents being taking place even now? The UN Special Report on Violence against Women noted that Dalit women face targeted violence, even rape and death, from State actors and

powerful Members of dominant castes who employ these methods to inflict political lessons and crush dissent within the community.

Atrocities against women belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes should be tried by special courts for women with women judges and women public prosecutors, preferably belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community.

All women police stations in Tamil Nadu – first of its kind in the world – are the brain child of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. These all women police stations provide assistance and redress the grievances of all women, especially SCs and STs. All other States of the country can try to follow this method to provide protection to women.

Around 70 percent of the Scheduled Castes and 85 percent of the Scheduled Tribes are living in rural areas in Tamil Nadu. The socially disadvantaged groups of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes need a constant special focus for the socio-economic advancement and our Amma's Government in Tamil Nadu is committed to continue its efforts for their welfare and upliftment.

Tamil Nadu Government has taken several steps by framing appropriate policies needed to design and implement various welfare programmes for achieving the objectives for creating favourable

environment to ensure speedy socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Sir, despite special protective laws and their implementation for many decades, the Scheduled Castes continue to be the victims of caste-based untouchability and atrocities. Though most of such incidents go often unreported yet even the cases registered under these laws also end up in acquittal. The increasing number of atrocities on the dalits and tribals lead to gross violation of their human rights in a larger context.

In most cases, unwillingness to file a First Information Report (FIR) under the Act comes from caste-bias. Policemen are reluctant to file cases against fellow caste-Members because of the severity of the penalties imposed by the Act. Most offences are non-bailable and carry minimum punishment of five years' imprisonment. The victims who actually manage to lodge a complaint face large obstacles. Failure to follow through with cases is alarmingly apparent at the lowest echelons of the judicial system.

Out of several thousands of prevention of atrocities cases pending in the courts, only a limited numbers are brought to trial. Such delay is endemic to the Indian judicial system. Judicial bias against SC and

ST people is rampant and unchecked, which needs to be curbed and checked. Seeking justice through the special laws is not an easy task, since it demands adherence to number of procedures on the part of the victims, accused, police, the special public prosecutor and others concerned at every stage of the case, which is often turned out to be very costly, tiresome and time-consuming particularly for the victims. The law enforcement agency, the police and the judiciary should be free from caste prejudice to address this perennial social problem. We should be united and committed to protect the basic human rights and principles of justice, equality, liberty and fraternity.

“My final words of advice to you are educate, agitate and organise; have faith in yourself. For us, it is not a battle for wealth or for power. It is a battle for freedom; it is a battle for reclamation of human personality.” This statement of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar among the *dalit* community and its supporters and sympathizers resounds louder today than ever.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT): I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018. I am also thankful to my party leader Miss Mamata Banerjee, my other Party leaders of Trinamool Congress and the people of West Bengal belonging to SC/ST communities. Our leader, Miss Mamata Banerjee is trying hard to protect the people belonging to downtrodden classes.

In West Bengal, our leader cares for them. It is not my claim. It is on record. The report says that the SCs/STs are very much taken care of and they are very much safe in the State of West Bengal in comparison to other States of India.

Today, we are very happy to see the long-awaited amendment and a welcome decision by the Government of India. The Government has brought this amendment following the huge pressure in the form of agitation, a lot of unrests etc. in the country among the *dalit* communities.

Due to their huge pressure, the Government was bound to come in this Parliament with an Amendment. So, it is not their intention, but they were pressurized to do so.

My point is that if they are very much willing to make this Amendment, then why did they not come with an Ordinance earlier? I am asking this because this judgment of the Supreme Court came on 20 March in the case of the State of Maharashtra Vs. Dr. Subhash Kashinath Mahajan where the Supreme Court gave the judgment. The essence of that is that preliminary inquiry must be prior to FIR, if any Member of SC or ST community was harassed by the common people.

Another concern of mine is that if the Government is very much in favour of this Amendment, then why has that Judge -- who has given the judgment against the *dalit* community in the Supreme Court -- been appointed by the Government in the National Green Tribunal the next day? Why was it so? This is against the interest of the SC and ST community of this country.

However, we feel relieved. Our Party, under the guidance of Madam Mamata Banerjee, supports the Bill and the Amendment. Since coming to power in West Bengal, SC, ST, OBC and minority community people feel safe in the State as she cares for them, and this is not our claim, but it is evident from the published report by the NCRB.

If we look at the national statistics since 2014, Bihar is the State where the highest rate of crimes against SC and ST population has taken place. As regards crimes against the SCs specifically, Madhya Pradesh, which is a BJP-ruled State, is the highest at 43.4 percent. As regards crimes against the ST population specifically, Rajasthan, which is again a BJP-ruled State, is the highest at 12.9 percent. So, it is a shame for the country that the crimes against the SC and ST people are the maximum in the NDA Government and the BJP Government, wherever they are in power.

About seven-Members of a *dalit* family were allegedly beaten up by a group of *Gau Rakshaks* for skinning a dead cow in Una Town of Gir Somnath District of Gujarat. On 21 May 2018, five people were accused for flogging Mr. Mukesh Vaniya, a 30-year old *dalit* man, who was tied to the gate of a factory and beaten to death at Rajkot in Gujarat. So, a lot of crimes against SCs and STs happened in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and so many other States where the BJP is in power.

16.00 hrs

This amendment proposes that preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of the First Information Report against any

person and the Investigating Officer shall not require approval for the arrest, if necessary, of any person. We support this amendment for the sake of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe communities. I think, nobody in Parliament opposes this amendment because it is a long pending demand. It is the demand of the depressed classes and the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe communities. All of us together support this amendment.

If we look towards the statistics, then, we see over 1.44 lakh cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes, and 23,408 cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Tribes came for trial before the Judiciary in 2016, as per the last available data from the NCRB. Of this, only 10 percent cases were completed for trial. Later, just a fourth of this number ended in conviction. In the case of the Scheduled Tribes, only 12 percent cases were completed for trial, and a fifth of this number ended in conviction.

The number of courts exclusively for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Act is very less as compared to the requirement. Out of 700 odd districts, only 194 have the recommended exclusive courts for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe communities. Exclusive courts should be set up in other districts to render proper

justice to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes communities.

A part of the unfinished agenda identified in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is the poor rate of convictions. This law is commonly called the SC & ST Act, which requires all States to provide for an ample number of Special Courts that can hear cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe communities.

Right now, major concerns of our country are rising pendency cases and falling conviction rates. Sir, almost 90 percent of the cases filed under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Act languish in courts at the end of every year. When they manage to complete trial, on an average five years, later, a majority of them end in acquittals.

If we see the increase of crimes against the SCs and the STs between 2010 and 2016, we see crimes increased by 10 percent against the SCs and there was a six percent increase in crimes against the STs. If we see the rise of pending cases against the SCs and STs at the end of 2016, it was 91 percent against SCs, and it was 78 percent against the STs. Conviction rate for crimes against SCs and STs

during 2016, it was only 16 percent, but in 2010, it was 38 percent. It was better in 2010 where the conviction rate for crimes against SCs and the STs was 38 percent. When the present Government took over, the percentage came down to 16 percent.

That means the conviction rate has reduced to a very large extent and pendency of the cases has increased. You can see that 98.6 percent of all the crimes against Scheduled Castes that came for trial in 2016 did not end in convictions. In the case of crimes against Schedule Tribes, 99.2 percent cases did not see convictions at all. This is a failure of the present Government.

Fourteen States have special courts mandated by Section 40 of the Act, the others have already designated district and session courts for this purpose. Ten percent of the cases of crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which were under police investigation were labelled as false.

So, these are the problems we are having in this country. Regarding atrocities against persons belong to Scheduled Castes, there is a high prevalence of such cases in the States like Uttar Pradesh where it is 25.6 percent and in Rajasthan, it is 12.6 percent. If we see the metropolitan cities like Jaipur in Rajasthan and Lucknow, Kanpur

etc., there is a high prevalence of the crimes/atrocities against people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. These are all the States which are presently ruled by the BJP Government.

Since 2014, the general trends for crimes against people belonging to the Scheduled Castes have seen an overall decrease of 3.8 percent only with a significant drop of 8 percent in 2015. So, it is also our concern.

A huge backlog is there. The judiciary is the body in charge of enforcing the rights of SCs/STs under the Act by conducting a fair trial and convicting the prosecuted persons if found guilty. The conviction rates for cases involving SCs/STs atrocities are slightly below the all-India rate of 21 percent. For Scheduled Tribes, it is 20.8 percent and it is significantly higher in cases involving Scheduled Castes which is 25 percent. The conviction rate is particularly low in the States like Karnataka, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

In case of Rajasthan, a lot of incidents and crimes against SCs/STs have happened. At the investigation stage, a total 1060 cases were disposed of by the police due to mistake of the fact of the victims. Out of these cases, 691 cases have taken place in the State of Rajasthan. This is a serious concern. The people belonging to SCs/STs are being

beaten by the mob. In the name of mob lynching and in the name of hate crimes, mostly, the downtrodden people of SCs/STs and minorities are the victims and are being beaten up. So, these things are happening mostly in the States where the BJP Government is ruling.

Many of the Hon. Members are talking about Dr. Ambedkar and his contribution. I want to make a few points. Dr. Ambedkar is now a point of business. The BJP and Congress are doing business with his name. We the common people, we the people from the downtrodden classes, should not see Ambedkar as a point of business. Baba Saheb Ambedkar is a father figure and if we want to respect him, we have to pay respect to the downtrodden communities of the country. That is not happening in the country, especially in the BJP-ruled States.

I want to give some suggestions. Courts should be established for cases exclusively for SC/ST communities. In the whole country the number of courts is very less as compared to the present requirement. Therefore, establishing the maximum number of courts exclusively for dealing with cases against SC/ST communities should be taken up. Vacancies in the courts should be filled up on priority basis so that the increasing tendency of pendency of cases could be minimised.

Giving justice to the downtrodden people is the ultimate objective. They should not have to wait for a long time to get justice. Now they have to wait for five years, ten years, fifteen years, and even after that no judgment comes. Therefore, speedy justice is required for the people. Empowerment of SC/ST community people should be done. By giving them proper education, proper legal facilities, you can improve their social status.

Lastly, I want to highlight that the increment of funds under the Tribal Sub Plan, Scheduled Castes Sub Plan is required and there should be no diversion of funds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words, I from my Party support this Bill.

16.13 hrs(Shri Ramen Deka *in the Chair*)

^{13*}**SHRIMATI RITA TARAI (JAJPUR):** Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity, and also for permitting me to take part on the consideration and passing of this amendment Bill. I rise to speak on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018 – that aims to insert a new section i.e. section 18A in the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. This step is welcome. But, the Government should have brought this amendment Bill, on the very first day of the current session.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar wrote in his *Annihilation of Caste*, "... turn in any direction you like, Caste is the monster that crosses your path. You cannot have political reform, you cannot have economic reform, unless you kill this monster". Is it not true that tonsuring of head, shaving off mustache, garlanding with chappals, denying access to water/fire/irrigation/forest rights, forcing people to carry human excreta/wastes/dead bodies, imposing social/economic boycott, forcing someone to remove garments/dresses, forcing people to leave

^{13*} English translation of the speech delivered in Oria

their house/residence/village, inappropriate touching, using words/acts/gestures etc. are only aimed at the specific deprived communities, till today and the existing laws have failed to prevent all these?

Hon'ble Supreme Court in the verdict of May 2018 has said that the aim of the 1989 act was not to prevent the Government officials from dispensing their duties in fair manner but to make sure that it was not used as a tool of blackmail or vengeance. At the outset, I would categorically put it on record that, this amendment Bill restores a commitment that the deprived and the exploited sections need to get justice. This Bill will go a long way to make the provision that an FIR be lodged, and that no approval of a senior officer would be needed for the arrest. Thus section 18A, when passed, will ensure 'preliminary enquiry' shall not be required for registration of an FIR against any person, or arrest, if necessary, of a person shall not require any approval. As per the statement of objects and reasons of the amendment Bill, once the investigating officer has reasons to suspect that an offence has been committed, the accused can be arrested. This decision to arrest or not to arrest can not be taken away from the investigating officer.

[English] Do we live in a casteless society? It is not correct to say a casteless society in India will lead to no threat to her unity and integrity. Rather, I think, non-implementation or lesser implementation of the existing prevention of atrocities act or rules should never be tolerated. Those who say there is misuse of law, they do not judge and they do not try to have a balanced view. When I find during 2014 the conviction rate in the SC/ST Act is only 28 percent, in 2015 it is only 27 percent and in 2016 this has further come down to 25 percent, I want to ask, why this rate is so low? [English] Is it because the Government and the employees, who implement this act, want it to be so! Fact is fact. The truth is the SCs and STs are oppressed, depressed and subjugated to atrocities. Whether one admits it or not the Government is a silent spectator and deliberately not doing enough to act against those who are attacking time and again. In the last couple of years assault on the lives/livelihoods have increased, non-release of scholarships have increased and there has also been drastic reduction of reserved faculty positions in the universities in this country. Monetary relief or financial assistance to SC/ST victims of atrocities are not being released in time. Legal aid cells for these people are non-existent or not reaching the intended beneficiaries. People are suffering for many days. As we all know, the

Government is a collective group that must work for the benefit of the public at large, but it is not doing enough.

Another sorry state of affairs is that the media which should play an important and decisive role in strengthening the democracy, is not mentioning the cases of atrocities made against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community, across the states.

Sir, in my state Odisha the Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has extended every kind of support to the people of SC & ST category. Perhaps no other state of India has done so much for them.

Last but not the least; Shri Jagannath temple at Puri, does not recognize castes and the Jagannath Samskruti cherishes the concept of Basudheiba Kutumbakam.

I whole heartedly support the proposed amendment Bill in its endeavour to amend the act of 1989.

I would like to thank my party President Shri Naveen Patnaik and the party leaders in permitting me to put forth my views on this amendment Bill.

With these words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Chairperson, today an important Bill has been introduced in the House through the ruling party. This Bill includes a provision wherein the Supreme Court had stated that if an atrocity case is to be filed, it must first be verified, and permission must be obtained from a senior officer.

It should then, like the old law, warrant immediate action upon a complaint against it. Such a provision has been included in this Bill. When such Bills are introduced, especially when our revered Hindu Heart Emperor, Shiv Sena Chief Balasaheb Thackeray, established the Shiv Sena, his first idea was the eradication of casteism. He did not believe in caste. He appealed to the people of Maharashtra, saying, "Whether you are a Brahmin or a non-Brahmin, a Maratha or a non-Maratha, whether you belong to the Chandraseniya Kayastha Prabhu or the Vaidya community, whether you are Dalit, untouchable, or touchable, whether you are from the high caste or the low caste, break down all the barriers, come together, unite as one. "Remain united and demand justice for all." When he played the role of Hindu nationalism, his role remained the same. If we want to preserve the integrity of the

nation, then let us stand together, breaking the barriers that exist in various regions, for the nation. Indeed, the words of Balasaheb have laid the foundation of unity in our hearts. Chairperson, Sir, you will be surprised to know that there is a party in this country in which there is no cell for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, OBCs, or Muslims. We are all one. There is only one party in which there is no cell for any community. With the same ideology, Hon. Uddhav Sahab is also moving forward. The Bill that has been introduced today pertains to which situation? Hon. Prime Minister Modi came to power. People thought there would be a change. If you desire, is there a lack of trust among the people? Why does it seem necessary to enact provisions in the law? Will this Government ensure that injustice is not perpetrated upon us? Even today, we assert in this House that there should be no discrimination against Dalits and marginalised communities. We criticise it. Sometimes, I also read and listen to the books of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. One can only imagine the extent of injustice endured by the oppressed communities. What type of people were we? We used to seat animals in the marketplace, but we made humans stand outside the door. They made a provision in the Constitution to alter these things. What was the need for such provision? Because all these injustices were happening at that time, but has that time persisted until

today? Even after 70 years, we still have to say in this assembly, in this sacred temple, that we must provide security to our backward classes.

Chairperson, Sir, a movement has begun in Mumbai, Maharashtra, for reservation for Marathas. That movement initially began against atrocities. Even after the enactment of the Atrocity Act, injustices continued to be perpetrated against them. Now the movement is moving towards a reservation. From the moment of birth, the label of caste is affixed upon us. The concept of caste is deeply ingrained in our veins. It is also not discernible which lineage they belong to, or which ideologies they adhere to. All these aspects come to mind during discussions on the reservation. When the Mandal Commission was introduced, all the political parties of this country supported it. However, our Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray opposed the Mandal Commission and stated that as long as progress is based on caste, walls will only grow taller and stronger. Ask yourself sincerely whether these walls have become stronger? Is there love or disdain towards each other, is there a willingness to support one another in the mind? The Supreme Court had stated that a major movement is underway. You have also ignored the Supreme Court's verdict. Very

well then, that's good. Now that you have ignored the Supreme Court's verdict, what was that verdict? No individual shall be arrested without investigation, and now you are changing it. If the decision of the Supreme Court can be changed then the 50% limit of reservation should also be changed.

Change that too, why fear there? Yesterday, the NRC Bill came up. When there was talk about the commission, they said they have the courage to do it, so you also show the courage to do it. The Marathas, Dhankars, Dhobis, Kolis, Jats, Patels, Lingayats, all are demanding reservation. I appreciate the Government of Tamil Nadu.

[English]

I really appreciate the Tamil Nadu Government which has shown the dare and courage to give 69 percent reservations to backward class people. Why can the Union Government not do it? Are we sitting idly by and watching from the sidelines? Nero is fiddling, sitting on the roof.

[Translation]

Nero is playing his fiddle; there is a fire, and our youth is dying. The day before yesterday, we brought the Backward Class Commission and gave constitutional rights to the OBC Commission,

which is a good thing, but why were provisions for other people not brought on the same day? Sit down and think for once, how many castes there are in this country, how many are backward among all those castes. Balasaheb used to say, "Brother, the stomach doesn't have a caste; give work to the empty hand, give grain to the stomach." The one who has an empty stomach is the one who becomes aggressive for that empty stomach. He may belong to any caste, state, or religion; if he is poor, he should be helped. Why don't you come forward?

Sometimes I am surprised; my friends say that you are a leftist or a rightist, today Kharge sahib spoke about Manuism. I say in this holy House that neither our parents ever taught us about Manu, nor did our venerable Balasaheb ever teach us about Manu; they did not teach us Manuism, but instead, they taught us humanitarianism. Another's pain is my pain, another's sorrow is my sorrow, and another's suffering is my suffering.

"Vaishnava Jan to Tene Kahiye, Je Peer Parai Jane Re."

(Call him a true Vaishnava who feels the pain of others.)

We understand their pain, why they demand reservation, why they are unhappy. Mr. Owaisi is laughing. Owaisi ji, I want to tell you ...

(Interruptions) I appreciate, ... *(Interruptions)* You are my friend. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not my fight. ...*(Interruptions)* Rohingyas went to Jammu and Kashmir, Bangladeshis are fleeing ... *(Interruptions)* but for us, there is Article 370, 35A, we cannot build homes there. ... *(Interruptions)* Move forward from that. People desire the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code. We assured the people before forming the Government that the day we come, we will revoke Article 370 and the day we come, the Uniform Civil Code will be implemented. We are all one, citizens of this country. What are you doing for that?

Owaisi Ji, I want to tell you. ... *(Interruptions)* Listen to our ideology. ... *(Interruptions)* Recently, one of our soldiers, Aurangzeb, died in Jammu and Kashmir; that Aurangzeb was martyred for the country. He is our brother. This is our Hindutva. This is our Hindutva ideology. The one who is ready to die for the country, no matter what his caste, state, sect, or religion, is ours. ... *(Interruptions)* Chairperson, Sir, this is a very important issue. We don't just talk. The Shiv Sena says with pride that today, in one of my assembly constituencies, there are six municipal areas; out of those, four belong to Dalits, and all four of those municipal areas have been won by the

Shiv Sena. In an area where 100 percent of the people are Muslim, the Shiv Sena's candidate won with the bow and arrow symbol. This is the Shiv Sena. We have been doing all these things.

Chairperson, Sir, all I have to say is, why do you differentiate in caste-based abuses? If a caste-based abuse is given to one community, it is a crime, but if it is given to me, is it not a crime? If someone gives me a caste-based abuse as well, it should be a crime. Right now, the biggest and most important issue in this is that you have made a provision in the law. But those who file false cases, they said this morning too that it just happens. It is not that easy. In the Atrocities Act, people's jobs are lost, and their lives are ruined. That does not happen elsewhere. It is different, and after applying the law, if it is a false case, then what are you going to do about false cases? Why don't you make a provision in the law that if someone has filed a false complaint and it is found that their complaint was false, action will be taken against them as well? What action will be taken? There is no provision for such action in the law. This is our Government. This is Modi's Government. It's a daring Government. Anyone who commits wrong needs to be stopped. To deter such people, I request to you that this is a good law. We will not oppose it. This involves delivering

justice to the poor. It is a good thing. But why are we doing things halfway? When will the Marathas be given a reservation? When will the Jats, Patels, Vartidhar, Kodi society be given reservation? When will you change the Constitution? All the communities demanding this should decide once and provide them reservation, thereby resolving this entire issue, or make efforts to bring everyone together by breaking down all barriers. We support this Bill. Thank you.

DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to support this Bill.

Sir, when the Judgement was delivered on 20 March, 2018 Hon. Supreme Court had dumped this Act of Parliament in a dustbin. Do what you have to do. ... *(Interruptions)* The same Judge has been appointed as Chairman of NGT. Is this a matter of dignity? It is shameful. ... *(Interruptions)* This is such a disgraceful matter that the Judge who rebuked the Parliament and dealt with such injustice towards the SC/ST, the same individual, has been appointed as the Chairman of the NGT. The first man after the judgment, who had a 56-inch chest (courage), who came and condemned it, was our Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu. He was the first Chief Minister who openly criticised this judgment. However, from this side, no one took any action. Neither did they bring an ordinance, nor did they do anything else; they have only reintroduced this Bill in another form. It is called Crocodile Tears in English. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, where do the tears come from? They don't come from the heart, nor from the eyes, they come by applying glycerine. ... *(Interruptions)* We do not need such tears. If you shed tears from your heart, then put this Act in Schedule 9. I will then believe that you are

sincere. Otherwise, I don't believe it. I hold the opinion that the current Bill presented is merely theatrical in nature. If you possess sincerity, it would be appreciated, as we endeavour to validate the judgment at hand. If the judgment were to be revisited and if it were to undergo scrutiny once more, where then lies the assurance? Tell me, the Minister is not here now, nobody is there. ... (*Interruptions*) There are so many people on this side, but there is no one on that side. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, our anticipation was that today the Prime Minister Sir would be seated here with 56 56-inch (Pride), and similarly, we had expected the presence of the Home Minister in this assembly.

When a fly got on Ambedkar ji's typewriter, this happened, that happened, we got it repaired. Sir, we don't want this. Arvind Ji was also giving a speech to end caste, but it is in the genes. In Hindustan, it is in the genes. Casteism is a genetic disorder. I ask you, caste does not come up at the time of reservation; for the first time, it comes up at the time of marriage. When a Scheduled Caste boy goes to get married, he is killed. Why is he killed? When he goes with a wedding procession, he is killed. Since the Varna system was created, there has been a caste system. How did untouchability come into it? What was

its historical perspective? This needs to be understood completely. You have brought this Bill, and now you will think that we will all help. We know your intention; elections are coming. If you had so much sincerity, why didn't you bring an ordinance? How many people lost their lives after the judgment? Twenty or thirty people lost their lives. To amend small laws, you have brought six ordinances. You have brought this Act after six months, after brushing and painting it. This is not sincerity; this is called drama. To build Ambedkar ji's house, to take the place where he studied, we don't want this; we want help from the heart. If you have sincerity and courage, then show us by putting this in Schedule Nine. The second thing is that the size of the Government is decreasing; everything is being privatized and outsourced.

Sir, the reservation is about 22 percent. The wealth in the country is a hundred rupees. Their share should have been 22 percent of this, but what is their share now? I am asking everyone, go home and look at this. I am saying this with great shame that the percentage of SC/ST persons in the total Assets of country is about 0.0003 percent. A larger share is being taken by upper caste people, by businessmen, and 80

percent of the wealth is with only one percent of the people. This is injustice.

Sir, a judge in Gujarat had said, he was a very big man. He said that there are two diseases in the country: one is reservation and the other is corruption. What should have been done to that judge? The Rajya Sabha had initiated impeachment proceedings, but he apologised, and the issue ended.

Through you, I request everyone to initiate impeachment proceedings against the judge who passed that judgment. Also, apply the SC/ST Atrocity Act to them as well. If you have the guts, do this and show us, then we will believe that you have sincerity. You are committed to the welfare of SC/ST.

[English]

Then, the Supreme Court interference is becoming too much. It is spreading like cancer in the body. Cancer spreads everywhere. They have given a judgement in M. Nagaraj case nullifying reservation from Group B to Group A. This is hanging in balance for the last four years. The Congress Government in its sincerity brought 117th amendment. We are asking the BJP Government to bring an

amendment in this regard for the last four years but nothing is happening.

[Translation]

If the 117th Amendment had been brought, the Nagaraj case would not have happened today. If the Nagaraj case had not happened, SC/ST must have been feeling very secure. Nowadays, any SC individual in India...^{14*} ... (*Interruptions*)

Students, labourers, and other people have filled Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Mumbai; the public has taken to the streets, it's a sign of frustration, anger, anxiety, and insecurity. There was only one solution for all of these. If we look at history, Ambedkar Ji surrendered before Mahatma Gandhi Ji within the framework of the Poona Pact. It involved proportional representation and a communal electorate. If that had happened, the current situation of the SC community would not be like this today.

[English]

The public representatives belonging to the Scheduled Caste community should be elected by people belonging to the Scheduled

^{14*} Not recorded

Caste community and then only there will be true representation of the people from the Scheduled Castes and then the laws made for them would be made with sincerity and in right earnest and not keeping in mind the political angle.

Sir, I therefore, while supporting this Bill, I would like to request the Hon. Minister, through you, to give them the status of Schedule IX and also to remove the judge who gave the judgement from NGT for the sake of showing solidarity to the cause of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I would like to add here that Shri Chandrababu Naidu garu was the only person to have denounced and condemned that judgement and also pleaded in this case.

Thank you.

SHRI BALKA SUMAN (PEDDAPALLI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important Bill.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to speak from here.

I would like to mention that the provisions of the Bill are engaging the attention of the entire nation. Today is being observed as the Chundur Day in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is a village in the State of Andhra Pradesh. On August 6, 1991, 13 people belonging to the Dalit community were massacred in Chundur. Sadly, after 27 years of the incident justice has not been done to the families of the victims. This is the situation in this country. This is what I would like to bring to the notice not only of this august House but also to the entire nation.

We all know the reason as to why this Bill has been brought forward after so many months. Let me make it very clear that out of compulsion and political necessity only this Bill has been brought forward by this Government. Nothing more than that. The whole nation is well aware of the unfortunate incidents that took place in the country which forced the Government to bring this Bill. The judgement came on March 20. After the judgement was pronounced,

the people belonging to Dalit community and people belonging to the progressive sections of the society were literally shocked. That judgement issued guidelines to protect public servants and private individuals from arbitrary and immediate arrest under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. As an youngster of this country, particularly belonging to the Dalit community, I was also shocked at this judgement.

Sir, what happened after that judgement? As was mentioned by my brother Shri Ravindra Babu, the controversial judge was rewarded by being made the Chairman of the NGT on the day of his retirement. I sincerely request this Government that if they had any sympathy towards the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, then they should remove that judge immediately. I would like to know about this from the Hon. Minister.

Sir, the order bans automatic arrest and registration of cases for alleged harassment of SCs and STs and dilutes the law which aims at protecting the marginalised communities against discrimination and atrocities. The highly controversial ruling of the Supreme Court on March 20 deeply hurt the feelings of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this country. I would like

to say one thing very clearly here. If anyone says that this Government is committed to the welfare of the SCs and STs; this Government is committed to the upliftment of the SCs and STs in this country, then it is a big joke. In spite of so much pressure from different groups, this Government is still supporting the controversial judge by rewarding him and making him the Chairman of the NGT.

Sir, TRS is first party in this country to have responded to this judgement calling it unfortunate and our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao, urged the Hon. Prime Minister to restore the faith among the Dalits and Tribals and assure them that this Government stands with the Dalits and Tribals in this country. I would like to speak on this issue a bit more elaborately.

In 1928, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar highlighted violence against depressed classes in his submission to the Simon Commission. After Independence, two main laws were brought into effect in order to implement the provisions of article 17 and other related articles of the Indian Constitution aimed at preventing unequal treatment, oppression and with the objective of eradicating inherent discriminatory attitude against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This Parliament has passed the Untouchability (Offences) Act,

1955. In 1976, it was renamed as the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act. Owing to the ineffectiveness of the Act, the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act came into existence in 1989.

[Translation]

Chairman Sir, nowadays talking against reservation and SC, ST Atrocity Act has become a fashion in this country.

[English]

I would like to tell one thing very clearly to this august House and the nation. Why do we need reservations in the country and why do we need SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in this country? The Father of Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar rightly said that the essence of democracy lies in its representative character. In a country like India with plural societies, how do we address issues of representation? Representativeness is the essence of democracy. It has to be present at all levels – political, bureaucratic and at all levels of governance process. In the higher judiciary, we do not have any reservation for SCs and STs whereas we have it in lower judiciary. If the Government has any sympathy and if it wants to do anything for the welfare of SCs and STs, I would request the Government to kindly give reservation for SCs and STs in the higher judiciary also. We need

reservation and we will continue to have reservation until the last Dalit and tribal practically feels that he or she is a part of the nation and treated with equality. When the very survival of Dalits or tribals is not safeguarded, how can they avail the fruits of reservation and become equal with others in the Indian society? That is why, I say that reservation should be there. That is where this Act makes the difference and that is why, this Act should be there.

I would like to give some figures as per the NCRB record. India has over 180 million Dalits. A crime is committed against a Dalit every 15 minutes. Six Dalit women are raped every day. Over the last ten years (2007-2017), there has been a 66 percent growth in crime against the Dalits.

This Modi-led BJP Government which has come to power in 2014 and the long-ruled Congress Government before that have miserably failed in understanding the country and in protecting the rights of Dalits, adivasis, OBCs and minorities. The present Modi-led BJP Government is doing nothing short of its previous Governments. It is simply following the footsteps of the Congress.

When Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India, then India became Indira India and after that, it was known as Emergency India.

We all know what had happened during the period of emergency. I do not want to get into the details of it.

What is happening presently? All the time, we hear Clean India, Green India, Skill India, Make in India, and finally, it is Modi India. In Modi's India, where are the Dalits, where are the tribals and minorities? What is happening today?

[Translation]

The Hon. Prime Minister addresses the nation through 'Mann Ki Baat' (Heartfelt Conversations). Today, on behalf of the younger Dalit generation of this country, I would like to ask Hon. Prime Minister Modi Ji if there is any place in your heart for the Dalits of this country? Is there any place in your heart for the minorities of this country? Do the tribals, the indigenous people of this country, hold any place in your heart? The matters you discuss in 'Mann Ki Baat', kindly address this topic in your next 'Mann Ki Baat' episode.

[English]

Finally, Sir, I would like to conclude. On behalf of TRS Party, I support this Bill. But one suggestion from our Party is to please include this Bill in the Ninth Schedule. Then only, it will be helpful to the society; helpful to the SCs and STs. Thank you, Chairman Sir.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Hon. Chairman, Sir, on the behalf of my Party, definitely, I do support this Bill, but, at the same time, there are some strong observations. Sir, why this has been necessitated -- not only this amendment but also the enactment of this Bill? If we are to assess this thing, we have to go centuries back. Today, regarding Caste System, we are talking about the reservation; we are talking about the atrocities. From where has it been generated? The Caste System that has been prevailing in our society is centuries long. Though there have been social reforms, still, we have been endeavouring to overcome this situation. But, today's situation is, due to the apathy of the Government and their wrong policies, we are not witnessing any kind of overcoming of this curse or menace.

Sir, if we see as to why the Supreme Court Judgement has come and what the background behind it is, you must be knowing about the case of Mr. Bhaskar Karbhari Gaikwad. He belongs to the Mahar community of Maharashtra. He was holding a post of Storekeeper in a Pharmacy College of Maharashtra. He wrote a complaint to the higher authority against the Principal and one Professor of that college, who happen to belong to an upper caste. Those two persons,

the Principal and the Professor, have indulged in corruption. The honest Dalit employee lodged the complaint and these two higher officers and other people started harassing him. Subsequently, from the Lower Court to the High Court, finally the case has reached the Supreme Court and it passed the Judgement on 20th March, 2018 which has diluted whatever the protection is there in the Act to protect the Adivasis and to protect the SCs and STs. In this way, if we see, if this can happen with a Storekeeper who is not uneducated or poor and marginalised like the other common Adivasis or SCs and STs, think about the other millions of the Adivasis. My brother from Telangana has just voiced his concern about millions of Adivasis who are languishing, be it in case of their jobs; be it in case of their lands, and they are suffering due to so many other issues.

Sir, of course this kind of an enactment and this amendment will bring some change but what about the overall change in the condition of their life where we are talking about social emancipation? the other party people are also saying that we are speaking for the sake of humanity.

Our Hon. Prime Minister says that Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas (Together with all, Development of all). Being tribal or from a

scheduled caste, it should be done for everyone. But this will only be possible, when programmes are made for the development of *adivasis* and *dalits*, for giving them their share over land, for giving them the right to education, for giving them the right to work, for giving them the right to get elected and function as elected representatives etc. and when they get that kind of opportunities.

Sir, in 2011, the Socio-Economic Caste Census was conducted. On many occasions our friends here raised the question as to why it is not being published. As per the information collected from the Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011, what is the situation of the Scheduled Castes in the country? As per the data, the monthly income of 95 percent families of the Scheduled Tribes in our country is less than Rs. 5,000 and the same is the situation in the case of *Dalits* too. Why is it so? If we see the case of the Scheduled Tribes, they inhabit in the midst of abundance of nature. Where do the *Advisasis* live? They live in the hills, mountains from where the river comes, they live amidst the abundance of nature. But they do not have any share to that resource. They are not only below the poverty line, but they are very much below, deep down the poverty line because our system does not allow them to have a share over these resources. They are living in the

hills and forests for centuries. But they do not have any right over forest resources. That is why, this disparity is there and the gap is widening now. When we come to the recognition of forest rights, in our country, not only the Scheduled Castes, but there are also other forest dwellers. They have also not got any right over the land under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: Sir, I have just started. It is a very important legislation. Please give me some more time.

Sir, till today, more than one crore families are inhabiting in the forest land. But only 47 lakh applications have been received. Out of that, 30 lakh applications have been outrightly cancelled without any hearing and only 17 lakh people have been conferred the forest rights. There also, after the Modi Government came to power, most of the families, who are conferred with forest rights, are being evicted from there in the name of constructing track for the bullet train, in the name of construction of industrial corridor etc. Thousands of hectares of land are being released for the corporates. Where is the Environment Assessment? Where is the Social Impact Assessment there? These

assessments are there only for the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes.

Sir, the Hon. Ministers of the Government are sitting here. They have supplied information regarding cases of atrocities committed against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to give this information for three years, 2014, 2015 and 2016. According to the information supplied by them in this House, the cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes registered in 2014 were 40,300. It is very nominal, the actual number would be more than three times of this figure and they are mostly from the four BJP-ruled States, namely, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

17.00 hrs

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: In the year 2015, 25,964 cases were registered. Similarly, a large number of cases were registered in the year 2016 also.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri Tariq Anwar.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: Sir, please let me conclude.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have already spoken for 10 minutes.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: I am just concluding. ...
(Interruptions)

I support this Bill with some suggestions which may be considered. Firstly, the SC/ST Act, 1989 and the POA Amendment Act, 2015 should be included in the Ninth Schedule so that it may get protection in the manner of the judicial review.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Now, Shri Tariq Anwar.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: Let me conclude. Just give me one minute.

Sir, why has this Bill come? In the agitation of 2nd April, 12 people got killed; and 3000 people are, now languishing in the jail in U.P., Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. We demand that there should be a judicial inquiry; and families of those 12 people who were killed, should be compensated with Rs. 1 crore per family and one Government job.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Chaudhary, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

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

...(Interruptions) ... ^{15*}

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Chaudhary, nothing of what you are speaking is going on record. I have already called the name of Shri Tariq Anwar.

^{15*} Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Hon. Chairperson, Senior Minister Mr. Thaawar Chand Gehlot has proposed an amendment to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1889. I stand here in support of this amendment. The introduction of this amendment Bill by the Government appears to have been compelled, pressured, and reluctantly presented. The reason for this is that if the Government's intentions were genuine, it could have been brought as an ordinance, as has been mentioned by several Speakers and Members of Parliament on multiple occasions. During this period, six ordinances, including those of lesser significance, were brought forward. However, deliberate delays were observed in bringing forth ordinances under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, which were supposed to be introduced. The reason behind this was the Government's desire to observe the response in the country following the Supreme Court's verdict. That is why on April 2, when all the Dalit outfits decided to call for Bharat Band, the kind of rebellion and dissatisfaction created inside the country and the kind of agitation that arose, the Government felt that this matter was not going to be

suppressed. The most significant evidence of this is that the Judge who gave this verdict has been made head of an important Tribunal overnight, indicating a form of encouragement and reward bestowed upon him. If the Government did not view this decision favorably, then I think he should not have been given that responsibility.

Sir, when people took to the streets and the Government began to feel that things were slipping out of their control, it became apparent that even NDA and BJP Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe MPs couldn't quell the unrest.

Their anger flared up too, and when they exerted pressure on the Government, as we all read in newspapers, media, and everywhere else, it signalled to the Government that they couldn't control the things they wanted to anymore, and to evade those issues, they have brought this amendment today.

Sir, on April 2, when the strike call was given and the subsequent protests erupted across the country, it led to the loss of lives of 12 individuals. If the Government had acted earlier by taking preventive measures, perhaps the lives of those 12 individuals could have been saved, and the country could have been spared from the loss of Billions of rupees. However, the Government remained a silent

spectator at that time and did not pay attention to this matter. Once again, when Dalit organisations decided that if this amendment was not brought and the Supreme Court's verdict was not changed, then we would observe another Bharat Bandh on August 9. Perhaps this was the reason why the Government woke up from its slumber and felt that the situation was slipping out of control, so they took the initiative to bring about this amendment.

Hon. Chairperson, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Atrocities Act was introduced in 1989. The objective behind this was to address the continuous persecution, atrocities, and massacres faced by the weaker sections of society within the country, including the Dalits and tribal communities. These groups have been subjected to unlawful seizures of their properties and assets. In such circumstances, the then Government, led by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, took the initiative to introduce a Bill and make efforts to prevent oppression.

We talk about modern India. A modern India can only be possible if the mindset of society changes. Without this transformation, a modern India remains a dream. We all feel that this section of the society is not getting justice it deserves. The makers of our

Constitution instituted the provision of reservations with the objective of integrating the most vulnerable and backward sections of society into the mainstream. Our forebears devised a solution to this issue; whether it was Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar or the other architects of India and the Constitution at that time, they deliberated among themselves and instituted the provision of reservations. We have since adhered to that path. However, today we are witnessing that even our Constitution is being tampered with. Some people in our country do not accept reservations, and from time to time, they raise the question of whether there is any need for reservations in the country anymore. However, this is not the reality. 70 years after independence, we still feel that there is a need for reservation, protection, and attention to that section of society. Therefore, we welcome the amendments brought by the Government albeit belatedly, and we hope that the Government will always bear in its mind in coming days that no atrocities are committed against the people belonging to Dalit, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Community. We must always be mindful of their well-being. Only then will we be able to build a civilised society.

With this, I conclude my statement. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): Sir, I rise to support the Bill presented by the Government on behalf of my party. This amendment was the need of the hour. Sir, today, the eyes of people across the country will be on Parliament, and today the dalit and deprived sections of people will be feeling relieved.

17.10 hrs

(Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

Sir, I won't speak at length, but I extend heartfelt gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and esteemed Ministers for their robust support on behalf of my party. However, there is a question on my mind that I believe is necessary to discuss. Sir, prior to Independence, when the constitution was being drafted, similar provisions were made at that time as well. Later on, several amendments were made as we moved forward. Recently, the Supreme Court delivered a judgment which necessitated this amendment. However, whenever amendments have been made, or in the case of the current Amendment Bill, I believe that this amendment acts as a balm on the pain and grievances of the people. The question is whether by applying the medicine, we are

merely alleviating the immediate pain people are feeling, or if we aspire to provide a permanent cure for this pain. When a patient experiences stomach pain, they visit a doctor, who provides immediate relief by administering painkillers. However, providing painkillers for immediate relief is not a cure for the illness. Exactly, just like that, this amendment is not a cure for the problem, but an immediate relief provision is necessary.

Sir, why does such a situation arise in the first place? In the parliamentary process, decisions are made, actions taken by the Government, and subsequently, Court orders are issued that necessitate Parliament to revisit certain matters. This cyclical process often triggers public movements, leading the Government to make further decisions.

Sir, such decisions arise because those seated in those chairs, from where such decisions emanate, may not fully understand the plight of those living in slums. Those residing in palaces may not fully comprehend or empathise with the pain experienced by those living in slums.

Sir, wherever we go in any part of the country, we can easily identify Dalit settlements by their distinct characteristics. Sir, whether

it's a Dalit settlement or a neighbourhood predominantly inhabited by people of another caste, it can be identified by observing the village. What, after all, is the reason that even after so many years of Independence, we still need to deliberate on this matter? Sir, in my understanding, until we find a permanent cure for the ailment, such situations will continue to recur. Sometimes decisions are made that affect the reinstatement of teachers in universities, leading to the discontinuation of reservation policies. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAYUN): Hon. Minister, since this falls under your jurisdiction, you should also bring forward a Bill regarding this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Yadav Ji, please have a seat. This is nothing new, it's a routine matter. When was the 50 percent cap instituted? This is not a matter of recent concern.

When was the 50 percent cap instituted? This is not a matter of recent concern. This is not an issue specific to any one Government's tenure. When did the matter of the "creamy layer" arise? This is not about one Government. This has always been the case. I am saying that providing only painkillers cannot cure the pain. A comprehensive

treatment will be necessary for this. The debate revolves around whether Parliament is supreme or the Supreme Court is supreme.

Sir, today, by bringing this amendment, the Government has proved that court is not superior, it is the Parliament which is superior. This parliament has once again proven this. I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister that the 50% cap, which has been imposed, should be removed. This should be done. By utilising this, changes can be made in the system wherein individuals from the elite class sitting in the Supreme Court and High Courts, who make decisions based on their background, can be addressed. What is the underlying reason for an individual who sells tea and hails from a humble household to ascend to the position of Prime Minister of India? What are the factors contributing to an individual from a family of newspaper vendors rising not only to become the world's foremost scientist but also the President of India? A child from a humble background, let's not even talk about SC/ST and OBC, if there is a young person from a Brahmin family as well, from a poor household, no matter how much merit they may possess, they cannot become a judge in the Supreme Court or High Court. Sir, so long as people from all sections get the opportunity to become a part of the judiciary, these

kinds of verdict will continue to be given and the Parliament will have to sit frequently to bring such amendments. Hence, we assert that if we seek a permanent solution to this system, then there is a need to work towards reforming the existing system in the Supreme Court and High Courts, including the process of appointment of Judges. In our constitution, provisions for this are already in place. There is no need to address this separately. Arrangements shall be made for the establishment of an All-India Judicial Service, thereby bringing about a reformation in the system, facilitating access for individuals from all strata of society. I would like to propose, on behalf of my party, that steps be taken to establish the All India Judicial Service with the aim of instituting a permanent arrangement, ensuring its permanency and effectiveness. With this proposal, I conclude my remarks, firmly endorsing this Bill on behalf of my party.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BUDAUN): Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on this Bill. Thank you. I extend my support and endorsement to this Bill brought forth by the Government on behalf of my party, the Samajwadi Party, and under the leadership of Hon. Akhilesh Yadav, the President of our party.

Sir, this Bill was of utmost importance, which is why it was formulated. The kind of verdict that came on March 20 was something I had been hearing various speakers discuss, but none had hinted towards it. This decision purely reflects the failure of the Government. The Hon. Supreme Court had issued a notice to the Hon. Attorney General. Neither the Attorney General nor the Solicitor General appeared for the defence in that case. Instead, they deputed the Additional Solicitor General, Mr. Mohinder, to represent their side. When the Supreme Court summoned the Hon. Attorney General, he should have attended. After attending, Mohinder Ji stated that anticipatory bail could be granted. There is no provision for protection against misuse of the SC/ST Act. They were suggesting this, as they were your Sub-Solicitors General. Convictions under the SC/ST Act are significantly low, meaning incorrect FIRs are being filed. If the

case had been argued in the Supreme Court strongly then we do not have to amend this Bill by re-introducing it.

When the Government has rectified its mistake, we, from the Samajwadi Party, extend our support and endorsement. However, the population of SC and ST communities within the country constitutes 25 percent, making it a crucial issue concerning these communities. I understand that if we include the 25 percent population of SC, ST, OBC, and other minority groups, the total population accounts for 70 to 75 percent. Until all these groups receive support and respect, I believe the nation cannot progress.

Sir, I agree with many of the points raised by Upendra Kushwaha Ji. He stated that this issue needs to be addressed at its root and cannot be resolved solely by legislation, as there exists injustice, oppression, and discrimination ingrained within people's minds.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, you will be surprised to hear that when Hon. Akhilesh Yadav Ji was removed from the position of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and vacated his official residence, the current Chief Minister ensured that the residence was thoroughly cleaned with water from the Ganges before he moved in. Hon. Akhilesh Yadav's only crime was that he was born into a backwards

caste, into a farmer's family. Therefore, this is a battle of ideologies. This mindset needs to be changed.

As far as many people of the Government have said many things and it is possible that their words may be right regarding this Bill, but in today's situation of the country, the situation of the state, in those circumstances, this statement of yours, as Mr. Upendra Kushwaha said that it is only a pain-killer, so really it is only a pain-killer. For you, a painkiller was necessary for the election, and for this reason, you have provided this painkiller.

The 'Bharat Band' organised by Dalit organisations across the country on April 2, I think that if the Government, with time, had brought SLP in this regard or this law had been stopped by bringing an ordinance, the situation of April 2 would not have arisen. I do not hesitate to say that if all the Ministers and Hon. MPs from the Scheduled Castes had not pressed for it and called for the strike on the ninth, your law would not be in this form today.

However, there are many issues associated with this Government, but my suggestion to the Government is that when you have made improvement in the decision of March 20, then the incident that took place on April 2, if the Government withdraws all the cases against

the people arrested in that agitation, we will assume that the intention of the Government is good.

Many colleagues have discussed many things, like they have discussed the Higher Judicial Service Commission. I support it on behalf of my party. Once this House and that House both passed it, but the Hon. Supreme Court did not accept it. I would like to say on my behalf and on behalf of my party that the Government should reintroduce that Bill and form a High Judicial Commission. Today many people raise questions on the Judiciary, because today whether you look at the Supreme Court, all the High Courts, even take their Chief Justices, SC, BC, and there is no adequate representation of minority communities.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing this after 70 years of Independence. In every house, during every Government's tenure, this matter has been discussed, but what is the reason that one percent of the country's population holds 73 percent of the nation's wealth, while only 27 percent of the wealth is possessed by 99 percent of the people? The reason for this is that there has been some discrimination, injustice, and atrocity in the sharing from Independence to date. People were assigned work based on their caste, they were

discriminated against based on their caste, they were made to do farming based on their caste, and they were made to do labour based on their caste. These are all the reasons, due to which, injustice, oppression, and discrimination are still happening against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBC, and Minority Communities today. This is also happening in the judiciary.

I have no hesitation in saying this, no matter how many people say otherwise, excluding the Respected Thawar Chand Gehlot and Paswan Ji, there is not even a third Minister from this community in your cabinet, and in this way, there is discrimination happening in your Ministry too. This is also happening in the Cabinet. Tell us about your Cabinet. We are aware of the capabilities of the State Ministers, and you also know. ... *(Interruptions)* They belong to Scheduled Tribes, I am talking about SC. ... *(Interruptions)* I also discussed OBC the other day.

Hon. Upendra Sir is the Minister within the Department of Higher Education. I had said this personally, and today I am saying it from here as well, that the law that has come, in it, the circular of March 05, so Mr. Upendra Kushwaha, Respected Satyapal, you are Ministers of your Departments, history will not forgive you because this circular

of March 05 has been issued by the UGC while your Ministers are in office.

Please bring this circular as a law, without seeking the assistance of the court.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, there are some important matters that I wish to address in the assembly. Since Independence, SC/ST have been entitled to reservations in Government services. However, what are the reasons that their numbers have still not been fully achieved till today? They have not been able to reach up to 22 percent till now. There was already discrimination with OBCs, but there is also no less discrimination with SC/ST. Previous Governments have also discriminated against them, and you are also doing so. The only difference is that you put a hat on them, and they put a hat on you. The earlier condition of these dalits, backward, and minorities is still there.

Hon. Minister, many of our colleagues have raised a very serious issue, which I also support. By setting a limit of only fifty percent, it has been said here that even if SC/ST/OBC individuals achieve numbers equal to those in the unreserved category, you will not give them the opportunity. The direct meaning of this is, as I said, that you have given 50 percent reservation to 80-85 percent people and another

50 percent reservation to the rest of the 15 percent people. Such direct injustice, discrimination, exploitation, and oppression cannot be tolerated against the Dalits, backward classes, and minorities of the country.

Deputy Speaker, there have been many incidents recently - whether it is the Saharanpur incident, the Una incident, the Faridabad incident, the Jaipur incident, the Rohit Bemula incident, or the incident in Haryana. After all these events, what is said? If a young man from a Dalit family brings his wedding procession, he cannot ride the horse. If he rides the horse, he will be wronged. You all have spoken a lot about Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, but when the celebration of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's birth anniversary was being organised in a Dalit village in Saharanpur, the people of Saharanpur, the police there, the administration, and the MP's from Saharanpur not only oppressed and treated the Dalit families unjustly but also caused those affected to remain in jail to this day. ... (*Interruptions*) Today, your Government is in power, and this incident happened over a year ago, after that, you people accused our ally, the respected sister Kumari Mayawati. ... (*Interruptions*) On the incident of injustice and atrocities in Saharanpur, he has also resigned from the Membership of

the Rajya Sabha. You will commit such atrocities. ... (*Interruptions*)
You will do anything, you will do whatever you want. ...
(*Interruptions*) You people should answer about the Saharanpur
incident. ... (*Interruptions*) Today you stand up and answer on this
incident. ... (*Interruptions*) What happened inside Hathras? A young
man from a Dalit family just wanted to go as a groom, but people from
the Kshatriya community did not allow him to go. ... (*Interruptions*)
These types of atrocities and injustice happened to Dalits. ...
(*Interruptions*) Today, we need to change this mindset.

Sir, when our Chief Minister vacates the bungalow, you cleanse it
with holy Ganga water. ... (*Interruptions*) Just a week ago, a Dalit
woman legislator of the Bharatiya Janata Party went to a temple in the
Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh, so the idols have sent into the
Sangam. ... (*Interruptions*) You should also deny this. The idols have
gone into the Sangam. ... (*Interruptions*) When Dalit women cannot
enter temples, Dalits cannot enter temples, and you cannot dine with
Dalits, then why have you come to praise Dalits?

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Samajwadi Party supports this Bill. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Thank you, Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important and a sensitive legislation pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018.

Sir, I come from Araku constituency of Andhra Pradesh, which is said to be the largest constituency in terms of size as well as in terms of Scheduled Tribes population. I thank the Government on behalf of SCs and STs of my State for bringing in this important legislation. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was significantly weakened by the Supreme Court judgment in the order released on March 28th, allowing accused people to be arrested only after a senior official has conducted an inquiry.

Sir, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is a key instrument to fight prejudice in society in which brutal violence against *dalits* and *adivasis* is a common place and often has a political sanction.

I feel the powers of the legislature have been actually taken over by the judiciary. I feel the judiciary's intervention in the laws that are made in Parliament is too much now and it has to be curtailed because the judiciary, the legislature and the executive are all bound by the Constitution of India. Today, when the law is made in this House of democracy, in this temple of democracy as per the Constitution of India, the judiciary cannot overrule the legislature and pass rules as they like. This has aroused the emotions and the fury of *Dalits*. Agitations were conducted across the country and as many as 12 people have lost their lives and almost thousands of people are in jails by this order.

I wish to bring to the notice of this august House that the Court has cited the low conviction rate under this Act to interfere as stringent provisions in the law are being misused. As it happens, this is also a common complaint for many upper class groups. However, the National Crime Records Bureau shows that the proportion of false cases registered under the Act has actually fallen. It is not that much. Even though anti-terror laws have low conviction rate, the courts never suggested this sort of a remedy or this sort of an action to be removed. So, I fully agree with Hon. Minister when he was saying

that we need to actually bring in the Judicial Commission and reservations have to be given in the judiciary so that people who are sitting in the judiciary will know the pain of the *Dalits* who are actually being subdued, who are vulnerable sections of the community.

I would like to say in this august House that the conviction rate of those accused of committing atrocities against Scheduled Caste population is 25.8 percent and Scheduled Tribe population is 25.2 percent. The Hon. Supreme Court has passed passing remarks that the law is being mis-utilised. But where is the question of mis-utilising the law? The statistics reveal the extent of exploitation and injustice meted out to the *Dalit* community. Being on the bottom of the caste hierarchy, *Dalits* have lost out on educational and employment opportunities. Atrocities are being perpetrated against them. Despite various legal options, we are being subject to a lot of atrocities across the country. In my constituency also many cases have been registered. But there is extraordinary delay in taking up the cases. Cases are pending for years together. The investigating officers are changing. They are not made accountable at all. Justice delayed is justice denied. So, if the cases drag on for years together, *Dalits* are not able to hold

on to these cases. The witnesses are being tampered with. They do not have any protection. They are being subdued by the upper class community. Even after seven decades of Independence, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population are still waiting for the welfare activities to penetrate down. Educational and health amenities are still a far dream. Sub-plan grants have been diverted. This is a very important point. For the past 30 years, an organisation called India Spend has revealed that Rs. 2.8 lakh crore which was allocated to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Sub-plan are not spent for this purpose and was diverted. In Andhra Pradesh Rs. 25,000 crore in the past ten years have not been spent and had been diverted for various reasons.

Hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs is present here. I would request the Minister to kindly look into this issue and take stringent action against the erring officers. ...*(Interruptions)* When we are trying to achieve the target, we should have strict laws and action has to be taken against the erring officers.

I hope this Act will go a long way in providing justice. With these few words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN (JAMUI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for this opportunity.

With your permission, I want to speak from this seat.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN: Sir, on behalf of the Lok Janshakti Party and our National President, respected Ram Vilas Paswan, Sir, I stand here to speak in support of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018. There has been a debate over this law across the country for quite some time. The order given by the Hon. Supreme Court regarding the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act on 20th March 2018 diluted this Act. The Lok Janshakti Party immediately filed a review petition in the court thereafter.

I want to thank the Union Government. The Union Government filed a review petition. Thereafter, our party and community have incessantly been demanding the restoration of the provision of this Act, through an Ordinance or a Bill, at the earliest. This was causing significant resentment among the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes community. We have also observed the events of April 2 and how

unrest spread throughout the entire country. The people of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, angered, took to the streets and expressed their frustration.

I would like to thank the Government and all the Cabinet Ministers for having approved the draft in the Cabinet. I especially want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling his promise. He has kept his word. It was said in his own words that no word, comma, or full stop in this law will be changed. On behalf of my party, I would like to thank the National President for keeping his words and promises. Since 1983, the Dalit Sena has been a strong wing of our party, consistently fighting for the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe community, tirelessly working for their welfare. This demand was also made by our party's department. I want to thank the Prime Minister on behalf of the Dalit Sena for his efforts in bringing this law into its rightful place. He fulfilled his words and promises.

Sir, the opposition has been consistently alleging that the NDA Government is anti-Dalit. This Government is anti-backward, anti-Muslim, anti-farmer, and anti-poor. This Government is a Government of suits, boots, and industrialists. These accusations and

allegations are constantly being levelled against us. I would like to state without any exaggeration that after the Government of Mr. V.P. Singh, if any Government has worked genuinely for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, it is the current NDA Government.

In the year 1989, the Government of V.P. Singh enacted the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act. Subsequently, the NDA Government strengthened this Act. There were 22 offences which attracted stringent provisions of this Act in the year 1989. Now with 25 more offences incorporated in the list and by increasing the number of offences to 47, the Government has given more teeth to the Act. During V.P. Singh's era, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was awarded Bharat Ratna for giving respect to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes people. During that time, their picture was not in the parliament; the work of putting up the picture was done there. The work of granting leave on their birthday was done.

Respected Narendra Modi has identified and developed numerous places associated with Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar as national monuments. These steps are symbolic, which demonstrate respect towards society. Whether it is Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's birthplace in

Mhow, London, where he pursued his education, Alipur Road, where he spent his final days, or Chaitya Bhoomi, all these places have been identified and developed as national monuments. I want to thank respected Narendra Modi for this.

I want to ask all opposition parties, especially the Congress, that these people were in power for most of the 70 years. Why was it necessary by 1989 to enact a law like the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, so that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes could be protected and given security? For 42 years, most of the time from 1947 to 1989, the Congress party was in power. During this period, the oppression against them increased so significantly that we had to enact laws to provide them protection. Since 1989, the Congress party has largely remained in power, whether it was during the Government of Narasimha Rao, Deve Gowda, I.K. Gujral, or the long tenure of Mr. Manmohan Singh. Why was the work not done during that time to strengthen this law? Today, allegations are made against us that our Government is anti-Dalit. I would like to ask, if the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have not achieved social and economic equality even after 70 years, is the four-year NDA Government responsible for this, or is the 55 year Congress rule

during those 70 years to be held accountable? They tell us that we are anti-Dalit, they say that we are anti-backward. You created a toothless commission, and in 1993, you established a backward-class commission with no authority and no power. Our Government has worked to give constitutional status to that commission. Even today, the people of the backward classes have not been fully integrated with the mainstream, and their development has not occurred in the desired manner. Is the four-year-old NDA Government responsible for this or your 55 years of rule, Congress needs to answer this.

Today, Congress says that our Government is anti-Muslim. I want to ask why Muslims have not been able to integrate with the mainstream in these 70 years? Hon. Prime Minister talks about the rights of Muslims. He wants Muslim youth to have the Quran in one hand and a laptop in the other. I would like to ask if Muslims have not been able to integrate with the mainstream in these 70 years, is the four-year NDA Government responsible for this, or is it your 55 years of governance?

If farmers are still forced to commit suicide 70 years after independence, is the four-year-old NDA Government responsible for it, or is it your 55-year-old rule? The present Government worked to

increase the MSP. Hon. Prime Minister thinks that by the year 2022, farmers' income will be doubled. You are saying that we are anti-farmer? In your past 70 years, what have you done for them? This is also necessary for you to explain.

You say that this Government is a Government of suits and boots. If a Prime Minister coming from a poor family wears suits and boots, it bothers you. Here, most MPs come from poor families, if they wear a suit, you feel bad, just like you would feel bad about Baba Saheb Ambedkar wearing a suit.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to say that the Government is often accused of being a Government of industrialists. In these four years, two, four names are counted, did they become industrialists in just four years? Did they gather the entire Nation's capital in just four years? I want to say that there has been a lack in their economic policies for the past 70 years. Congress existed for 55 years, it was they who created these industrialists. Why have their economic policies been such that a large portion of the country's population fell below the poverty line, and most of the country's wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few industrialists?

Hon. Prime Minister believes that every youth of the country should be an entrepreneur, whether under the Mudra Yojana, Startup Yojana, or Standup Yojana. Hon. Prime Minister wants the youth of our country to have the capacity to create employment rather than just seek it. You say that we are anti-poor?

Hon. Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to say that they have consistently worked to spread confusion. When elections come, whether at the state or national level, they tend to distract the public from the actual issues facing the country. At that time, certain issues are raised, people are misled, such as if the Modi Government comes, reservation will be ended, if the Modi Government comes, the Constitution will be abolished, if the NDA Government comes, democracy will be murdered. When the Hon. Prime Minister stands in the house and says that the country will only function based on one book, and that book is our Constitution. What bigger statement can the Prime Minister of the country give than this?

Hon. Deputy Speaker, could you clarify what actions our Government has taken that are against the Constitution? I would like to suggest that when you talk about the murder of democracy, you should avoid using such words. When you talk about the murder of

democracy, those people who have forgotten or want to forget the Emergency somewhere remember the era of Emergency, when the murder of democracy was truly committed in the country for the first and last time. Such confused issues are raised, suggesting that reservations will be abolished or that reservation policies will be terminated. Strategies are made in elections by raising such issues. The virtual issues of development related to society and the people, on which the NDA Government wants to continuously contest, Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives speeches about this, such topics are raised to divert attention from them.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, a false propaganda is being made regarding the Act that it is anti- upper caste. If this law is enacted, crimes against the upper castes will increase, and atrocities will rise. With full responsibility, I would like to submit that any Act passed by the House is not against any section, caste or religion. Any Act passed by the Parliament is against those perpetrating crimes. The law is enacted against every individual who is engaged in anti-social activities. Similarly, the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act has been enacted, and there is also a need for this law.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, even today, in the villages and rural areas, the people of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community face persecution. We need laws that protect us, that become our protectors. Even today, a Dalit youth is prevented from riding a horse because his background is Dalit. Today, people in many villages still suffer oppression because they belong to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

When we formulate protective laws for any society, when they reach the court, where it is supposed to be implemented, where the responsibility for their execution lies, by the time they reach the judiciary system, their definition is changed. As we arrive, we find that the law is being weakened, as exemplified by an incident we witnessed on 20th March. The reason behind this is that when we go to court, I am not just talking about the Scheduled Castes or Tribes, I am talking about everyone, including the Backward Classes, Other Backward Classes, and all, including the upper-caste poor people, whose representation is merely found. You are talking about the judiciary, for which a collegium has been set up, however, there is no transparency in its functioning, and based on that, the appointment of judges there remains continuous. Therefore, today, I, on behalf of the

Lok Janashakti Party, demand that Indian Judicial Service should be introduced at the earliest. As in the case of the appointment of IAS and IPS officers, I wish that our judges too are appointed through a competitive process, in which all talented individuals, whether they belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, or the economically weaker sections of the general category, can participate. Those who do not get an opportunity will at least get a chance through competition. When they discuss our issue there, only then will they understand our problem. Because, in some manner, their ancestors must have also witnessed the same kind of persecution that the matters placed before their court will represent.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government, Article 312 already has a provision for setting up of Indian Judicial Service. I urge the Government to take this matter seriously and implement it as soon as possible. Additionally, I would urge the Government to ensure that there are no repeated discussions on this matter and that no one is able to take this law to court again.

I urge the Government that this Amendment Bill should be incorporated in the Ninth Schedule so as to obviate the entire debate on the Act.

Finally, before concluding my remarks, I wish to assure our Union Government, and especially our esteemed Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, that every individual from the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and the society at large stands firmly with the NDA Government and our esteemed Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi. In 2019, every individual from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes stood firmly to ensure his reappointment as Prime Minister.

With this, on behalf of my Lok Jan Shakti Party, and on behalf of our National President, I thank the Government and support this Bill.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you for allowing me to speak on this important Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Prevention Bill. I stand here to express my support and heartfelt gratitude to the successful Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and our learned Minister Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, who have decided to bring this Bill in this monsoon session after the Supreme Court's decision. When our Prime Minister came to this very house, the temple of democracy, for the first time in the year 2014, and stood up to speak on the motion of thanks to the President's address, he said, “My Government will be sensitive to Dalits, to the poor, to the forest dwellers” and today, in this house, by bringing this Bill, he has proved that the Government is sensitive to the concerns of the poor, Dalits, and forest dwellers.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I express heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the thirty crore Dalits, Scheduled Castes, and Tribal communities of the country for the work done to bring this Bill to the temple of democracy, to the Prime Minister. When our Prime Minister stood in this House to speak on the Constitution, he expressed his respect for Baba Saheb Ambedkar and the Constitution. He said that if a person who sells tea in this country can become the Prime Minister, it is

because of the Constitution. This Constitution is made possible because of the creator, Baba Saheb Ambedkar. I come from Gujarat. When the Hon. Prime Minister was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he organised a journey for the Constitution in Surendranagar. By placing an ambadi on the elephant, showing full respect to the Constitution, he walked for about a kilometre with approximately millions of people. The Prime Minister has decided, and it has been ensured how sensitive he is towards the Dalits and the poor. The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was brought and passed in the year 1989, as Mr. Chirag just mentioned, by the Government of Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh. No previous Congress Government had brought this Act. The veteran leader of the NDA, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan Ji, made a significant contribution to this, and for that, I thank him. At the time when the SC-ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act came, it had provisions for 22 different punishments. After that, many Governments came, Congress formed the Government several times, but no Government took the task of strengthening this act. The task of strengthening this act has been undertaken by the Government of Narendra Modi. In the year 2015, provision for 25 new offences were incorporated, giving it teeth and nails. This work has been done by the Government of Mr. Narendra Modi. When this decision of the

Supreme Court came, we said, we were fully confident that this act had been brought by us, strengthened by us, we would not let this act go like this. But after the judgment of Supreme Court, this Act was diluted. In this act, if someone is a serviceman, they have to bring a certificate from their superior, and if someone is a common man, they have to get approval from the DSP and SP, only then can an FIR be registered. This was a strong act, but efforts were made to completely dilute it. If someone is subjected to any atrocity, they file an FIR, go to the police station, and an FIR is registered. But the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has provisions for such incidents. We respect the judiciary of this country. The democracy of this country stands on three pillars - the Legislature, meaning the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and Vidhan Sabha, the Executive, and the Judiciary. Our judiciary is independent. The judiciary has made many decisions to strengthen democracy, but the decision that was given, I think Babasaheb Ambedkar had marked the boundaries for all three pillars in the Constitution, if any pillar goes beyond this boundary, then democracy becomes weak. The Supreme Court's judgment regarding this act is the interpretation of the law, not the creation of law. The authority to enact laws rests with the Lok Sabha, which serves as the paramount legislative body of democracy, the foremost assembly of

democracy. I believe there was a lapse somewhere, which is why our Government, the Government of Shri Narendra Modi, and our respected Ministers have brought this Bill. For this, I congratulate them again. With this, you have proven that the duty of making laws in the country belongs to the Lok Sabha, to the Parliament. Our senior colleague from the Congress, Mr. Kharge, stated that we engage in significant discussions, speak of Baba, and hold Manu in high regard in our hearts. I want to tell them that our Prime Minister respects the Constitution. We also take Baba's name and walk on the path of the Constitution given by Babasaheb Ambedkar, keeping the Constitution in our hearts; that's the kind of Government we have. They do not have the right to speak about this. The Congress has insulted Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

In the Central Hall of Parliament, where the Constitution was presented, there were pictures of the country's top leaders. But the picture of Baba Saheb Ambedkar was not there. When the time came for V.P. Singh Ji, our leader immediately urged the then Prime Minister of the Congress to ensure that there should be a portrait of Baba Ambedkar in the Central Hall. At that time, they were informed that there was no space in the Central Hall. Our leader had said that

there is space in the central hall, but there is no space in the heart of the Congress. That is why they do not display his picture there. Therefore, the Congress party has no right to speak on Baba Ambedkar.

A short while ago, Mr. Dharmendra Yadav of the Samajwadi Party addressed the House, focusing on matters concerning the Dalit community. I welcome that. However, it was the socialist Members of Parliament who tore the Bill related to the reservation in promotions in this very House. They will have to answer what was done in reservations in promotions. If the matter concerns the UGC, it has just been mentioned. In the case of the UGC, our Government will assert its position, and the recruitment process in many universities that was initiated has been halted by our Government. In the matter of promotions, in the case of Nagaraj, which was pending since 2006, SC/STs were not getting promotions. However, the Government of Narendra Modi filed a petition in the Supreme Court and stated that until the judgment of the Constitution Bench is not delivered, reservations in promotions for SC/ST should be kept on hold. I express gratitude to the Government that the Supreme Court has also acknowledged this fact, and the notification of the DOPT has

also been issued. The Government is committed towards welfare of the Dalits and in the upcoming elections, the entire Dalit and poor community will make Narendra Modi victorious with even more seats. Thank you.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to speak in favour of this Bill. The significance of this Bill lies in the fact that this Bill has been brought to restore the rights of the Dalit communities, which were seized from them after the judgment of Hon. Supreme Court. Therefore, its importance is undeniable, and I am in favour of it.

The most important thing is that in the judiciary and the Parliamentary system, which have their own domains, the supreme authority for making laws, I think that this Bill is also significant for establishing supremacy of the Parliamentary System.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been noted here that concerning the atrocities against Dalits, the issue of rape of Dalit women, and instances of coercion by influential individuals, I choose not to delve into these matters due to time constraints. However, I wish to address my colleagues from the Congress Party and emphasise that if anyone initiated the politicisation of welfare schemes, it was indeed the Congress Party. As soon as the Constitution was made, first of all, the people of the Dalit society believed in Sikhism, behind whom the word Sikh was mentioned, they denied the reservation, and first of all, if anyone started the reservation for Dalit Sikhs by fighting any battle

in this independent country, then it was done by Master Tara Singh ji. They also put handcuffs on him. How can they say that they are very helpful to the Dalits?

The framers of the Constitution had temporarily thought that if all the poor and Dalit people were placed in jobs with the big people, their mentality would change. But it couldn't happen. Today, besides the enactment of the law it is extremely necessary that that the people of the country change their mindset.

18.00 hrs

We must look at our culture. The culture of Guru Nanak Sahib

Nicho andar neech jaat, Neechi hu at neech

(I am the lowest of the low, even lower than the low caste).

Nanak tin ke sang saath, vadhiyo se kya rees

(Nanak is with them, what need is there to bargain with the rich).

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI, DEPARTMENT OF RIVER
DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI**

ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I request that the time for the house be extended until the Bill is passed.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, we can extend the House for one hour; afterwards, we will decide. We cannot simply say that we will extend the House till the passing of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, please extend the time by one hour, but in my opinion, it would be better to extend the time until the Bill is passed.

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are seeing an unusual thing here. The Cabinet is approving the Bill and the Ministers, who are supporting the Bill, are also participating in the discussion on the Bill. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is the prerogative of the Members. They are also Members of the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: The Cabinet is approving the Bill. Ministers are also participating in the discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ministers are also Members of the House. If they want to speak, I cannot stop them.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Then we should be given more time to discuss this Bill. This is a very vital subject. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why we are first extending the House by an hour. We may extend it further after 1900 hours. Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra, please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that we need to change our behaviour, practically change our way of thinking. I can say with full responsibility that people say there is no place for Dalits in the Modi Government, but there is a place for them that's why they have brought this Bill today by changing the decision of the Hon. Supreme Court. I want to give an example that when Guru Gobind Singh formed the Khalsa Panth, the

big kings, and rulers started saying that they would not let the Dalits and poor people sit among them. At that time, he said something -

Jin ki jaat aur kul naahi

Sardarin hi pahi kadahi

Teen hi ko sardar banaaun

Tavai govind singh naam kahaan.

(Only when I make leaders out of those who have no caste or lineage, shall I be called Gobind Singh.)

He had placed his aigrette on the head of a Dalit brother named Shankar Singh. Today, I want to say to all the leaders of the country's parties that if the poor and Dalits are to be brought on an equal footing, then such a mindset has to be created. Scholarships are being distributed today. Last year, the scholarship amount of Rs. 1500 crore was sanctioned for the poor in Punjab but the said amount has not been given to the poor children till date. They say that an audit is happening. What happens with an audit? Their roll numbers were not received, they could not appear for the exams, they did not get

admission, and they did not get admission to institutions. If such behaviour happens, then how can poor people rise up?

The Sikh community is not getting reservation in other States. If you talk about justice, if you talk about equality, then we will have to mitigate this discrimination. The poor people who are being rebuked and denied their rights in the name of caste after 70 years, should feel that we are living in a free country. By giving them equal rights on the basis of humanity, today's Bill will send a message to the country that we all want everyone to be equal. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL):

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the 'Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018'

The architect of this country's constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, envisaged a nation, India, that advances the values of equality and harmony. Where the backward, Dalits, exploited, deprived, poor, and weaker sections are provided with equal opportunities for equality. However, it is very unfortunate and distressing that even after 70 years of independence, we have proven ourselves incapable of granting equality and dignity to these oppressed classes. After the Independence of the country, the provision of twenty two and half percent reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes was ensured. However, even today, the situation is such that despite the implementation of this reservation system for so many years, their representation in Central Ministries has only reached a mere nine percent. Similarly, the provision of reservation for Backward category was implemented in the year 1993,

but after so many years, their participation in the Central Ministries has reached only upto five and half percent.

The headlines of our country's newspapers often feature news stories where a Dalit youth is stopped from riding a horse to his wedding. A Dalit woman is stripped and paraded in the village, subjected to humiliation. Such news is published where, if a Dalit falls in love with someone from an upper caste, they are murdered. For a democracy like India, which takes pride in being the largest democracy in the world, there can be nothing more shameful and abhorrent than the fact that even after so many years, we have not been able to grant dignity and equality to Dalits, backward and exploited communities.

I would say that this is not a matter of any single Government or political party, but rather a deeply entrenched mindset within the society, bound by the shackles of caste. Until we confront this narrow mindset, we cannot succeed in bringing about change in these circumstances.

Dalits are being oppressed in every corner of the country today, and this oppression is ongoing. Many such incidents are occurring, not just one. Data of the National Crime Record Bureau prove this

fact. In the year 2013, there were 39,408 cases, in 2014, 40,401 cases, in 2015, 38,670 cases, and in 2016, 40,801 cases were registered for atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These are the reported cases, but there are many more incidents that go unrecorded, that are not documented anywhere, that are not even registered. The tale of continuous harassment and exploitation continues.

Hence, it is imperative and the commitment of any Government should be to ensure the security of the country's weaker sections, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes first and foremost. This Act was brought in the year 1989, but on March 20, 2018, after the verdict given by the Supreme Court and interpretation of Article 18, this Act became fully ineffective. The interpretation given to it was such that it completely nullified its effect, and its significance was diminished. As a result, protests erupted across the country, the entire nation was stirred, and dissatisfaction arose among the people, which was only natural. If the court were to encroach upon the rights and dignity of Dalits in this manner, it is quite natural that the public would be agitated and outraged.

However, our Government promptly took cognisance of this and filed a review petition in the Supreme Court, which is still under consideration. It is unclear when the court will announce its verdict. In such a situation, it becomes necessary that the court's order, which states that a complaint should not be registered upon receiving it, will not be adhered to. First, the DSP-level officer will investigate, the immediate arrest will not take place, approval from the competent authority will be necessary for the arrest of Government officials, and permission from the SSP will be required to arrest non-Governmental employees. The accused under the SC/ST Act also has the right to an anticipatory.

In this situation, it was necessary for the Government to bring an Amendment Bill. Therefore, the Government has worked on bringing a new Article 18 A and incorporating additional subsections one and two, under which now, upon receipt of a complaint regarding such offences, the police will file an FIR, and there will be no requirement for an investigation before registering the case. No permission will be required before making an arrest, and there will be no provision for anticipatory bail after the case is registered, regardless of any previous judicial order on this matter. Section 438 provisions will not be

applicable to any case under this Act. These provisions will also not apply at the direction of any court. This Amendment was absolutely necessary.

This Amendment was absolutely necessary. There was a dire need for this. This is also very justifiable. Therefore I welcome and support this on behalf of my party.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, along with this, I also want to say that these issues arise repeatedly, such situations emerge repeatedly because the decisions coming from the courts, which are against Dalits and Backward Classes, if we scrutinise the judges in our high courts and the Supreme Court today, we will not find a single judge from the Dalit, backwards, Scheduled Caste, or Scheduled Tribe community. This is indeed the root cause of this problem. Until we address this, such situations will continue to arise. Decisions against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes will continue, and we will all sit in Parliament, feeling helpless, and Governments will repeatedly enact laws for its amendment.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we want to end this process permanently, we must pave the way to ensure that our judiciary, the strong pillar of democracy, includes representation of Dalits and Backward Classes

in the positions of judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court. For this, it is necessary that All India Judicial Services should be constituted, which is provided for under our Constitution, and to initiate its process.

On behalf of my party, I want to urge the Hon. Minister, the Hon. Prime Minister, and the Government to put a full and final stop to this tradition of injustice against Dalits and Backward Classes. Establish the All India Judicial Services and ensure that Dalits and Backward Classes are appointed to the positions of judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court of the country. With these words, I once again welcome this Amendment, express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government, and conclude my speech. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI HARINDER SINGH KHALSA (FATEHGARH SAHIB): I was just wondering that after so many years a law was enacted to prevent the atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and not even 29 years have passed that the brilliant judges of the Supreme Court have realised that the atrocities committed on the non-Scheduled Castes by this Act is more grievous than the atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes for thousands of years. There is something wrong with us. There is something wrong with our Supreme Court. There is something wrong with our own psyche. It smacks of lunacy, smacks of idiosyncrasies and smacks of idiocies. It is better that we mend ourselves.

I am not here to address the Scheduled Caste voters of my constituency like some of us are doing it. I am not here to give a speech, *tabad-tod bhashan*. I do not believe in that. But, I simply want to give a jerk to all of us that we get out of this slumber. Enough of this gimmickry atrocity act and then letting the Supreme Court to indulge in this kind of a thing, which they have done. And, now we are saying that our Government is trying to correct it. My question is,

why did we not provide a system where there could be meritocracy in the Supreme Court, in the High Courts?

We are talking about reservation. When I was a Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for three years, I found that there is no reservation in the administrative wing of High Courts and Supreme Court. We want *sanrakshan* for reservation of the Scheduled Castes. We want protection from the Supreme Court, the court which itself does not believe in reservation, the court which itself passes judgement saying that this is the general category quota and this is the Scheduled Caste quota.

I do not know what does it mean by General Category quota. I can understand quota for reservation. Now, when you have that kind of a jaundiced psyche at the top of the Judiciary, what will we do? You know the quote: “As flies to wanton boys are we to the Gods.” They kill us for their sport. This is what has been happening with our Scheduled Castes all these years. Some of them do become leaders, but then they have to toe their Party line. Each Party is bugged by that psyche. That psyche borders on lunacy.

I am sorry to say that. But, I am saying all these things because my father was a close friend of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Both of them

worked together. In Nagpur, on 10th July, my father presided over the Samta Sainik Dal conference. It is because of the proximity with the thoughts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar that I am standing here.

I am telling all of you that if we keep on politicking about the issue of Scheduled Castes, one day they will rise and then it will be very difficult for us to quell that revolt, with all these gimmicks which we are indulging in today. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD (BHIND): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this sensitive issue.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the SC/ST Atrocities Prevention Act was nullified by the Court. To revive it and establish the supremacy of Parliament, the Modi Government has introduced a Bill, which I welcome. I want to say that why are we not aware of the supremacy of Parliament? The outline of our Indian Constitution establishes that Parliament is supreme. We repeatedly bring the Act and make decisions against SCs /STs, OBCs, and weaker sections. This is a challenge for us. I would like to say that provision was made in Article 312 of the Indian Constitution to create an All India Judicial Service. Our judges come through a process where they lack an understanding of society's conditions. They do not know how much oppression is being inflicted on these people. Decisions are always coming out in the opposite manner. The fundamental provision of an All India Judicial Service was there, which we have not been able to implement so far. We established the Indian Forest Service under the All India Services in 1964. Despite the specific provision for the All India

Judicial Services, we have not been able to successfully implement it yet. The All India Judicial Services will ensure that individuals from SC/ST, OBC, and general categories are selected based on merit. When those who have seen the land, witnessed poverty, and have had the opportunity to live in slums, when such people come to the judiciary, justice will prevail in the country.

I would like to propose another option, that today the issue has come back from the court, and here we are nullifying the decision of this court through the entire parliament. If there is a judge who makes a decision, and that decision is reinstated by parliament, such a judge must resign from their position. He should not continue to hold the position. The supremacy of Parliament proves that apart from the supremacy of Parliament, no new power centre should be established. We are representatives of the poor people and have come here to voice their concerns. We must amplify that voice loud and clear. It should be the essence of governance and the voice of the people. I want to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and our Hon. Minister Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot for the amendments made in the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act some time ago, in the year 2015.

Initially, there were 25 offences listed in it, which were later increased to 27 offences.

Some excellent proposals have been added. This has given more teeth to the Act. I understand its importance because I have seen it firsthand as a District Magistrate. There were many crimes in which the SC-ST Atrocities Act was not applicable. 27 such acts have been added, including wearing a garland of shoes, parading naked, shaving heads, blackening faces, forcing foul substances into the mouth, not allowing to ride a horse during weddings, coercing to leave homes and villages, and the biggest one, illegally occupying land or plots and forcibly evicting them, obstructing rights to land and forests, obstructing irrigation facilities, cutting or destroying crops, making people work without pay or forced labor, enforcing bonded labor, and preventing voting. The Prevention of Atrocities Act did not originally include these rights. These rights were added under the leadership of Minister Shri Thawarchand Gehlot in the Modi Government, such as preventing someone from voting or compelling someone to vote for a specific individual. Not allowing someone to become a candidate in the electoral process, not allowing someone to become a proposer. The inclusion of all these provisions has strengthened the Act.

Initially, this Act was only for the namesake. The Modi Government has strengthened this Act to deliver real justice. Another addition of a provision in the Bill is that any wilful negligence on the part of any public servant would attract imprisonment from six months upto one year. I would like to share my experience with you, when I was the Collector of Jabalpur, a woman from the Dhannuk community who used to get delivery done in Katni, was gang-raped. People revolted and ceased to work. They were severely beaten. They came to me at night, covered in bloodstained clothes. The officials attempted to dismiss the case by registering it under Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). 50 people were imprisoned, and they were brought before the court every week. Those individuals have started to evade this Act. They began to say, "Sir, please free us from the court proceedings. People have been harassed by such wrongful actions. When I started taking action to give a one-year sentence to officials who commit wrongdoings, they began to read this Act. They were not aware of the provisions of this Act. It is essential to compel the officials in this manner. It has been stipulated in our Act that such officials should be sentenced to one year of imprisonment. I want to thank the Modi Government, that in incidents of rape of minor girls rampant in the country, most of the victims belong to the Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes category. The provision of death sentence has now been made in case of rape of minor girls below the age of 12 years. With this, I also wish to extend my congratulations to the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, for taking the pioneering step in curbing such crimes. He was the first to announce the provision of the death penalty for raping girls under the age of 12. As of now, announcements of the death penalty have been made in five cases in Madhya Pradesh.

Sir, more than half of the country's population belongs to the Backward Class. Today, the Backward Class has not received proper reservations, nor have they been provided with educational opportunities or employment opportunities. For this reason, we have recently undertaken the task of granting constitutional status to the National Backward Class. Granting them constitutional status will ensure justice for these classes. These classes will be able to access education and employment opportunities. The new Commission will be able to review schemes, develop new initiatives, and address complaints. No matter how high-ranking the official may be, they can be summoned for attendance, and justice can be served with them. This is a very significant step taken by the Modi Government.

Today, 37% of SC, ST, and 52% of OBC will receive justice. This is the demand of democracy, work cannot be done with mere sloganeering. For the past 70 years, we have been sitting with the same disappointment. The income of parents belonging to the Backward Class was Rs. 44,500. No scholarship was provided to those whose income exceeded Rs. 44,500. I requested the Hon. Prime Minister, and both the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister immediately ordered that the income limit should be up to two lakh fifty thousand rupees. This is a big step. By increasing the income limit to two lakh fifty thousand rupees in the year 2018 budget, the budget amount, which was previously 142 crores, will exceed 232 crores in the year 2019. The number of children has increased. The doors of education have now been opened for the Other Backward Classes. Prime Minister's Adarsh Gram Yojana was initiated by the Hon. Thaawar Chand Gehlot with one thousand people, and today, twenty lakh rupees have been allocated to two and a half thousand villages. Today, all facilities have been provided in the poor settlements. I wish to state that the Constitution crafted by Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar has garnered such commendation that the University of California awarded him an LLD degree and honoured him for his work on this constitution. In exchange, when Dr.

Ambedkar contested elections from Maharashtra's Bhandara, the Congress party went to great lengths to defeat him in the elections and humiliate him. The disrespect shown to Babasaheb's legacy can never be forgotten by the SC, ST, and OBC communities. A statue has been erected here with the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

I wish to state that for the efforts made by the Government, an All India Judicial Service should be established. It will bring honour to the Parliament. The supremacy of Parliament would be established by the setting up of All India Judicial Services. This drama of reservation should be stopped because the Congress Government has not yet enacted any law for reservation. An Act should be enacted. Officials involved in the violation of reservation should be penalised. Therefore, I support this Legislation, and the Modi Government, which is providing housing, gas connections, and assistance to the poor, is truly ushering in a new era of democracy and a rising new India. We need to make it even stronger.

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I stand to speak in support of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018. First and foremost, I extend my wholehearted support to this Bill and congratulate Mr. Gehlot on it. Today, the Bill that has been introduced, the act that has come. If the people supporting Dalit, Adivasi, and various other parties, along with the general public, had not reacted to it, perhaps this act would not have come today. The Act came when the country reacted. The people of the country reacted, the Dalit brothers reacted, the Adivasi brothers reacted, as if a great battle was fought to attain freedom today. This has sparked a major battle against the BJP. An eruption like a volcano occurred, the earth trembled all around, and lava erupted that did not tamper with the constitution made by Baba Saheb. After Mahatma Buddha, if anyone has worked to bring about a strong revolution in social, economic, and political ideologies on Earth, it has been Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Ji. Therefore, today we remember him. I would say that...

"Sachai chup nahi sakti banawat ke usulon se"

(The truth cannot be concealed by the principles of fabrication).

"Dalit prem kabhi aa nahi sakta hai, BJP ke rehnuma se"
(Love for Dalits can never emerge from the leaders of the BJP)."

Therefore, we need to bring these issues and truths to the forefront. You have not brought this Bill from your conscience. Heavy pressure from that side and heavy pressure from this side as well. Everyone and the entire nation are watching.

You have not accepted this Bill with your conscience, you've done it under pressure. We have been kept hungry in our stomachs and enslaved in our minds. The cast system is like a staircase, with an upper caste sitting at the top, and at the lowest step, there are Dalit brothers sitting in the line. What justice have you given them? They are also humans, they are also brothers, they are also born from a mother's womb. An animal can drink water from the pond, but a Dalit's son and daughter cannot drink that pond water. The corrupt system that has prevailed for thousands of years still persists today in villages, alleys, tolls, neighbourhoods, markets, fields, and courtyards. The battle was fought by our party leader, Mr. Lalu,

fought. He had said that if anyone commits an injustice against the poor and Dalits, if anyone tries to end the reservation provided by Dr. Babasaheb's constitution, then Lalu Yadav will hang from the gallows if necessary, but he will not allow any atrocities or injustice against the poor.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, Cases should be withdrawn against all innocent people who were part of the agitation that took place on 2nd April. Just as there was a conflict during the Mandal Commission period, a similar conflict occurred on April 2nd. Babasaheb said - Struggle and stay united. Today, Dalit brothers and sisters in Madhya Pradesh are being forced to eat cow dung. People are being treated like animals. The Government should conduct a caste census to determine the population of each caste. How many Dalits, Adivasis, Backward Classes, Muslims, and other minorities are there? Those in power have committed atrocities, injustices, and exploitation. Whether it is the incident in Muzaffarpur or the incident in Deoria, when the poor, Dalits, face atrocities against their daughters, there is injustice. Dalits are not allowed to hold meetings in Koregaon, lathi charges occur in Nandangaon village of Baksar in Bihar. whether it is a Dalit, a backward class Member, a poor person, or an Adivasi, we

are deprived of education, health, and other necessities. People are killed through mob lynching, the sons of the poor, the sons of Dalits, and the sons of the backwards, cannot sit in the courts. The door of justice is closed for us. Therefore, while dispensing justice there, we should also receive our rightful share.

Sir, the talk of making 'Make in India' is false. These people are going to do 'Bank in India'. They are not the people who will bring 'good days'. Their chest may be puffed up that they have brought a law for Dalit brothers, no, no, the village is standing, it will smash bricks with bricks. No matter how many Bills come, the Dalit, Adivasi, and backward people are not going to accept the Bharatiya Janata Party. Your good days are not going to come now, because you have sown the seeds of hatred. That is why, we have to unite and avert these things. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018. I stand here today to express my special support for this Bill.

Sir, I wish to present an example from my constituency in the House today. I am a MP from Bundelkhand, and I would like to explain why I am supporting this Bill by presenting an example from my constituency before you. Especially on 20th March, 2018, when the Supreme Court pronounced its verdict, this incident occurred thereafter. In a village, four young men arrive at the house of a Dalit family on two motorcycles, asking the owner to order liquor while sitting at their house. When he refuses, saying that he is from a poor family and does not drink alcohol, those people exert pressure on him and use casteist slurs to tell him that he must bring alcohol. At that moment, his father arrives. He says to those four people, "Kunwar Saheb, why are you pressuring this boy when he doesn't drink? Give me the money, and I can bring you the alcohol. But he refused, saying, "You're his father; I will not order liquor from you. If I do ask for alcohol, I'll ask the one who declined to bring it, that I will not buy

liquor and give" They tortured and beat that family. After this, the complaint reached the police station. After reaching the police station, the police began investigating the matter. After initiating the investigation, when the police went to the houses of those who had harassed the family, they were not found at home. After that, those people went to the house of that family, and the woman of the house was cooking food on her stove. They went there and said to her, 'Where have the owners of your house gone? The woman said, 'Sir, they have gone to work in the fields. They said, 'well, they got so much courage that they went to the police station to report against us, and then they kicked the kettle on the stove. After kicking, hot water fell on the poor woman's hands and thighs, and she got burned. After burning, when the family Members returned home from the field, she told them about this incident. They again went to the police station. They went to the police station and provided this information. Even after providing the information, no action was taken because as per the decision by the Supreme Court, it was stated that no First Information Report (FIR) would be lodged until a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) rank officer investigates the matter. If the FIR is not being lodged, then what action will be taken against it? When we became aware of this case, we talked to the authorities and

asked them, "These people are being harassed twice. What are you doing about it? They said, "Sir, we will investigate this quickly and send those people to jail." Then, after 15 days, that officer was transferred, and the investigation went to another officer. That officer also investigated after a month. Only after a month were those accused sent to jail. Now, see, such great injustice is happening to those poor people, and if investigations keep going on for one, two, or three months, how will those poor people ever get justice?

Sir, that is why we support this Bill today. Through this Bill, the poor will be protected from the atrocities committed against them. Hon. Deputy Speaker, this issue is not only serious but also very sensitive. The country needs to understand that the irrelevant judgment of the Supreme Court has necessitated this Bill. Our democracy has three pillars, the Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary. They remain steadfast in their respective roles, continuously striving to protect democracy and their interests. In the past few days, our Judiciary has directly interfered in the work of the Legislature of the country. While keeping a positive oversight on each other's functions can be a good approach, the Supreme Court should have been concerned about the impact on the decision-making process

after the decision it made. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this law was enacted in 1989, it initially included 20 castes, later it was increased to 25, and eventually provision was made for 47. After the Supreme Court's decision, this Amendment Bill has come to the Lok Sabha.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Samajwadi Party's MP, Dharmendra Ji was speaking, saying that in the NDA Government, there are only two Ministers from the reserved category - one is Hon. Mr. Gehlot, and the other Hon. Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan. I want to say that not only this, but look how many Ministers from the reserved category are sitting here - Hon. Mr. Krishna Raj, Hon. Mr. Ramdas Athawale, Hon. Mr. Arjun Meghwal, and Hon. Mr. Vijay Sampla. In our Government, many Ministers are from the reserved category, and you are saying that there are only two Ministers. ... (*Interruptions*) You also said that the most oppression of Dalits has happened under the rule of the Bharatiya Janata Party. ... (*Interruptions*) I want to tell Dharmendra Ji that if the most oppression has happened, it has been under the Samajwadi Party Government in Uttar Pradesh. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity for speaking on this very important piece of legislation. Sir, nobody can hear me, if he interrupts like this.

Sir, I support this Bill wholeheartedly because it is a very important legislation. I would also like to endorse the views expressed by my learned friends here with regard to the intervention of the Supreme Court. The judgement of the Supreme Court has been widely discussed here. But one thing is sure. There are certain limits defined in the Constitution for all the three organs of the State, namely, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Unfortunately, the breaking of the *Lakshman Rekha* on the part of the Supreme Court is highly objectionable. I think, this legislation will actually be a trend setter in this direction and this will be a very good signal for healthy law-making process of this country.

Sir, coming to the specific issue, all Members have discussed it in detail. I also endorse the views made by them that this legislation should be made a part of the Ninth Schedule. I agree with my earlier speakers on this point. When we deal with the atrocities committed

against the Schedule Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, protection of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities should be done with a holistic approach. The law-making process for their welfare should also be done in a holistic manner. Similarly, in the field of administration also, a lot of reforms are required. The Executive should be very proactive in this respect. Then, to a certain extent, police personnel themselves are instrumental in creating all these kinds of atrocities.

We are reading news every day about the atrocities committed against the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities. Newspapers are publishing complete stories about various atrocities. Every day, newspapers are coming up with stories of blood and tears. This is a shame for the whole country. In the name of protection of cow, a lot of atrocities are committed against the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities. My only humble appeal to the Government is to ensure higher status for human beings than cows. That is the need of the hour, because many atrocities are committed against these people in the country in the name of cow protection.

Then, I would like to ask the Government whether they are honest in protecting these suppressed classes. If they are honest in protecting them, how many Special Courts have they set up in different States? It was stipulated that Special Courts should be set up for the trial of the cases of atrocities committed against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, the places where untouchability is practised should be identified. I would like to ask the Government as to how many such districts have been identified and what action they have taken in that regard.

Many Members have been speaking about reservation and all that. Unfortunately, this Government has not taken any steps in this regard. I would like to say that in spite of all the recommendations made by the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes, the condition of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Minorities is going from bad to worse. On this also, the Government should pay serious attention.

With regard to education, what is happening? Members have been speaking about Rohit Vemula. He is no more. But what for has he sacrificed his life? What was his hellish experience? How much has

he suffered? We all know that. So, these people must have enough opportunities to get education. Our friends have been saying as to how deplorable is the situation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the field of education. Even the reserved posts have not been filled up because competent hands are not available. So, I would like to say that the empowerment of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities is possible only through educational empowerment.

With regard to caste system, I would like to say that supremacy of certain castes is prevailing in our country. We have to put an end to that. Indian society is deep-rooted in the caste system. Nobody can abolish it all of a sudden. At the same time, when we are taking some steps to abolish it, we should do it in a judicious manner.

In this caste-ridden society, we have to do justice to everybody. We should not allow any supremacy for any caste.

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand here to support the Bill brought by the respected Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

This morning, I heard Mr. Kharge. He said that this proposal has been brought under pressure. I want to tell respected Mr. Kharge that our Government works not under pressure but based on humanitarian principles. Remember that scene in Haryana when the Congress Government ruled for ten years, and within Mirchpur, Dalits were burned alive? These were the actions of your Government. Under the leadership of respected Manohar Lal Ji, the Bharatiya Janata Party Government is currently running in Haryana State. The Dalit people in Mirchpur have been living a nomadic life for the past ten years. Our Hon. Chief Minister has allocated ten acres of land for the victims of Mirchpur and initiated the construction of a new town named 'Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar' for the first time in the history of our State.

Kharge Ji, I want to ask you. For two days, discussions were held on the Constitution drafted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in this sacred temple of India. When the contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was remembered for the country, who was putting pressure on us? When

in 2003, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee brought a Bill to strengthen this law, who was putting pressure on us? When in 2015, Mr. Modi brought a Bill to strengthen this law, who was putting pressure on us? The Bill today has not been brought under any pressure, rather it shows our ideology and commitment. We want that the country should be run as per the Constitution made by Baba Saheb Ambedkar, not by as per the Manusmriti. This is our commitment, this is our ideology, and based on this, we are working today.

Kharge ji, you are a very senior leader of the Congress party. I am much younger than you, but since the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980, the stand our party has taken, I am a witness to that. The executive of our party has time and again worked for the benefits of the *dalits* by following the principle of harmony.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember an example from the year 1991, when respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Kurukshetra for a meeting of our BJP's SC Morcha, and I asked him a question. At that time, I asked Atal Ji, when you become the Prime Minister of this country, what will be your policy regarding the distribution of surplus land? Then I asked him a second question, What will you do for the

distribution of the means of production, and what will you do for the people who are working in the unorganised sector?

[English]

There was another question. At that time, Atal Ji said that this is such an important question that it cannot be discussed on a limited platform. The All India Working Committee of BJP is going to be held in Bengaluru, and we will discuss it thoroughly. Then a resolution related to reservations will be passed. Our party's perspective was established during the BJP National Executive in Bengaluru.

[Translation]

This is our party's viewpoint. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, please give me four more minutes. ... (*Interruptions*) I will conclude my speech in two minutes.

Sir, I am not just an illiterate person standing before you, I am educated. My family has been associated with the RSS since 1942. This is our fifth generation. We embraced that idea only when there was an outcry for the poor within that idea. You will see that within

Delhi, there is an organisation called 'Sankalp', which is a part of our various family organisations. Through that organisation, around 40-45 percent of Dalit children are preparing for IAS and IPS exams, I believe. This trend is coming from our ideological family. This is our ideology and party. Every scheme of Bharat's beloved leader Narendra Modi, is for the poor of Hindustan. All the schemes started by Shri Narendra Modi ji such as Jan Dhan or the Ujjawala or for providing electricity, are meant for all the poor people. The Congress and the opposition bewildered, it's all about Modi. The scene is all about him, they fear that they are to be swept away in the election of 2019. Instead of engaging in ideologies, they spit and run, engaging in the work of tarnishing reputations. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018. The Government has brought a very important Bill. Across the country, the opposition is misleading the country by spreading rumors throughout the country, that Narendra Modi is anti-Dalit, anti-reservation, so this Bill has been brought. ... (*Interruptions*) It's a case of 55 years versus 5 years. ... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Kharge Sir, you have been a leader. You ruled for 55 years, and Modi ji has not yet completed five years. I want to say that before the completion of 5 years, Modi Ji brought the Ujjwala scheme for the poor. In it, work is being done by the son of a Dalit, the daughter of a Dalit, and also by people belonging to the OBC community. What did you do? He brought the Jan Dhan Yojana. The poor, who had not seen the bank, who had not seen the bank-account, now, they have access to the bank.

People didn't know what the Backward Commission was, but it was given constitutional status. Today, the entire world came to know that by giving constitutional status to OBCs, backward people, the reservations being criticised repeatedly by you, were today clarified that *Modi ji* is not against the reservation, but works for the benefit of

the backward and the *dalit*. He has done not one but many works. Today, the Bill brought for the Dalits has also proven this. Today, the whole country is watching whether he is against Dalits or not. You are spreading rumours and trying to instigate protests across the country. The actions you are taking are not forgiven by the country.

When it came to the welfare of the farmers, he also worked to increase MSP. His effort is to double the income of the farmers of this country by the year 2022. He also made efforts for that. Not only that, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution provided us with the space to come here, but his statue was not even installed by you. By placing a statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, he has shown the country and the world that how much he loves the *dalit*, you should know this. The original provision of SC / ST law has been restored, it is a welcome move. The entire country was stirred in protest held against the dilution of this law. At that time, the cases against the protesters who were imprisoned should be dropped. In that protest, twelve people lost their lives. I demand from the Government that these agitators should be released from jail and the cases registered against them should be withdrawn. I conclude by saying this. Thank you very much.

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (SHIMLA): Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018. I am very grateful to the Government for bringing this important Bill. I want to say that today, with the efforts of the Government, Mr. Thaawar Chand Gehlot, and the Hon. Prime Minister, the discussion is being held on this Bill, and it will be passed. 25 percent of the population has been witnessing their suffering for the past several days, which the Supreme Court had given to these categories. People belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were subjected to atrocities. How can it be made even stronger? The Bill that was brought about concerning it, the Supreme Court diluted it. Dalits and other people were concerned across the country. Today, this Bill has been brought to remove their difficulties. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister, who has taken notice of this. Today, even though people from the opposing party are saying that this decision was taken under pressure. I would like to say to my colleagues in the opposition, especially those from Congress, that the decision to bring this Bill has neither been taken under any pressure nor keeping in view the 2019 general elections. Mr. Modi's ideology is that he genuinely wants the marginalised sections of society,

including Dalits, the backward, women, and those neglected by society, to have the right to respect in society, which they are not receiving today. Today, we see how Dalits face discrimination, our women are gang-raped, and our people are deprived of drinking water. Our children cannot go to marry riding on horses. Dalit children are made to drink urine in their shoes. Such incidents keep happening. Today we are living in the 21st century and talking about the planet Mars. Science and technology have advanced so much, but some people's mentality remains the same. This mentality spreads throughout society and corrupts it. Modi Ji has said a very inspiring thing that the youth and particularly Dalit youth should not be job seekers, rather they should aspire to be job providers. A number of schemes have been launched for this purpose. Every person wants respect in society. Every person wants to progress in society. Everyone wants to progress economically. He fights for better socio-economic conditions. However, there were no such schemes for our Dalits. Mr. Kharge is sitting here.

19.00 hrs

He was saying a lot of things. What did the Congress rule give to the Dalits? For 60-65 years, the Congress continued to produce Prime Ministers in Delhi, but they only treated Dalit brothers like sheep and goats, limiting them to just giving someone a cow at most. Shouldn't Dalit children progress further?

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is 7.00 p.m. now. Hon. Minister, Shri Ananthkumar wants to say something.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I request your kind self to extend the time of the House till reply of the Hon. Minister is given and the Bill is passed.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Modi for creating various schemes for the poor, Dalits, and

women. Here, we are talking about the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana. Who benefited the most from this? Bank accounts were opened for Dalit youth with zero deposits. In the Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana, mothers and sisters who were troubled by smoke benefited. Under the Prime Minister's Insurance Security Scheme, insurance is being provided for Rs. 12. Who benefits from this? Poor people come, and among these poor, 70 percent are Dalit brothers, and there are also other backward brothers. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has been particularly introduced for Dalits and backward people.

I am happy to say that Dalits take loans of Rs. 50,000, one lakh rupees, or five lakh rupees, and employ two to four people while working. Hon. Modi's formula is, he says - 'Do not be a job seeker, but be a job provider.' Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, 70 percent of the loans were given to women. 55 percent of loans were given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people. Is this Government anti-Dalit? I want to say that this Government wants to uplift the Dalits. It wants them to stand on their own feet, so this law has been brought. I want to say in support of this that it was necessary.

Sir, those who ruled for 60-65 years, the Congress party ruled, today they make big claims. As I said before, their rule was in place,

their Chief Ministers were there, their Prime Ministers were there, so what happened now that Dalits have turned their faces away from the Congress? The reason is that they consistently harmed the Dalits. They limited Dalits to a vote bank, only thinking about how to get their votes, while giving them nothing. The way Modi Ji is bringing schemes for Dalit brothers, backward people, and women, we should work to take them forward. This is also necessary. Too much politics happens on Dalits. When politics happens on Dalits, they suffer the most.

Finally, I thank the Government and Modi Ji, and Thaawarchand Ji, for bringing this Bill to make it stronger in 2015, which they have brought forward today. One thing is certain, the sense of the House is that the Supreme Court repeatedly causes trouble; we should think about this in the coming time. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this important amendment Bill. Sir, I support this amendment Bill.

This Bill prohibits the commissioning of an offence against the Members of SC/ST communities. It also establishes special courts for trial of such offences and rehabilitation of victims.

Sir, in 2018, the Supreme Court stated that for a person accused of committing an offence under the Act, approval of the senior police official would be required before any arrest is made. Further, the Deputy-Superintendent may conduct preliminary inquiry to find out whether there is a *prima facie* case under the Act. The Bill states that the investigating officer will not require the approval of any authority for the arrest of the accused. Further, it provides that a preliminary inquiry will not be required for the registration of a First Information Report against those accused under the Act.

The Act stated that a person accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities)

Amendment Bill, 2018 was introduced in this august House because of the Supreme Court's recent judgement in Dr. Subhash Kashinath Mahajan vs. State of Maharashtra case. The Supreme Court Bench of Justice A.K. Goel and Justice U.U. Lalit ruled on 20th March, 2018 that the arrest of accused persons under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act should be made after a preliminary inquiry. Incidentally the same Bench had diluted the IPC section 498 (a) relating to domestic matters citing gross misuse of the law by the complainants. Now, hearing the new petition against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the Supreme Court today refused to change the 20th March judgment.

Why has this Government introduced this Bill? It is because of the Supreme Court judgment. After the Supreme Court judgment came out, in various parts of the country, a lot of protests were conducted by the *Dalit* organisations. On 2nd April, 2018 a number of organisations called for a nationwide *bandh*. The *bandh* was successful. Normal life was disrupted. In many parts of the country police unnecessarily provoked the *Dalit* activists, including U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana. Nine *Dalits* were killed

due to firing without any provocation from the *Dalits*. Thousands of Ambedkarites were arrested. Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, never condemned the killing of these poor *Dalits*. How many Union Ministers condemned these incidents? How many BJP leaders have condemned these incidents? You are blaming the Congress always. You are always making allegations against the Congress. But nine poor innocent *Dalit* activists were killed in the BJP-ruled States by the police. But you never condemned these incidents. The only leader who has conveyed his solidarity and extended full support to this *Dalit* agitation was the Congress President, Shri Rahul Gandhi. He is the only one leader in the whole country who has done this. Shri Rahul Gandhi is the only leader who supported the *Dalit* agitation. ...(Interruptions) Why are you laughing? ...(Interruptions) After the successful *bandh* the Government of India promised to bring a new amendment to overcome the Supreme Court judgment, which has diluted the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. After these agitations, the Government should understand the seriousness of the concerns of the *Dalits* over the dilution of the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The Hon. Home Minister of this country, Shri Rajnath Singh promised to the *Dalit* organisations that the Government of India will bring an amendment to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to overcome the diluted judgment. But the Government of India is going back on its promise. My leader Shri Kharge has already mentioned it here. After the Supreme Court judgment in the month of March, how many Ordinances this Government had promulgated? But the Government was silent on this issue. Since the beginning of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the Government of India is keeping silent about amending the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The *Dalit* organisations in this country again announced that they would hold a *Bharat Bandh* on 9th August. That is why suddenly you brought this amendment. Otherwise, you would not have brought this amendment.

In the beginning, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, did not react. Nine *Dalit* activists were killed due to police firing. His Party did not write any letter to the Prime Minister to react. He has also not reacted. Now, due to the second phase of the agitation, he suddenly woke up and wrote

a letter to the Prime Minister and he made a statement that he will resign from the Union Ministry.

I can understand and I appreciate Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that, though lately, he has woken up and made a statement for this Act. Sir, this Government does not have any sympathy for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This Amendment Bill has suddenly been brought to the House because of the fear of another agitation announced throughout the country.

I would like to bring to the kind notice of the august House that a judgment was given by the two-Member Bench headed by Justice A.K. Goel and Justice U.U. Lalit. Justice A.K. Goel was retired from the Supreme Court. After his retirement, immediately, he has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Green Tribunal, which is one of the topmost semi-judicial posts in the country. I would like to know the reaction of the BJP Members on this.... (*Interruptions*). Are you ready to ask the Government to immediately remove Retd. Justice A.K. Goel from the post of chairmanship of National Green Tribunal? I am challenging the BJP Members on this.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You asked for time and I have given you.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, this is a very important issue. Sir, actually this Government has given reward to Retd. Justice A.K. Goel. Retd. Justice A.K. Goel was(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... ^{16*}

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : (*Interruptions*) Sir, in India, 90 percent of the *Dalit* atrocities are happening in BJP-ruled States. These Judges want to protect all the accused. That is why, they have given this judgment against the SC/ST Atrocities Act.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You had asked for 10 minutes.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : They are blaming the Congress Party. What is the present situation? I am not going into the details. Sir, I am telling about the present situation of some of the States in North India.

As per the record of the National Crime Records Bureau, in Uttar Pradesh, in 2016, there were 10430 cases of SC/ST atrocities ...(*Interruptions*) and only 1582 were convicted. In Rajasthan, there

^{16*} Not recorded

were 6329 registered cases and only 680 were convicted. In Bihar which is ruled by BJP and JD(U), there were 5726 registered cases and only 1159 were convicted.

Sir, these are the records of 2016. They have not published the 2017 record.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please come to the next point.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: The Government is not ready to publish 2017 record. ...*(Interruptions)*. Many BJP Members blame the Congress Party regarding the representation of *Dalits* in Congress Party.

How many Cabinet Ministers were there in the UPA-II Government? There were five of them including the Speaker. How many Cabinet Ministers are there in this Government from the SC category? The BJP Government has given only one, namely, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramvilas Paswan is also there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Shri Ramvilas Paswan is from another Party. ... *(Interruptions)* So, we cannot include his name in it. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, kindly wind up your speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: How many Cabinet Ministers are there from the SC category in Mr. Narendra Modi's Government? ... *(Interruptions)* There is only Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is their prerogative. You please leave it.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: In the UPA-II Government, we had five Cabinet Ministers including the Speaker. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, the next speaker is Shri Dushyant Chautala.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: What portfolio have you given to Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you talk about the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot speak about the political things.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please wind up your speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, kindly allow me to conclude. ... *(Interruptions)* Why are these people unnecessarily getting agitated? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you are yourself agitating them. Please address the Chair while you speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, who will reply to so many allegations made against us? ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharge is there to reply.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not worry about it.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: They have made allegations against the Congress. ... *(Interruptions)* Who will give replies to them? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to come to the point.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Therefore, I am duty-bound to give the reply. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already called the next speaker to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I am concluding.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The problem with him is with regard to 'concluding' only.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, regarding appointment of Judges belonging to SC and ST community in the Supreme Court and High Courts, the Hon. Minister of State of Law, Shri Chaudhary, has given a reply in the Lok Sabha where he has stated that the Government is not aware as to how many Judges are there in the Supreme Court and High Courts belonging to the SC category. ... *(Interruptions)* This is very unfortunate that the Government is not aware about this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I am not allowing it now.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, Shri Dushyant Chautala, you can start your speech now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I am concluding. ...*(Interruptions)* Please give me one more minute to conclude my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, kindly allow him to conclude his speech. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not in a mood to conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not in a position to conclude.
This is the problem with him.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: As regards reservation in promotion for SC / ST employees, our UPA-II Government had moved an Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. ... *(Interruptions)* This Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha, but the same could not be passed in the Lok Sabha because of objection by some Parties. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, this Government is keeping quiet about that Bill for the past four years. ... *(Interruptions)* Why is it so? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, Shri Dushyant Chautala, you can start your speech now.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record that he speaks.

... *(Interruptions)* ... ^{17*}

^{17*} Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this Bill. Thank you. The Government has brought this Bill in response to the protest of the people on 2nd April. The Cabinet has worked to bring this Bill by making a decision based on the judgment of the Supreme Court. I would like to ask the Government a question, Today you are bringing this Bill for sure, but can you assure this House that in the same way you passed the NJAC Bill from this House, and the Supreme Court scrapped it? Whether this Act would stand firm in the future or some judgement would again reverse the provisions made in the Act.

Sir, everyone in this society has the right to live equally. From the time of independence until today, the Constitution continuously says that reservation will be reviewed every ten years. When we talk today and we look at the distribution of money according to the country's population, I am pained to say that 80 percent of the money is with a select few families, and the majority does not even have five percent of the money in this country today.

In our country, Acts like the Prevention of Civil Rights Act were passed by this very Parliament in 1955, which says that if a person is

ostracised, action will be taken against it, and a punishment of six months will be given. Today, there is a need to fix this system. Today, we should also unite and raise our voice against such atrocities. But there is a greater need, and in my opinion, the House will also support this in one voice, that today, there is need to conduct All India Judicial Services Examination. Today, two hundred families are doing the work of running the judicial system of this country. The day an All-India Judicial Services Exam comes to this country, on that day, whether it is the son of a Dalit, a Jat, a Kumhar, a Maratha, or a Muslim, he will also get a chance to reach the Supreme Court of this country.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the decision taken by the Government, but I would like to urge the Government that the incident that took place on 2nd April, witnessed a month-long anger, and unleashed momentum throughout the country. Somewhere within, innocent people were also charged due to personal grudges. Just now, our colleagues informed us that twelve youths lost their lives. If today the Government decides to reintroduce this Bill, then along with that decision, it must also decide to withdraw cases against those innocent people.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, let's talk about caste. Today, a former BJP speaker was saying that it hasn't happened in so many years, but we have made it happen. If you want to prove something, then show by action that those who are demanding reservations today, who are fighting for reservations, grant them equal rights in society. The day you bring them equality in society. ... (*Interruptions*) I support the Government's decision.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Bill. I take this opportunity in thanking millions of Dalits who had forced this anti-Dalit Government to bring this Bill. They have created a fear of loss of power in the Government,

Sir, extreme marginalisation and persecution of Dalits, Tribals and Muslims is the harsh reality in the last 70 years of our Independence. A crime is committed against a Dalit every 15 minutes. Every day seven Dalit women are raped in our country. In the last 10 years, crimes against Dalits have increased 76 percent, as per the NCRB data. Why do I oppose the judgement of the Supreme Court? It is because the Hon. Judges have done a travesty of justice. They have made fun of this august House by coming to that conclusion which they came.

In the case of NCR, they had stated that false cases are filed. Did the judges know that according to the NCRB data, in 78 percent of cases, charge-sheet have been filed. What is the language the Hon. Judges used? They said that false cases are filed out of vengeance and due to greed of monetary compensation. How can the Hon. Judges cast aspersions on filing of cases by the proud community of Dalits?

On the low conviction rate, again, the Hon. Judges overlooked. If the low conviction is the case, in many terror cases, thousands of Muslims have lost their livelihood. Would the Hon. Judges dilute the *Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act*? No. The fact of the matter is that and the NCRB data says that the conviction rate was 23.8 percent in 2003; it was 28.8 percent in 2014. There is an increase in conviction rate. But yes, since 2014, conviction rates have gone down. In Gujarat, it is six times less than the national average. What is this Gujarat model? Maybe, the Hon. Minister would throw light on it.

Regarding Section 438 of CrPC - anticipatory bail – again the Hon. Supreme Court Judges have done intellectual dishonesty. Under Section 438 of CrPC, anticipatory bail cannot be given but they have given it. The Supreme Court had overlooked the judgement of 5-Judge Bench in Kartar Singh case; the Supreme Court had overlooked the March 24, 2017 judgement. The Hon. Judges should have given it to the CJI but they didn't do that. The Supreme Court issued guidelines. By doing that, they had clearly crossed the judicial powers, and they had encroached upon the legislative territory. Even after all these things, this Government has awarded the Hon. Judge. The Judges overlooked the Section 22 of POA Act which protects public servants.

The ASG accepted in the Supreme Court that the abuse had happened in this Act. Is this the honesty of the Government? The Government's own ASG stood up in the Supreme Court and said that yes, abuse happened in this Act.

In conclusion, I would like to ask whether we will be able to remove 100 percent reservation in manual scavenging. Will we be able to remove 50 percent reservation for *Dalits*, Muslims, Tribals in prisons? No, the Government cannot do that because the Government does not have the intellectual, honesty and integrity.

In the light of increasing threat and attack on the Muslim Community, with a threat to our lives and to our culture, I propose and demand that in this SC/ST Act, let the word 'Muslim' be also added.

Lastly, I would congratulate the Government and the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, that this is a historic moment for them. What is the historic moment? This is a classic Shah Bano moment. Would the Government call this an appeasement? After the Judgment of the Supreme Court, you are bringing a law. Is it not a classic Shah Bano Judgment? The then Congress Government was not interested

in Muslims, the present Government is not interested in *Dalits*, both of them are interested in votes. That is the reality.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: There is a famous Urdu Sher:

[Translation]

Neither did I find God, nor did I attain my beloved,

Neither did I remain here, nor did I stay there.

[English]

This is going to happen. May I know from the Government as to what is the position in the appointment of teachers? Out of 14 lakhs, only seven percent is the *Dalit's* representation. That is why, it has to be changed. Bringing a law will not change things. Your approach towards *Dalits* and Muslims should change.

[Translation]

DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you and my party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018.

I extend my congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon. Minister Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot for bringing this Amendment Bill to reaffirm the rightful and constitutional rights of the Dalits and Adivasis of this country.

As a Dalit myself, I understand the pain of the Dalits and Adivasis of this country. The caste system and the resulting casteism are a dark reality of this country, and no one can deny it. The evil practice of binary in society has been in place since time immemorial. We come to witness that with time rolling into years, such incidents are on the rise rather than being less in number. It is very unfortunate for our country. This legislation was enacted in the year 1989 with a view to insulating the Dalits and the tribal community from casteist atrocities, which our Government later worked to strengthen even further. It was hoped that those with casteist mindsets would fear this law and that

there would be a reduction in atrocities against Dalits and Adivasis. However, the opposite happened. Those plagued with casteist mindset took this law to be a conspiracy against them and in turn resorted to harass Dalits.

As a matter of fact, it is a social problem which is given political colour on more occasions than one. Our country's popular Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, coined the slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' (Collective efforts, Inclusive growth) even before coming to power, a commitment our Government has sincerely fulfilled. Our resolve is to walk the path of development by taking everyone, regardless of caste or creed, along with us, and we will definitely fulfil this commitment.

Regarding this Bill, I would like to mention that on the basis of the Supreme Court judgement on 20th March, immediate arrest had been banned on receipt of the complaint under SC & ST Act.

The Court ruled that there should be a preliminary inquiry before arresting the accused. Additionally, other directives were given. In that case, Mahanayak KP Venugopal, on behalf of the Union Government, also presented his arguments against it and vehemently

opposed its alteration. Subsequently, on 16th May, 2018 the Supreme Court refused to review its ruling given in terms of SC & ST Act.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, wind up.

DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD: Dalit associations called for 'Bharat Bandh' on 2nd April against this judgement which led to the death of as many as 12 persons in violence arising out of it. Our Government has already been against this judgement of the Supreme Court. When it occurred to us that earlier legislation calls for restoration to do justice with the people belonging to SC and ST categories, we embarked on the decision to bring in this amendment Bill without delay. For this, thank the Government and support the Bill. Thank you.

[English]

DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHMAN DURGAPUR):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, deprivation of SC/ST communities and committing atrocities against them, mostly *Dalits* and *Achuts*, has centuries old history. It starts from the story of Ekalavya. It is shameful that while we claim to be a civilised society heading towards becoming a superpower, about one-fourth of our population is living under this condition.

Sir, I rise to support this amendment to Section 18 because it is brought to expedite justice to SC/ST communities. On the other hand, it is alarming to note that crimes against SC/ST communities are on the increase. While the crime rate was about six percent in 2010, it rose to about 10 percent in 2016. Though charge-sheets are filed in about 80 percent cases, investigation is pending in more than 30 percent cases. The conviction rate has come down from 38 percent in 2010 to 16 percent now.

No number of laws will help mitigate the situation, Sir, unless there is political will on the part of the Government, and I feel that the present Government is lacking in it. In our State of West Bengal, rate of crimes against SC/ST communities is as low as one percent. That

is because our State Government of West Bengal does think of safeguarding the interest of SC/ST communities. ... (*Interruptions*). Our leader Miss Mamta Banerjee doing special projects and programme for upliftment of SC, ST and for ready redressal of cases and justice. There should be more judges of SC, ST and Minority. As women and children are more vulnerable. There should be inclusion of women police from SC, ST and minorities.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMLA PATLE (JANJGIR-CHAMPA): Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given me the opportunity to speak on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018, for which I am grateful. To bring this Amendment Bill to the House, I want to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot. I particularly want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Prime Minister of the country, the Hon. Shri Narendra Modi. With the intent of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' (Collective efforts, Inclusive growth), the Hon. Prime Minister has made a historic decision in the Cabinet, providing an opportunity for social harmony to the underprivileged sections of society. By bringing this Amendment Bill, the Government has honoured the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court cannot order the removal or alteration of any provision of the SC/ST Act, 1989, which protects the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes made by the Parliament. However, the Supreme Court had struck down some provisions of this Act, thereby making it a toothless Act. The proposal to amend the amendments made in this Act was unequivocally

rejected. The Union Government has also filed a petition for reconsideration in this matter, which is still pending.

As a result of this crisis, SC/ST communities across the country have been deeply affected and saddened. They are extremely anxious and worried about their future. The potential revocation of this Act, which has been painstakingly achieved to protect the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities, has raised concerns that incidents of harassment against the SC/ST communities may increase. Reports of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have started emerging. With the responsibility for the Supreme Court's decision resting on the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes organisations, the Union Government and the BJP were being portrayed as anti-Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. The opposition was hammering the Government over the decision. Some political parties were playing politics and were trying to convey the message that the BJP is responsible for this decision. Now, the Government has presented this Bill in the parliament to reinstate the old law with amendments, to bring back the essence of the law, and to reinstate the original provisions. I support this Bill. This society, which has been struggling for thousands of years, is still facing atrocities. Those who

were less afraid of committing crimes against the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes will have to think now. This Amendment Bill has put an end to the political game played by political parties that were portraying the BJP to be anti-Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. This Bill will bring a wave of joy to the SC/ST community. The provision in the Bill states that upon filing a case, there won't be immediate arrest or denial of bail to the accused. Inspectors ranked police officers will conduct the investigation. Filing complaints related to the use of caste indicators will result in the immediate registration of cases, thereby ending the original law, which will foster a sense of security and maintain harmony in society.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018 in its letter and spirit. The original Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was enacted in 1989. Subsequently, it was further amended in the year 2015. By means of the 2015 amendment, the ambit and scope of atrocities against *dalit* community has been widened. So, many have been Acts have been incorporated in the schedule of offences under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. Establishment of exclusive courts, exclusive special public prosecutors and exclusive trial of offences to enable speedy and expeditious disposal of cases is also brought in by the 2015 amendment.

Coming to the recent judgment of the Supreme Court, it is a shocking judgment. Not only the *dalit* community but the entire nation is shocked by the judgement of the Supreme Court's Division Bench. The first condition stipulated by the Hon. Supreme Court is a preliminary enquiry by the Dy. SP before filing an FIR. The second one is: before arresting the accused, approval from any authority is to

be obtained. It is strange to note that the reasoning given by the Supreme Court judgment is: firstly, the misuse of provisions of the Act, and secondly, it is very strange and shocking, that there is a chance of caste conflict within the country by the misuse of the provisions of this Act. India is a secular country. The secular fabric is the structural and fundamental feature of the Constitution. That cannot be altered. Therefore, these two conditions have to be complied with by the Government in dealing with the cases of atrocities against the *dalits*. It is absolutely a strange phenomenon or a strange ruling given by the Supreme Court. So, the Government has come with an amendment. It is absolutely the need of the hour and I fully agree with the amendments.

The new propositions of law which are being given by the Hon. Supreme Court is against the basic principles of criminal jurisprudence. By virtue of Cr.P.C., it is very well evident and everybody knows that before arresting a person nobody's permission or approval is required; in no case is it required; and also, for filing an FIR no authority or preliminary inquiry is required. Section 41 of Cr.P.C. is very clear. According to that section, to arrest or not to arrest a person is the discretionary right of the Investigating Officer or

the Station House Officer. It cannot be taken away. This right cannot be taken away. It is not only diluting the Prevention of Atrocities Act against the *dalit* community; it is also taking away the right of the *dalit* community in the country. Therefore, the amendment which is proposed is highly essential and hence I fully support the new section which is to be incorporated.

Most of the Hon. Members have already spoken about the conviction rate. In the year 2014, the conviction rate under this Act was 28.4 percent; in 2015, it was 27.2 percent; and in 2016, it was 25.8 percent. So, the average conviction rate comes to about 27 percent as far as the atrocities against the *dalit* community in India is concerned. This means that this Act is not being properly implemented by the Executive of our country. What are the reasons for that?

First, there are delays in filing FIR; secondly, the witnesses and complainants turn hostile; thirdly, there is absence of proper scrutiny of cases by the prosecution before filing the charge-sheet; in the courts; fourthly, there is a lack of proper presentation of cases by the prosecution and appreciation of evidence by the courts; fifthly, the prosecution is unable to prove cases in a proper way; and finally, as a

result of long pendency of trials, witnesses lose their interest in the cases. If the Government is able to address these six issues, the Act would definitely become fruitful. It is very clear from this that a mere enactment of legislation is not sufficient to implement the legislation in a stringent manner, for which *bona fide* political will is required. Unfortunately, that is lacking in this country.

Once again, I would like to support this Bill. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA HANSDAH (MAYURBHANJ): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker Sir.

I hail from a State where the major chunk of population belongs to SC and ST communities. They constitute around 39 percent of our State's population. Therefore, this Bill has some relevance with respect to our State and so I support it.

There is a saying, 'man proposes and God disposes'. If such a disposition shown is against the wishes of a person, sometimes he scolds God for the misfortune brought to him. But on occasions when law-makers propose and the Judiciary disposes, and if it disposes prejudicially against the intent of the law-makers, which otherwise may have brought a great deal of social change and social equilibrium, they cannot simply scold the Judiciary. In the present system of democratic governance, Judiciary is held in high esteem; sometimes even mistakenly, making one believe that it is above God. Therefore, the persons appointed in the Judiciary offices should be of saintly character, standing above any prejudice and bias. They should even be free from any desire for a post-retirement posh posting by the Government. Otherwise, somebody may again be lured to shatter and batter the law-makers' wishes, making us hopeless and hapless.

If the Government is really thinking of saving the *dalits* and *adivasis* from the tribulations inflicted upon them by some evil elements in the society, once the Bill becomes an Act it should be included in the Ninth Schedule of our Constitution. Only when it is brought under the ambit of Article 31B of our constitution will it get protection in the matter of judicial review.

Most of the constitutional provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are temporary measures. They are intended to be implemented in the right spirit so that *dalitsandadivasis* of our nation will attain faster socio-economic development and any special Act with positive discrimination could be dispensed with soon.

But, alas; all the special Acts to empower the *Dalits* and the Adivasis of the country have sailed through in turbulent waters.

In the present case, though the POA Act is a Special Act, yet it loses all its speciality when a person accused under this Act manages to easily secure bail in spite of the fact that he has committed a heinous crime against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA HANSDAH: I do not know whether the fault lies with the public servants who are associated with

investigation and prosecution. If it is so, how many such examples have been created since 1995, the year from which it is being implemented, when a public servant has been prosecuted under the provision of Section-4 of the Act? If the Hon. Minister in charge has any data, I would request him to place it before the House.

Another thing is regarding judiciary officers posted in the Special Courts or Exclusive Special Courts. They should have right empathy for the causes of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. I support the idea of All India Judicial Services where reservation for SC, ST and OBC be made. While appointment for higher judiciary is made, it should be seen that the person appointed should not belong to umbrella organisations of a political party like RSS etc. Otherwise there is a chance of atrocity being committed on ST/SC lawmaker by such judicial officials when he is in custody.

PROF. A.S.R. NAIK (MAHABUBABAD): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. I welcome and support the Bill on behalf of my Party.

Sir, today is a 'black day' and a 'tragedy day' in the history of India. If you go back to 6th August, 1991, in Karamchedu, Andhra Pradesh, six tribals were massacred and a separate court was constituted. What happened to the victims? Sir, 212 Members were accused and an FIR was also booked, but nothing had happened. There are 47 tribal representatives, including our Minister, and 87 Scheduled Caste representatives in the Parliament. Our strength is 134, but in spite of that we do not know what is happening in the country.

Why are they sacrificing their lives in the country on the pretext of 50 percent reservation? Is it there in the Constitution? Why this Government is not awakening to their cause? Why are they throwing the responsibility on another Government? The Government in power has to take the responsibility. The Telangana Government has passed the Bill and sent it to the Union Government but it is pending. There are bulk of cases pending. Sir, 120 communities have been waiting for the last 20 years to be included in the List. It has not been finalised.

I am a Professor. How many posts of professors are there in the Department? There are only two posts. When will the 8th or 14th posts come? After deliberating on this Bill for six hours, the Bill will be passed by the House. What will happen if tomorrow the High Court again strikes down the Bill? What answer does the Minister have? The Hon. Minister can do something. Thank you, Sir.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Thank you very much Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir for allowing me to speak.

I am a Member from Lakshadweep constituency. Lakshadweep is an area where the entire population is categorised as Scheduled Tribes. While we discuss about the atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I would like to highlight one simple point here. There are nearly 3000 children in Lakshadweep who are still suffering from atrocities against them. They are not given the status of Scheduled Tribes.

The Act was amended in 2009. I would blame the Congress Party also for that. It is because when that amendment was brought in the year 2008, it was focussing only on one point, whereas there are two aspects to that.

One part relates to the children born to the parent of Lakshadweep origin. The children must be born in Lakshadweep so as to get entitlement of Scheduled Tribes status. That particular portion was amended only to make a candidate contest in the previous Lok Sabha elections. The Congress Party ought to have thought that there were around 3000 students, who had studied along with me in the schools, had not been given the right to go for higher studies. Their scholarship

eligibility has been denied. They have not been given employment opportunities. Hon. Minister, I would say about the extreme part, that is, about their Right to Property.

[Translation]

If their father or mother owns property in Lakshadweep, they are not entitled to that land. This atrocity has been ongoing until now. Regarding this matter, I have submitted a request to the Hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Juel Oram, that the Government should bring an Amendment to the current Scheduled Tribes Act to address this issue that both the parents should belong to the Scheduled Tribes Caste.

[English]

So, if it is amended in such a way that either father or mother belong to Scheduled Tribes, their offspring and children should also be getting the Scheduled Tribes status.

If the Government tries to bring that Bill, it will be a great relief to the people of Lakshadweep. I have a hope that this Government will listen to the grievances of the people of Lakshadweep.

^{18*}**SHRI IDRIS ALI (BASIRHAT):** I am grateful to you and I thank you Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill 2018. I am speaking in Bengali. Today we are discussing this important piece of legislation and no one here is opposed to this Bill. People of SC-ST, backward communities, dalits – all are our friends, our brothers and sisters. But passing the Bill in Parliament is not enough. Actually we have to work for them, in their interest.

I would like to cite the example of our respected Chief Minister of West Bengal Sushri Mamata Banerjee, without whose blessings, I would not have been able to stand tall in this august House. She is the messiah of all people – Hindu, Muslim, Dalit, Christians, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes – all are same in her eyes. There is no discrimination. She is the real friend of every section of the society.

The BJP Government should try to learn from Smt. Banerjee. You should emulate her. She has been trying her best to give solace to Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and all minority groups. Everybody should take cue from her social service and follow her footsteps.

^{18*} English translation of speech originally delivered in Bangla.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): Deputy Speaker, Sir, atrocities are being committed against Dalits, which is a fact, hence the Modi Government is strengthening the Atrocity Act. Dalits have been facing atrocities for centuries, but today Congress is promoting it wrongly. There were atrocities against Dalits yesterday, there are atrocities against Dalits today, and together we will end the atrocities against Dalits.

Sir, one should not politicise the issue of atrocities on dalits. Rather all of us should make a collective effort to root out caste based discrimination in the society. All of us should strengthen the message of equality which has been enshrined in the constitution by Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

I am in favour of this Bill. We will end the atrocities against Dalits. Jai Bhim, Jai Bharat.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT):

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am pleased that there has been a lengthy discussion on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, there has been extensive debate. Hon. Members have expressed their views. So far, three dozen Hon. Members have expressed their views.

These Members represent different political parties. The good news is that all the Hon. Members have supported this Bill. I am thankful to all the Hon. Members of this august House and also request them that they should pass it as well. I also want to assure the House that during the discussion on the OBC Commission Bill, I mentioned some points because today's topics were also raised by many Hon. Members on that day. Various opinions were expressed, so it is possible that some Hon. Members feel that you are reiterating those points. First and foremost, I want to reiterate the commitment made by Mr. Narendra Modi, when Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister then, he had said in his first address to the nation that his Government was dedicated to the poor and the backward people. He has proved it on many occasions in these four years by giving historical benefits to these class of people. I would also like to bring

to your attention that during the tenure of Mr. Narendra Modi's Government, there have been some Supreme Court decisions regarding reservations in promotions. Efforts were made to create doubts and suspicions among the people. By creating confusion in the country, an attempt was made to mislead the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other communities. However, through a review petition, the Government of Mr. Narendra Modi has demonstrated its commitment. During the review petition, the Hon. Supreme Court issued an interim order, reaffirming the provision for reservation in promotions. Consequently, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the Government of India has issued orders to implement this directive. The provisions regarding reservation in promotions were once again implemented, and action has been initiated on it. Along with the order issued by the Government of India, we have also issued advisories to the State Governments and urged them to take action on the same lines as the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions of the Government of India has taken regarding reservation in promotions. Several state Governments have commenced implementation in this regard. I wish to state that from the very beginning, and when I say "from the beginning," I mean since the time of the Jana Sangh, that our party is, was and will always be

in favour of reservation. Whenever we have had the opportunity to form a Government in the states, we have demonstrated this commitment through our actions. Even when we have had the opportunity at the Centre, we have demonstrated this commitment through our actions. I would like to provide a significant example. For the first time after the country's independence, when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a patriotic leader with non-Congress ideologies, became the Prime Minister, he faced a challenge. In the year 1997, the then Government in pursuant to certain orders of the Hon. Supreme Court, had almost finished the reservation by issuing five Office Orders that effectively abolished the reservation provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There is a forum for Members of Parliament representing Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. All the Members of this forum met the then Prime Minister Shri A.B. Vajpayee that such orders have been issued and the constitutional provisions in this regard have almost been finished. The provisions related to reservations have been revoked, leading to widespread injustice and discrimination against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other marginalised groups. He had then said that the policy of reservation must continue till all the social, economic and educational disparities end.

20.00 hrs

I am pleased to say that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee summoned Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Pramod Mahajan at that time. At that time, the Minister of Personnel and Administrative Reforms was Shrimati Vasundhara Raje Scindia. He addressed both of them in front of us. At that time, he said these exact words:- "Pramod, if these orders can be revoked by issuing office orders, then do it. And if it requires amending the Constitution, then do so in the Constitution as well. Those five office orders had been issued. There were review petitions filed against two of those five office orders. Therefore, we were unable to amend the Constitution regarding those two orders. But, for the remaining three office orders, which were crucial for reinstating reservation provisions, amendments to the Constitution were made between 2000 and 2002 to reinstate them. After India's independence, the biggest example is that we are proponents of reservations, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government affirms this. Shri Narendra Modi himself has not just once, but repeatedly stated that no one can take away reservations from these communities, we won't let anyone take them away, we will uphold them. Our party's national speaker has also said the same. Respected Shri Rajnath Singh has also

said so. Law Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad has also said this. Even after all this, I understand that perhaps due to political animosity, some individuals or political parties are trying to create such an atmosphere among the public. I pray that, in the interest of the nation and society, and in the best interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, we refrain from spreading misinformation that could harm the environment. This is not going to be beneficial for anyone.

Dr. Ambedkar was universal in his outlook, compassionate towards all, and a patriot. Creating a conducive environment is necessary to accomplish all these tasks. Dr. Ambedkar had also said that there should be harmony, brotherhood and equality in the country. Our Government is trying to translate his thinking into reality. I assure you that you can trust us, trust on Government of Shri Narendra Modi.

I mentioned earlier that there should have been some efforts for the Nomadic Caste after independence, but nothing happened. We also formed a Nomadic Caste Commission for their identification, study of their problems, and suggestions for their solutions. That commission has submitted its report. We have disseminated the report to states, Ministers of the Indian Government, and for the general

public to gather opinions. Once we receive feedback on the report, we will take action on it and formulate plans to protect the interests of the Nomadic Caste, striving to provide them with comfort and facilities.

Our Government has also done the needful about the issue relating to the UGC. ... (*Interruptions*) Now I'm coming to this Act as well.

Sir, this Act was established in 1989, and many shortcomings were being observed in that Act. It was felt that this Act was not capable of preventing the injustices, atrocities, and oppression faced by the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, indicating a need for improvement. I am pleased to say that since 1989, there had been a continuous demand for improvement, but no one paid attention to it. But it is Shri Narendra Modi's Government that amended this Act in 2015 and worked to strengthen it. Earlier only 22 crimes were covered under this law, now as many as 47 crimes are there in the list. We included 25 new offenses in it and also provided provisions for verifying it within two months after registering an FIR and presenting the chargesheet accordingly.

We also expected the Hon. Court to deliver a verdict on the matter within two months after the chargesheet is presented. After the strengthening of this act, the process of justice was gaining

momentum, but unfortunately, some individuals approached the Supreme Court, and the Court made a decision regarding this matter. The decision was made on March 20, and then on March 23, we made a public announcement. Shri Ravi Shankar, I, our party's national speaker, Shri Rajnath Singh and all of us, including the Hon. Prime Minister, announced that we would file a review petition regarding this matter. We will strive to uphold this law through the Courts, to keep it in force, and if a favourable decision is not reached, then we have other options available. We will also go to Parliament, and if necessary, we will issue an ordinance as well. We had said that options are open to go to Parliament, so we have come to Parliament and brought this Bill. We have not delayed this Bill at all, but it is being falsely claimed that we have delayed it. I want to say that this Bill was made in 1989, and people were demanding improvements in it, but why wasn't it amended until 2015? Why was there such a delay for so many years? There shouldn't have been a delay of so many years. For so many years, there has been a delay, yet you are telling us that it is being delayed to bring this. ... (*Interruptions*) We stated that a decision was made on the 20th, we received the official copy on the 21st, the matter was sent to the Law Department on the 23rd, and thereafter, there was a four-day holiday. Despite the four-day holiday,

efforts were made to file the review petition as promptly as possible. I would like to reiterate that our policy is good, our intentions are noble, and based on the same foundation, we have introduced this amendment to further strengthen this Bill compared to before.

Previously, we had only provisioned for Section 18, in which certain ambiguities or dual interpretations of certain terms arose. Upon realising this, we amended it, and through the amendment, we stipulated that if someone comes to file a FIR, they can do so without any investigation or inquiry. After the implementation of this amendment, if someone wishes to file an FIR without providing any information whatsoever, then the FIR will be registered based solely on what they state.

As far as the arrest is concerned, a new rule was suggested that without the permission of the SSP, arrest could not be made and likewise if the culprit is Government employee then without the permission of the appointing authority, he could not be arrested. Our Government has done away with this condition in the Act and has laid down that there will be no need for any permission from anyone to arrest the culprit. After the FIR is registered, the accused will be arrested.

Furthermore, we had stated that the procedure under the Indian Penal Code would not apply Section 438 of the CrPC to this matter. But, the Supreme Court ruled that despite the restrictions on Section 438, anticipatory bail could still be granted. For this as well, we had once again made provisions in the Act. We have made similar provisions, and I would like to read it out for you. As a result, now the right to obtain anticipatory bail from the court will also not be available. We have made the following amendment, which I am currently reading:- Any procedure distinct from the procedures prescribed under this Act or Code shall not apply to any allegation of an offence under this Act, meaning that whatever provisions are made in this Act, apart from this Act, any other laws will not be applicable. This has been further clarified in Section 18A(2) - Despite any decision, order, or directive of any court, the provisions of Section 438 of the Code shall not apply to any case under this Act. " This provision has become so clear that now Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes will receive justice.

I would like to provide some constructive information on this occasion. Following the enactment of this Act, the provision we have made for the establishment of Special Courts, the Districts Courts in

the country's 30 states have been designated as Special Courts. In other words, the establishment of these Special Courts has been carried out in the district session courts of the 30 states. In addition to this, 14 states have also undertaken the task of establishing more than one Special Court. Their number is 195, indicating that 195 Special Courts have been established. If these Special Courts start functioning and undertake all these tasks, then undoubtedly decisions will be made within 2 months, a chargesheet will also be issued within 2 months, and the affected families will receive justice promptly. The decision of the Supreme Court had led to the emergence of difficulties.

Government has also made a provision in this Act to provide relief to the victim. A relief amount from Rs.85,000 to Rs.8,25,000 will be given to the family of the victim. We have also achieved success in providing them with this relief. After the enactment of this Act, its benefit started reaching most people within 7 days of filing an FIR. There has also been an increase in the conviction rate. In the past, we observed a conviction rate of 22, 23, 24 percent, but now in the last 2-3 years, it has exceeded 26 percent. All these facts confirm that due to this Act, injustices and atrocities against Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, where criminals were not being

punished and affected families were not receiving justice and relief, have now started receiving punishment for the perpetrators and justice for the affected families. In such a situation, if this Bill is not passed immediately, there is a possibility of various difficulties arising.

I have many things to say. Many Hon. Members have presented numerous topics here, deviating from the subject. The benefit of reservation is not being received, names are not being added to the Scheduled Caste list. That is, various issues related to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been suggested by some Hon. Members. I wish to convey to Hon. Members through you that in every sector, we have achieved historic accomplishments over the past 4 years. From the perspective of substructure as well, a lot of work has been done, and a decision has been taken to honour the great personalities who have done good work for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and these categories. Our Government has also celebrated 125th golden jubilee centenary of Dr. Ambedkar in a befitting manner and prior to it, it was never celebrated. The task of highlighting Dr. Ambedkar's life history was undertaken by Shri Narendra Modi's Government on January 26, 2016 after the country's independence, and that portrayal was unveiled. Such an event had

never occurred before. I do not want to ask why it did not happen? ... *(Interruptions)* This is not intended to demonstrate. This is direct evidence, and even after this, if someone speaks in this manner, they are not advocating for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They want to create a situation of separatism by propagating negative sentiments, fostering an atmosphere of bitterness. They cannot be followers of Dr. Ambedkar or Mahatma Gandhi. He wanted to promote the ideals of Equality, Harmony, and Fraternity. We are working to advance those ideals. ... *(Interruptions)* Some Hon. Members have proposed amendments to this Bill.

The information you provided makes it clear that there is no need to bring amendments to it. There is no need to emphasise those amendments. The previous speaker, who is from the ruling party and a supporter, has provided numerous examples. I do not feel the need to reiterate all those examples. I would like to reiterate that historic decisions have been made for the upliftment of these communities over the past four and half years. We have succeeded in establishing this department as a recognised entity both nationally and internationally, making it vibrant and dynamic. Before this, there was a Government of the people sitting there. They are asking us why we

didn't do it that way, why we didn't do it like that. We would like to inquire from them why they did not make amendments to the legislation enacted in 1989? Why did you not do, what you are demanding today? You have only used these categories as vote banks in elections. I proudly say that if anyone has worked to respect or benefit these communities by formulating schemes for their welfare and development, it is the Government of Shri Narendra Modi. I would like to provide you with some information.

We have an Ambedkar Institute here. Our Government has also strengthened the Ambedkar Institute. Likewise, our Government has also strengthened the institute set up in the name of Shri Jagjivan Ram Ji. We have also planned to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of these great personalities who dedicated their lives to these communities, about ten to eleven months ago. Those individuals who wish to organise such programs are provided with financial assistance from us. We also provide healthcare facilities through the Ambedkar Foundation for Scheduled Caste communities. If you were altruistic, why were these plans not made during your tenure? We provide grants of up to Rs. 3.5 lakh for the treatment of kidney, cancer, spinal injury, and brain-related diseases. We have established four Financial

Development Corporations for this purpose, through which skill training has been provided to over 1.5 lakh individuals. Skill training has been provided separately by the Ministry of Skill Development, which is a distinct matter. In the span of four years, we have facilitated loan facilities for more than 12 lakh beneficiaries. This has been undertaken by the Financial Development Corporation related to my department. Millions of people have benefited from the Prime Minister Mudra Yojana and Jan Dhan Yojana schemes. Of all the schemes, 70 percent of the beneficiaries come from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories. They have received the benefits of those schemes. If we look at the per capita National Income, it has increased rapidly over these four years compared to before. I come from Madhya Pradesh. Before our Government was formed, the per capita national income was Rs. 12-13 thousand and now it is Rs. 75 thousand. In the Government of India, the per capita national income is Rs. 75,000, and it is Rs. 1,11,000 per person. All these efforts are undertaken for the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes and the backward classes.

The demand to grant constitutional status to the OBC Commission has been ongoing for a long time. It has been forty to

fifty years, but those in power have not paid attention to it. The Government of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a resolution and successfully implemented it. That Bill was passed in this assembly and also passed in the Rajya Sabha.

After it passes here, we will also petition the Rajya Sabha to pass this Bill. I, therefore, request all the Members in the House that this Bill should be passed in this Session itself without any delay so that it could be implemented.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the motion for consideration of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

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

**Clause 2 Insertion of new section
18A.**

No enquiry or approval required

Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving the amendment?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Yes Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 5,-

after “against any person”

insert “and the Station House Officer shall register a (1)
First Information Report against such person”.

Page 2, line 11,-

for “a case”

substitute “ an offence” (3)

The Government is willing to consider the amendments. The Government has come out with three amendments. The Hon. Minister

has said that it is further to strengthen the Act. I am proposing two more amendments further to strengthen the amendments of the Government. First is that a preliminary inquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person. That is the amendment.

My amendment is about making it mandatory that a police officer shall register a First Information Report against such person.

Secondly, there may be any case. Let it be any offence under the Act. Then only, it will be explicitly clear. That is, 56 offences are there under the Act. So, all the offences will come under it. These are the two amendments. Kindly accept these amendments.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 1 and 3 moved by Shri N. K. Premachandran to clause 2 to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena – not present.

Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY(BAHARAMPUR): Yes

Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 12, -

after “any Court”

insert “and the Government shall within a period of (4) one year from the commencement of this Act shall insert the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in the Ninth Scheduled of the Constitution”.

My amendment has been reflecting the sense of the House. It is because a number of participants in today’s debate have proposed for the insertion of the Act in the Ninth Schedule in order to raise more fair works so that it could be given immunity from further judicial infringement. So, I think the Government will also with me on this.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No 4 moved by Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to Clause 2, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Yes Sir, I beg to move:-

Page 2, *after* line 10,-

insert “(1A) Where any public authority, or any officer or any person acting on behalf of a public authority, at the time of registering of First Information Report, engages in a pattern or practice of conduct that results in the deprivation or violation of the exercise of any right guaranteed to any person belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, by the Constitution of India or by any law in force, then such public authority shall be required to –

- (a) monetarily compensate any person affected by such pattern or practice of deprivation or violation of the exercise of any right;
- (b) take such remedial measures as may be determined by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes or the National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes;

- (c) immediately remove such individual officer or any person acting on behalf of the said public authority, from such office or employment; and
- (d) take any preventive measures found to be (5) necessary in order to ensure that such pattern or practice of conduct does not continue or develop again.”.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, it will investigate a Government body which has a pattern or practice of exclusionary actions or policies or oppressive measures such as police brutality. My amendment seeks to fix the inadequacies. It empowers NCSC and NCST. It will prevent unlawful illegal detention of people like Chandrashekhar Azad, Shoma sen, etc.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No 5 moved by Shri Asaduddin Owaisi to Clause 2, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

[Translation]

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I beg to move:

"The Bill should be passed."

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 7th August, 2018 at 11 a.m.

20.23 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Tuesday, August 07, 2018/Shravana 16, 1940(Saka).*

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business
in Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition)
