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Magha 17, 1939 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Fourteenth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XXIX contains Nos.1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, February 06, 2018/Magha 17, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

… (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have to make an announcement.

… (*Interruptions*)

11 01 hrs

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM REPUBLIC OF CHILE

HON. SPEAKER: On behalf of the Hon. Members of the House and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming H. E. Mr. Fidel Espinoza, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Chile and Members of the Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Chile, who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They are on an official visit to India from 5th to 9th February, 2018. They are now seated in the Special Box. During their visit to India, they will also visit Agra. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Chile.

Thank you.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What is this?

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: May I please have the opportunity to speak? Chandumajra ji, what is this? Please sit down.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is this? Let me talk. Will you not congratulate the children of your country? Congratulate the future of your country.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am glad to inform the House.

… (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: They are the future of India and you should congratulate them.

… (*Interruptions*)

11 04 hrs

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

Congratulations to India under 19 Cricket Team on its Victory at Under 19 Cricket World Cup Held in New Zealand

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: India's under-19cricket team has won the ICC Under-19 World Cup for the fourth time by defeating Australia in the final match on 3 February, 2018, in the ICC Under-19 World Cup held in New Zealand.

This House congratulates the young Indian team for their outstanding achievement and wishes them success in their endeavours.

Thank you.

———————

[English]

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour. Let us take Question No. 41 - Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Deo.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

… (*Interruptions*)

11 05 hrs

(*At this stage, Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

… (*Interruptions*)

11 05 ½ hrs

(At this stage, Shri Y. V. Subba Reddy and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

11 06 hrs

*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 41 - Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Deo.

(Q. 41)

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: Madam, Speaker, to avoid security forces, the naxals use the borders of the States and cross the borders when one State is undergoing security operations. In that context, it is important to have security forces in all the States which have naxal operations. Chhattisgarh has 44 battalions, Jharkhand has 23 battalions and Odisha has only 16 battalions. Our Chief Minister has written umpteen number of times to the Government of India to increase the battalions which has not been granted yet. Will the Hon. Minister consider giving more battalions to Odisha to eliminate naxalism from India forever? … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

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

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR: Madam Speaker, as per the demand, more than one battalion has been demanded. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR: In return, eight battalions in Odisha belong to CRPF, and eight battalions belong to BSF. . . (*Interruptions*) as well as Cobra Battalion. … (*Interruptions*) As per the demand of the state government, nine battalions were already sanctioned. … (*Interruptions*) They have raised 8 battalions out of them. … (*Interruptions*) Along with that, there were three sections of IRBB that have been approved. … (*Interruptions*) But they have asked for more battalions. But there was a request to our state government that you have been given 17 battalions. . . (*Interruptions*), you can deploy more of the same; permission is asked for that. (*Interruptions*) So we can give. At present the battalion given to them is considered sufficient. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: Madam, we had asked for two battalions and not one battalion. However, my second part of the question is to include Kalahandi as the worst LWE affected district. The Hon. Minister in his reply has stated that there are not enough incidents of violence to include Kalahandi as a LWE affected district.

There are four divisions of Maoists working extensively in the district of Kalahandi. The number of cadres is massive. It is close to the borders of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh and its terrain is that of forest and mountain. My request to the Hon. Minister, through you, is to include Kalahandi as a severely affected Left Wing Extremist district. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHREE HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR: Madam, the Hon. member has asked to consider Kalahandi district as an affected district… (*Interruptions*) But as per the information received by the Central Government, no major violent incidents have taken place in Kalahandi in the last five years. … (*Interruptions*) We have seen the account of the last five years; from the year 2012 to the year 2017, there have been four incidents in the year 2012, three in the year 2013, one in the year 2014, eight in the year 2015, and eight in the year 2016-

17. … (*Interruptions*) As far as civilian casualties are concerned, there has not been even one in the years 2012,2013 and 2014. … (*Interruptions*) Security forces have also suffered a zero loss. … (*Interruptions*) Considering all these things, there is no need to count Kalahandi among the affected districts. … (*Interruptions*) If the state government has information about an increase in such incidents and the Hon. members send it to us, we can consider it. …(*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. This is not the way

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Speaker Madam, first of all I thank and congratulate the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs Rajnath Singh Ji for the action taken against Naxalism in the last 4 years under his leadership and for the changes in the rules in Naxalite-affected areas under the Modi government. … (*Interruptions*) Along with Odisha, there are some affected areas in Maharashtra, including Gadchiroli. Hon. Minister of

State for Home Affairs Shri Hansraj Ahir is familiar with those areas. … (*Interruptions*) I would like to request Home Minister Hansraj Ahir ji that you have taken very good steps in Gadchiroli too, but at the same time, those who affect the Naxalite route give a mislead. . . (*Interruptions*) In order to bring them into effect, please provide information about the action plan the government is taking, what success has been achieved in it, and how the government wants to move forward. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: please go back to your seats. This is not the way. I am requesting all of you to please go back to your seats. This is not a way. This is not the way. Please go back to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11. 20 a. m.

11 11 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twenty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11 20 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twenty Minutes past Eleven of the clock.

(**HON. SPEAKER** *in the Chair*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS. . . Contd

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister, you were replying to the supplementary to Question No. 41. You may please continue.

11 21 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Jayadev Galla, Shri Y. V. Subba Reddy, Prof. Saugata Roy and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHREE HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): Madam Speaker, regarding the question that Hon.

Member Somaiya ji has asked, I thank her for expressing very good views about today's policy of the government. … (*Interruptions*) Due to the work done by the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs in Sukma, naxalism has come under control to a great extent. … (*Interruptions*) But still the Hon. Member has asked the question of what the government is doing to eliminate Naxalism, and I want to answer that. … (*Interruptions*) due to the efforts of our government, we have made a lot of progress in this. … (*Interruptions*) Incidents of Naxalism have also reduced. In 2013 there were 101 incidents, while today they have come down to 81. … (*Interruptions*) The civilian deaths have also reduced significantly. … (*Interruptions*) It has decreased by 12.5 percent. … (*Interruptions*) Security forces are also suffering very few losses now. … (*Interruptions*) there has also been a decrease of 166.7 percent in that. … (*Interruptions*) There has been a 20 percent reduction in violent incidents compared to 2013. … (*Interruptions*) Deaths by left-wing extremists have also reduced by 33.08 percent. … (*Interruptions*) There has been a slight increase in the number of encounters. … (*Interruptions*) The Government has achieved considerable success in eliminating Maoist cadres; there has been an increase of 36 percent. … (*Interruptions*) So

overall our soldiers are fighting well and trying to eliminate the Naxalites. … (*Interruptions*) Apart from this, the government has also made other major efforts which include security and development-related measures. … (*Interruptions*) Like we have made a provision of three thousand crore rupees in Special Central Assistance. … (*Interruptions*) The 35 most Naxalite-affected districts, this amount will be spent. … (*Interruptions*) A provision of 11 thousand 725 crore rupees has been made for the construction of roads in Naxal-affected districts, in which the RRP-2 scheme has also been made. … (*Interruptions*) Permission has also been given to build mobile towers there. … (*Interruptions*) 4072 new mobile towers will be built there, which will be present in the Naxal area. … (*Interruptions*) Through these efforts, we are going to make a lot of progress there. … (*Interruptions*) Apart from this, skill development and projects of IIT are also being run there. … (*Interruptions*) All the work is going on there regarding skill development. … (*Interruptions*) A lot of educational work is also going on. … (*Interruptions*) There are many such villages where electricity has not yet reached. Work is underway to provide electricity to all the villages there. … (*Interruptions*) In this way we are trying to develop that area. … (*Interruptions*) To combat

Naxalites, all our security forces are being empowered by giving them new equipment under new modernisation, and Naxalism is being fought. … (*Interruptions*)

The question which the Hon. member has asked is, all these programs are run in Maharashtra as well, and effective action has been taken against Naxals, and their influence is decreasing. … (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 42)

[English]

DR. KULMANI SAMAL: Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity for raising a supplementary question on this important subject.

I have gone through the reply tabled by the Hon. Minister. I find that the reply of the Government mentions certain Schemes under which assistance is given to the needy Scheduled Caste population in our country and that depends on the completion of certain formalities. The reply also mentions complaints and representations that have been received regarding misutilisation of funds.

Is the Centre deliberately depriving this community resulting in their getting lesser funds as in 2018-19 which amounts to Rs. 56,619 crore which is only 2. 32 per cent of the Central outlay whereas the amount announced to be allocated should have been Rs. 4,05,407 crore which is 16. 6 per cent of the Central outlay as per the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan guidelines? Why is this reduction in allocation of funds?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): I want to know which scheme he is asking about allocation for. If they want information about all of them, then I will read out the information about all of them together because there are 15-16 schemes. They have not named any scheme. … (*Interruptions*) If they want information about any particular scheme, then it is fine; otherwise, I will give you information about all of them. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

DR. KULMANI SAMAL: I am talking about the allocation for Scheduled Castes. Funds have been allocated for 2017-18. For 2018-19, the allocation should have been Rs. 4,05,407 crore but only Rs. 56,619 crore have been allocated.

[Translation]

SHREE THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: The allocation we make under the Scheduled Welfare scheme is being continuously increased. If we look at the figures for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, it was not more than 9 percent. … (*Interruptions*) After the year 2014-15 we made special

efforts in this, and more than 11 percent, then more than 12 percent, and the allocation of 56 thousand crores this year is under this scheme, which is more than twenty percent. The criteria is that more than 14 percent should be given, but this time the allocation has been more than 20 percent, and the limit of expenditure in the allocation made in previous years is also around 90 percent. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

DR. KULMANI SAMAL: Madam, as per the reply, there are many instances of mis-utilisation and diversion of funds. I find that even MPs from the Ruling Party have complained about this issue. Has any responsibility been fixed in such cases and till date, has anyone been punished for misutilisation or diversion of funds? Please provide the details of such cases.

[Translation]

SHREE RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Madam, the question which the Hon. member has asked is, whatever amount our government allocates, we send that entire amount to the state governments, and the responsibility of the state governments is to spend it. If something like this happens, that there is an officer who does not spend the money, then we will inform the

state government about it and ask them to take action against him. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shree Hemant Tukaram Godse - Not present.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. State Minister has just replied that it is the responsibility of the state government. … (*Interruptions*) But it is written in our constitution that all the rights have to be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. … (*Interruptions*) In the reply given by the minister himself, he has said that under the central assistance given to the state of Bihar in three years, the pre-matric scholarship was zero in the year 2016-17 and zero in the year 2017-18. … (*Interruptions*) In Bihar, the central assistance given for post-matric scholarships is 7400 instead of 10,800. In the year 2016-17 they demanded nothing, and the government gave 4,000. Under the Upgradation of Merit for SC Students 'scheme, neither any demand came in the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, nor did they give any money. … (*Interruptions*)

In the Babu Jagjivan Ram Scholarship Scheme, neither any demand was received nor any money was given. So, for the rights of scheduled tribes and backward classes, if we just say

give money but no work is done in three years, then it will not work like this. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, I want to say one specific thing that we ourselves had studied in the Standing Committee on Health: deliberately, it is said about the seats of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes that they are vacant and after that, those posts are filled with ad-hoc and it is said that no Scheduled Caste student is fit for it. … (*Interruptions*) Let me tell you specifically that the seats released in AIIMS Patna—it is said about the students of SC, ST and OBC that they are not eligible for it and those seats are filled on an ad hoc basis. … (*Interruptions*)

Will the Hon. minister pay attention to the fact that the money being allocated to everyone is utilised properly? (*Interruptions*) Like I said, the name of AIIMS Patna, wherever they are, is not appointed despite having space for people belonging to SC, ST and OBC, and it is said they are unfit for it. Will the Minister work there to get their rights? . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHREE THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madam Speaker, The Hon. Member has asked how much has been allocated to Bihar. I want to tell them that Rs. 31 crore 27 lakh wasgiven in

the year 2014-15, Rs. 102.23 crore wasgiven in the year 2015-16, and no proposal of any kind has been received from the Government of Bihar in the year 2016-17. … (*Interruptions*) The funds that have been allocated to them for two years have been done to meet their demand. … (*Interruptions*) As much as was demanded, all the funds were allocated to them. No demand has been received from them so far in the years 2016-17 and 2017-18. Similarly, no proposal related to the hostel has been received from the Government of Bihar. … (*Interruptions*)

He has also talked about implementing the provision related to reservation in jobs, etc. … (*Interruptions*) This happens through DOPT, and from time to time we keep urging DOPT. … (*Interruptions*) We also work to take action on the complaint received by the state government regarding the irregularities that keep happening. In between, the officials of our Ministry also check 10 percent of the institutions and take action to rectify if any lapses are found therein. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA: Madam Speaker, thank you.

The Minister, in his reply, has mentioned about the fund allocation for different schemes, especially for scholarship programmes. Recently, the Union Finance Minister, in his Budget, has allocated only Rs. 54,000 crore for the development of Scheduled Castes. The allocation for the Special Component Plan meant for Scheduled Castes should be made on the basis of population. In Karnataka, the allocation of funds for the development of Scheduled Castes is done on the basis of population. Last year our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Siddaramaiah, allocated Rs. 27,000 crore towards Scheduled Caste Development Fund.

So, I urge upon the Minister that the allocation be done based on the population of Scheduled Castes. Shri Arun Jaitley has allocated only Rs. 54,000 crore in his recent Budget.

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister allocate funds according to the population of Scheduled Castes? This is my question to the Hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHREE THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madam, through you I want to tell the Hon. Member that I have already pointed

out that an amount of Rs. 56618.5 crore has been allocated in this year's budget allocation. … (*Interruptions*) This is the highest amount till now. I would like to remind you that before the year 2014-15, this amount was Rs. 30850 crore, then it was increased to Rs. 34674 crore, then it was increased to Rs. 38832 crore, then Rs. 40919 crore, after that it was Rs. 52392.6 crore last year, and this time it is Rs. 56618.5 crore. … (*Interruptions*) It is received under the scheme of ministries, and funds are allocated when demand is received from the State Government and after seeing all the other merits. … (*Interruptions*) There has been no discrimination of any kind against any state, and neither do we do so. … (*Interruptions*)

SHREE JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak in the Question Hour. … (*Interruptions*)

Schemes are made for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, but unfortunately, in Nandan village of Buxar district in the state of Bihar, a deadly attack was made on Dalit and Maha Dalit women and men who asked for justice; they were arrested and sent to jail, and sticks were fired on them. This is not fair. … (*Interruptions*) When there is talk of justice for SC and ST people, there is talk of scholarships for their children; there is

talk of their education, and when people go there to demand justice for development, then sticks are fired on them. … (*Interruptions*) I want the Hon. Minister to talk about this incident. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No, this is not related to the main question.

(Q. 43)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam Speaker, the housing shortage in urban areas has come down from 1. 8 crore to 1 crore. ... *(Interruptions)* This is because of the Prime Minister's initiative through the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana*. ... *(Interruptions)* In 2011-12, three lakh houses were built under PMAY, in 2012-13, 10. 47 lakh houses were built, in 2013-14, 10. 49 houses were built, in 2015-16, 18. 24 lakh houses were built, in 2016-17, 32 lakh houses were built and in 2017-18, 54 lakh houses were built under this scheme. ... *(Interruptions)* So, the figure has increased considerably and I congratulate the Minister for that. ... *(Interruptions)* But at the same time, I would like to know whether the Ministry is trying to boost private investment for providing affordable housing to the poor and the middle class. ... *(Interruptions)* If it is being done, I would also like to know whether the modalities have been worked out and how it is going to be implemented. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam Speaker, the figure of 18 million that the Hon. Member mentioned was a figure which was thrown up by a study in 2011 and for some time, we went with the figure of 18 million. ... *(Interruptions)* But

subsequently the States and the Union Territories were required to make a demand assessment and verify the situation on the ground. ... *(Interruptions)* Based on the feedback received from the States and the Union Territories, we are today proceeding on the basis of the shortfall being closer to the target of around 11 million or so. ... *(Interruptions)* The *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* has three distinct segments. ... *(Interruptions)* In the urban areas, it covers the economically weaker sections, the lower income group and the middle income group I and II. ... *(Interruptions)* It is our expectation that by the year 2022 this flagship programme of the Prime Minister will result in every citizen of India having a home of his or her own and the title of this home will be in the name of the lady of the house. ... *(Interruptions)* This will also give a boost to gender empowerment. ... *(Interruptions)*

Insofar as private funding is concerned, the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* is, in many respects, a *sui generis*, one of a kind scheme.

It will be recalled that for this scheme, when it was announced in June, 2015, it was decided that the Government would also make the land available. Out of the eight permutations and combinations, which are possible, we have a

situation in which there are six options for utilizing the Government land; and there are two options available for utilizing the private land. Now, private participation is possible. There are detailed guidelines which have been introduced for this. But the scheme is also doing well. The Hon. Member had mentioned some figures. To date, a total of 37,45,862 houses have been sanctioned. These are throughout the country in different States and Union Territories.

This process also benefits from a Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme, and it is our expectation that through the efforts of the private sector for which guidelines have been issued, and the efforts of the State Governments, we will achieve the objective of Housing for All under the Affordable Housing Sector by 2022. Thank you. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, I had also told that the shortage has come down from 1. 8 crore to one crore. This is because of the efforts of both the Urban Development Ministry and the Rural Development Ministry put together. But at the same time … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Congratulate them and convey your thanks to him.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I have already congratulated the Hon. Minister.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: The Narendra Modi Government has aimed to provide homes to all the poor and middle classes by 2022. The Government has sanctioned funds for 3. 3 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for Karnataka. However, only 38,000 houses have been completed so far. The Affordable Housing Scheme for all by 2022 can be achieved only when all the State Governments progress. After sanctioning 3. 3 lakh houses, only 38,000 houses have been built. I would like to know what action the Government of India is going to take about this. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam Speaker, I am not reluctant to accept congratulations where they are due, but I must say for the record and I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the revision of the figure from 18 million, which was the visible gap as per the study and the target of 10 or 11 million we are working against, it is not because more houses have been built, but it is because the figure has been revised downwards as a result of the assessment carried out by the States and Union Territories. … (*Interruptions*)

Insofar as Karnataka is concerned, 974 projects for construction of 3,33,493 houses worth Rs. 5294 crore have been accepted. … (*Interruptions*). The Central share is Rs. 768 crore. Under the CLSS, which is a Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme, 2,618 housing loans have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 51. 50 core has been sanctioned as interest subsidy. Hence, a total of Rs. 820 crore has been released to the State of Karnataka for all the components of PMAY Mission.

In Karnataka and indeed elsewhere, where there is a need for the scheme to pick up, since this is a collaborative scheme under cooperative federalism, the Central Government can only encourage the State Governments to do more. … (*Interruptions*)

The Hon. Member asked about the actions which we can take. Well, what we are doing is: we are carrying out periodical reviews. I had personally gone to Bengaluru and reviewed all the schemes of the State Government including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban Scheme, as also the Swachh Bharat and the Smart City Scheme, and we encourage the State Government to put in extra efforts to make sure that there is greater utilization including of Central fund. I carried out a similar review in Chandigarh, for the Union Territory and for

the Governments of Haryana and Punjab. This is a process which is ongoing.

I inherited this from my distinguished predecessor; and we will continue to make these efforts so that the State Governments step up and take the necessary steps.

I could make other suggestions also, but I think, I would stop here.

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, the Hon. Minister himself has already clarified about the progress of housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. In my Constituency Alappuzha, one of the cities, has got the maximum number of houses. But what is the reality, now? It is a programme, which is linked with the nationalised banks also. But some of the nationalised banks are not ready to give loans to the people, who are the beneficiaries. We had convened the bankers' meeting so many times, but they are putting certain conditions, which are other than the earlier conditions. They say that there is a need of access. How can the poor people have access? This scheme is meant for giving houses to the poor people, but some nationalised banks are demanding that there should be an access to these houses.

Therefore, this scheme is totally failing in that area.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is going to convince the banks for giving assistance to these beneficiaries. Otherwise, this scheme will not succeed.

SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI: Madam Speaker, I am a little taken aback. I was trying to be modest and correct, and was trying to provide an explanation on why the figure is not 18 million, but 11 million. But at the same time, I need to say for the record that 37,45,862 houses have been sanctioned.

Now, there are procedural difficulties sometimes when public sector banks or any other institution have a bureaucratic or somewhat an inward-looking approach to sanctioning loans. But let me just tell the Hon. Member that in the Budget, which had just been presented, the amount of money available for this very important flagship scheme is over 300 per cent. We have an outlay of Rs. 600 crore and we are going to raise extra budgetary resources of Rs. 25,000 crore where this Rs. 600 crore will be utilised to pay the interest subsidy on these Rs. 25,000 crore.

So, this scheme is a roaring success. So, for anyone to suggest that this scheme is not doing well, I can assure you that

not only by 2022 but even earlier, we will have a situation in which we will be seeing the results. … (*Interruptions*)

I have the State-wise figures. If you go down to the District level, where a particular bank in a particular District is giving difficulty, we have already taken it up with the Finance Ministry so that instructions are issued to the public sector banks to facilitate the process.

(Q. 44)

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, one of the main issues discussed in the National Conferences on Agriculture for Kharif and Rabi Campaigns was on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

It is mandated under the scheme that the compensation claims must be settled by the insurance companies within three weeks from the receipt of yield data based on the crop cutting experiments as per guidelines … (*Interruptions*)

However, the claim compensations to the farmers were not released immediately, which has severely affected the livelihood of the farmers.

What I would like to ask the Hon. Minister is whether in future, the compensation claims to the farmers would be released within three weeks by the insurance companies.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): The first year under crop insurance was 2016-17; states were urged to use new technologies. Since it was the first year, some districts

conducted experiments prior to it. This year, most states have pledged to use new technology. In the state from which the Hon. member comes, a lot of payments have been made to the farmers in 2016-17; more than 2400 crores have been made. The dispute regarding the payment of 100-150 crores is going on between the company and the state government. That too will be resolved soon.

[English]

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN: Madam Speaker, during the National Conferences on Agriculture for Kharif and Rabi Campaigns in September, 2017, one of the main issues discussed was drought management.

The entire country is well aware of the severe drought in Tamil Nadu during the year 2017. A sum of Rs. 39,000 crore was sought by the Government of Tamil Nadu from the Central Government. However, the sum released was very meagre.

What I ask of the Central Government is that when the farmers in the State are facing distress, it is the moral responsibility of the Central Government to intervene and help, especially when the drought was secondary to the non-release

of water by Karnataka in accordance with the final order of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal.

Why cannot a firm and concrete decision be made by the Central Government in this regard as this remains to be a perennial problem?

[Translation]

SHREE RADHA MOHAN SINGH: As far as the crop dispute is concerned, it is not related to my Ministry. … (*Interruptions*) They have demanded under the Crop Insurance Scheme; we had a meeting with the insurance company and the State Governments. … (*Interruptions*) I do not remember the full statistics of the premium of the farmers there, but it was about Rs. 1000 crore; this time the claim was definitely more. … (*Interruptions*) More than Rs. 2400 crore has been paid in it. Whatever little dispute there is, we will settle that also.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Madam Speaker, the reply that has come from the Government, it is written that the minimum price that is . . . (If they give a good price, then it will be better for the farmer. I want to ask the Hon. Minister that Government is talking about giving the MSP by one and a half times; which formula is being used for this? If you go to every

state … (*Interruptions*) If you see in Maharashtra, the cost of cultivation is more than the rest of the states. Will you give the C-two formula, which was recommended by the Government? … (*Interruptions*) Will the government provide the C-2 formula as recommended by the Swaminathan Commission? When will it provide it, and for which crop?

SHREE RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, through you, I want to bring it to the notice of the Hon. Member that a number of suggestions have been given in the Swaminathan Commission report. … (*Interruptions*) On the basis on which the support prices were fixed till now, one and a half times the cost could not be obtained on all commodities. Some of the items that were decided. … (*Interruptions*) Even that was not available to the farmers. Our government has clearly announced that from now onwards MSP on various agricultural commodities will be given to the farmers at one and a half times their cost price. It has been announced in this budget that Niti Aayog … (*Interruptions*) The Government of India will work with the state governments to create a new system so that all farmers can get MSP.

SHREE GANESH SINGH: Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the Agriculture Minister very much …

(*Interruptions*) In the budget that has just been presented, there were two major problems of the farmers in which their crops were damaged by natural calamities. The government has already made a provision to provide help and assistance in its prevention. … (*Interruptions*) The second biggest work that has been done recently is the decision to give a fair price for crops, i.e., the minimum support price (MSP) being one and a half times the cost, which is a revolutionary step. … (*Interruptions*) It should be implemented immediately; this is my request.

According to the reports from the states, in some states, Rabi sowing has decreased in 1.46 lakh hectares of land. Due to frequent natural calamities, there is drought and, in this situation, sowing reduces. Is there any process to identify those areas? If not, it should be made. Whether it is a special facility for increasing the means of irrigation or for doing an advanced type of farming, is the government going to make such preparations? … (*Interruptions*)

SHREE GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: The concern expressed by the Hon. Member is that as per the sowing data received from the States this year, wheat sowing has decreased in 1.46 percent of the area. … (*Interruptions*) It is definitely

right. If we compare the last five years, sowing has increased in the last five years. … (*Interruptions*) As far as sowing of wheat is concerned. Due to the uncertainty of rains, sowing of wheat or paddy could not be done; it has been transferred to sowing of pulses. … (*Interruptions*) While on one hand wheat sowing has decreased, oilseeds have also decreased by 4.92 percent, but in other states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, etc., sowing of pulses has increased by more than eight percent; these are just the first estimate figures. … (*Interruptions*) I can say with confidence that the way it is increasing, this time also we will reach almost equal to last year's sowing target. … (*Interruptions*)

SHREE VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: The answer that is given is that it has been stated that in order to increase the production of Rabi and Kharif crops, efforts are made to implement various schemes of the Government of India through the State Government. Through the ATMA scheme of the Central Government, efforts are made to increase production by training farmers in various ways. Fortunately, in many districts of Maharashtra, be it Marathwada, North Maharashtra or Vidarbha, the production of toor has increased manifold this year. Where seven to eight quintals are produced

in one acre, this time the production has increased by ten to twelve quintals in one acre. Unfortunately, in the GR issued by the Maharashtra State Government yesterday, the State Government has proposed to procure only two quintals of tur per acre through the Government procurement centres. Due to this, farmers are facing a lot of trouble. … (*Interruptions*)

I want to tell the Central Government through you that on one hand, efforts are being made to increase production; on the other hand, when the farmer increases production, the Government is not coming forward to buy it. The Central Government needs to intervene in this matter. What help will the Central Government provide to the farmers of Maharashtra in this regard? … (*Interruptions*)

SHREE RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, the support price of pulses is fixed. Pulses, oilseeds and cotton. ... (*Interruptions*) The scheme that was running till now, under the B. S. S. scheme, when a proposal comes from the states, the Government of India gives the entire amount and ensures the purchase. Earlier, it was not purchased on a large scale. … (*Interruptions*) The purchase of pulses was very low. Last year a record purchase was made, and now from the Kharif crop, we are going to sit with the states and ensure that the support price

that we declare, which also includes pulses, is how the farmers get the full benefit of MSP. We are going to ensure this arrangement after Kharif. … (*Interruptions*)

SHREE DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Madam Speaker, Hon. The reply given by the Hon. Minister shows a decline of 1.4 percent in the Rabi crop. … (*Interruptions*) I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that in the last financial year, Rs. 10,000 crore was allocated for the crop insurance scheme, and this year the Government has increased it to Rs. 13,000 crore. Government data shows that the Central Government as well as the State Government has shares in this scheme. … (*Interruptions*)

Despite that, most of the farmers who have applied under this scheme have received claims worth about 5000 crore rupees. But still, most of the farmers to whom the private insurance companies had to pay for these crops are holding on to that money for the last year. … (*Interruptions*) In your conference, discussions are also held about those farmers. Will the Agriculture Ministry take any concrete steps against those private companies who have been holding the farmers' money for the last one and a half years? … (*Interruptions*)

SHREE RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, As far as the budget is concerned, it is based on demand, and the amount is increased as per the demand. … (*Interruptions*) As I mentioned earlier, in the new crop insurance scheme, the states were told to use new technology so that the data of crop harvesting experiments, which come manually, about which there is a dispute between the state government and the company, are accurate. Some states have done pilot experiments in the first year, and in the future, most of the states have assured us that they will use new technology so that there is no manipulation of data, there is no dispute, and payment is made on time. … (*Interruptions*)

12 00 hrs

[English]

DR. A. SAMPATH: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister has given a written reply to this Question. I would like to invite your attention to Annexure-II. It says that the State-wise area coverage of Rabi crops has come down in 10 States. If you go through the percentages of increase or decrease over 2016-17, it is -1. 462 lakhs of hectares and in 2016-17, it was -9. 384 lakhs of hectares. So, my question through you, Madam Speaker, is this. What measures will the Government of India

take to increase the coverage of Rabi crops? It may be noted that the agriculture land is rampantly being converted and put to use for some other purposes because of agricultural losses, and thousands of farmers are committing suicide every month. So, what measure has the Government of India taken to prevent this?

[Translation]

SHREE GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Hon. Speaker Madam, as I said in the answer to my previous question, the coverage figures for the Rab season have come. … (*Interruptions*) Regarding the 10 states in reference to which the Hon. Member has said that there has been a decrease, in about 8 states the sowing this time has been more than what was done last year. In the context of countrywide data, as I have said in the answer to the previous question, the wheat sowing figures have decreased, and the coverage area of oilseed sowing has also decreased. These figures should not be considered as the final figure yet, as these are the first predictable figures. Now again, complete reports are coming from the states because in many states sowing is still going on or the sowing figures have not come yet. … (*Interruptions*) Some areas have been transferred to pulses. … (*Interruptions*) Pulses have

increased by eight lakh hectares, about one percent. … (*Interruptions*) Apart from this, as far as the issue of farmers stress has been mentioned by the Hon. Member, the government of the country is working through various schemes to increase the production of crops, reduce the cost of crops, and ensure that farmers get the right price for their produce. … (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Prime Minister has also set the target of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022, and various phases have been set for that. … (*Interruptions*) Through various schemes of the government, we are working to support the farmers all the time, to give them information about the latest technology, and to provide them state assistance for equipment. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

Hon. Members, I am again requesting to all of you to please go to your seats. You have made your point. Now, please go to your seat. It cannot be replied just now. …

(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you want to come on TV, I will show how unruly you are behaving. I am ready to show it. Please go to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, papers to be laid on the Table. Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir.

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 45 to 60

Unstarred Question Nos. 461 to 531 and 533 to 699

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

12 03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): Hon. Speaker Madam, on behalf of Shri Rajnath Singh, I lay the following papers on the Table:-

(1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry Of Home Affairs (volume-1) for the year 2018-2019.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT8679/16/18)

(2) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs (volume-2) (Union Territory) for the year 2018-2019.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8680/16/18)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Hon. Speaker Madam, I lay on the Table a copy of Notification No.

4065(A) published in the Gazette of India dated 26 December, 2017 under section 55 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 making certain amendments in Notification No. 371(A) dated 8 February, 2017.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8681/16/18)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT): Hon. Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2018-19.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8682/16/18)

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. SATYAPAL SINGH): Respected Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri Prakash Javadekar, I lay on

the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2018-2019.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8683/16/18)

[English]

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): I beg to lay on the Table:-

1. A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.
2. A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8684/16/18)

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): On behalf of Shri Alphons Kannanthanam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2018-2019.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8685/16/18)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): I begto lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President for the year 2018-2019.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8686/16/18)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and

English versions) of the Ministry of Railways for the year 2018-2019.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8687/16/18)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): On behalf of Shri Parshottam Rupala, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Tenth Amendment) Order, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S. O. 4082(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th December, 2017 under Section 4(d) of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8688/16/18)

[Translation]

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

1. (i). A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bihar Secondary Education Council

(Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan) Patna, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii). Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bihar Secondary Education Council (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan) Patna, for the year 2014-2015 (Hindi and English versions).

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

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8689/16/18)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): On behalf of Shri Kiren Rijiju, I beg to lay on the Table:-

1. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi, for the years 2003-2004 to 2011-2012, 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 Disaster Management, New Delhi, for the years 2003-2004 to 20112012.

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

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8690/16/18)

3. A copy of the Assam Rifles, Para Medical Staff, Group 'C' Combatised Posts, Recruitment Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 389 in weekly Gazette of India dated 25th November, 2017 under Section 167 of the Assam Rifles Act, 2006.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8691/16/18)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Apprenticeship (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 1525(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th December, 2017

under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8692/16/18)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): Madam Speaker, I lay the following papers on the Table:--

(1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English version) of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Sonipat, 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 Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Sonipat, for the year 2016-2017.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8693/16/18)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English version) of the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur, 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 Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur, for the year 2016-2017.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8694/16/18)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

   (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2015-2016.

   Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8695/16/18)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the First Statutes of the Footwear Design and Development Institute (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 63(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th January, 2018 under sub-section (1) of Section 27 of the Footwear Design and Development Institute Act, 2017.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8696/16/18)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): I beg to lay on the Table:-

1. A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

   (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce

Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the years 1997-1998 to 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the years 1997-1998 to 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8697/16/18)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HRD AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REFERENCE (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): Madam Speaker, I lay the following paper:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Sonipat, for the year 2016-2017.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, 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 8698/16/18)

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8699/16/18)

(5) *A copy of the Corrigendum (Hindi and English versions) to the Audited Accounts of the University Grants Commission for the year 2016-17.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8700/16/18)

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* Audited Accounts were laid on the Table on 05.01.2018

12 09 hrs

ASSENT TO BILLS

AND

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA*

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table the following Six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Thirteenth Session of Sixteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 18th December, 2017:-

1. The Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2017;
2. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
3. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
4. The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017;
5. The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2018; and

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT8703/16/18.

6. The Appropriation Bill, 2018.

I also lay on the Table one copy each, duly authenticated by the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, of following seven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:

7. The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2017;

8. The Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017;

9. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2017;

10. The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017;

11. The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Bill, 2017;

12. The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2017; and

13. The Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

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12 10 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Action Taken Statements

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (RETD) (GARHWAL): Madam Speaker, I lay the following papers on the Table:-

(1) 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (2015-16) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 22nd Report of the Committee (15th Lok Sabha) on threat perception and preparedness of forces including infiltration along borders, coordination mechanism with Central Armed Police Forces and border connectivity through road, air and rail'.

(2) 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (2015-16) on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Committee (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants of the Ministry of

Defence for the year 2014-15 (Demand No. 22)' regarding Army.

(3) 13th Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 5th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (Demand Nos. 25 and 26) of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2014-15 relating to Ordnance Factories and Defence Research and Development Organisation.

(4) 17th Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 9th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (Demand Nos. 26 and 27) of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2015-16 relating to Ordnance Factories and Defence Research and Development Organisation.

(5) 18th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (2015-16) on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 7th Report of the Committee on Defence (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants

(2015-2016) (Demand No. 23) of the Ministry of Defence regarding Army.

(6) 25th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (2015-16) on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 20th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (Demand No. 22) of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2016-17 in respect of Army, Navy and Air Force.

(7) 26th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (2015-16) on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2016-17) (Demand No. 20) of the Ministry of Defence in respect of Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Research and Development Organisation, Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, Director General Quality Assurance and National Cadet Corps.

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[English]

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is very nice behaviour.

[Translation]

12 11hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 36th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment*

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): Madam Speaker, I beg to present a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 36th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8704/16/18.

12 12hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

(i) Commitee on Estimates

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (KANPUR): Madam Speaker, I propose:

> "That the members of this House do elect thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Estimates Committee for a term commencing on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019."

The motion was adopted.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is very unruly behavior. Show them on the TV and let people see what they are doing.

… (*Interruptions*)

(ii) COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

[Translation]

SHREE MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I preface:

> "That the members of this House do elect fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Public Accounts Committee for a term commencing on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. "

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR (KANGRA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I preface:

> "That the members of this House do elect fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for a term commencing on the 1st May,2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Hon. Madam Speaker, I preface:

> "That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha does agree to nominate seven members of the Rajya Sabha to be associated with the Committee on Public Undertakings of this House for the term commencing on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019 and that the names of the members so nominated by the Rajya Sabha be communicated to this House."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the house for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iv) COMMITTEEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

[Translation]

DR. KIRTI P SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Hon. Madam Speaker, I preface.

> "That the members of this House do elect 20 members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for a term commencing on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. KIRTI P SOLANKI: I preface:

"That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha does agree to nominate 10 members of the Rajya Sabha to be associated with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this House for the term commencing on the 1st May, 2018 and ending on the 30th April, 2019 and that the names of the members so nominated by the Rajya Sabha be communicated to this House."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2018

and ending on the 30th April, 2019 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

…. (Interruptions)

12 16 hrs

MOTION RE: JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

[Translation]

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA (DEORIA): Madam, I preface:

"That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do elect two members of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in place of the vacancies caused by the retirement of Shri Sharad Yadav with effect from the 4th December, 2017 and Shri C. P. Narayan on the 1st July, 2018, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by single transferable vote, and the names of the members so elected by the

Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee be communicated to this House."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect two Members of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies caused by the disqualification of Shri Sharad Yadav w. e. f. 4th December, 2017 and to be caused on the retirement of Shri C. P. Narayanan w. e. f. 1st July, 2018 respectively from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the Members so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee. "

The motion was adopted.

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[Translation]

.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Venkatesh ji, if you say so, I will hold this banner and show it to you. What is this that you are doing? Will you bring it in front of the speaker like this?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

12 17 hrs

MOTION RE: 50TH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTKUMAR): Sir, I preface:

> "That this House do agree with the 50th Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 1st February, 2018."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That this House do agree with the Fiftieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 1st February, 2018."

The motion was adopted.

…. (Interruptions)

12 18 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise 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.

…. (Interruptions)

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Need to formulate a comprehensive agriculture policy for farmers

[Translation]

SHRI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MESHANA): Even today, farmers want to do other work except farming due to a lack of good profits in the field of agriculture. 76 percent of farmers want to do other business except farming. 61 percent of farmers want to take up jobs in cities, as there are more opportunities for education, health and employment. The farmer gets ruined due to the hassles of seeds, sowing, rain and floods. The tendency of people and other parties to take advantage of the loans given to farmers is also increasing. This is also sending a message to the farmers that there is no need to repay the loan taken from the banks. Due to this thinking, many times the farmer gets trapped in the debt even without any need. In this regard, farmers are not getting any benefit. Due to this, the financial discipline of banks is getting disturbed. Even farmers who are able to repay the loan avoid it. Many times the farmer does not even get the cost price of his produce and is forced to take a loan. Our farmer is not only a producer but also a buyer. If the farmer earns a good profit from the crop, his purchasing power will also increase.

Hence, I request the government to formulate a comprehensive agriculture policy instead of waiving off the loans taken by farmers. With this, the farmers will be in a sufficiently profitable position.

(ii) Need to expedite construction and conversion of Sherghati- Imamganj-Salaiya state highway in Bihar and Tarhansi-Daltonganj state highway in Jharkhand into National Highways

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): The decision of the Central Government to connect the Sherghati-Imamganj-Kothi-Salaiya (Bihar) and Tarhansi-Daltonganj (Jharkhand) roads to NH-2 and NH-75 and to include them in the National Highway is very beneficial from the point of view of connecting the backward areas, especially the areas affected by left-wing extremism, to the mainstream of development and administrative control. This road connects to NH-75 from Sherghati via Banke Bazar, Imamganj, Kothi, Manatu and Varanasi. Most of the road stretch is affected by left-wing extremism. With the start of road construction work, people of parliamentary constituencies like Aurangabad and Gaya in Bihar and Koderma and Palamu in Jharkhand will get social, cultural and economic benefits. The decision to include this road in the National Highway was taken a long time ago, but till now the survey, estimation and construction work of this road has not even started.

The decision of the Central Government to include this route under the National Highway has increased the hopes and confidence of the people of this area in this progressive government.

In the public interest, I request that after including the above-mentioned road in the National Highway, you kindly issue directions to the competent authority as soon as possible to get the survey estimate and construction work of this road completed so that proper development of the backward district of Bihar and Jharkhand state can be ensured.

(iii) Need to enhance the honorarium paid to Aanganwadi workers

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): The Angawadi program is implemented in almost all the districts of the country. The nutrition scheme of the Anganwadi program is being implemented dedicatedly by about 26 lakh Anganwadi workers across the country. In return, they are paid a meagre honorarium. The honorarium is given at different rates in all the states of the country. Whereas the system of equal pay for equal work is applicable throughout the country. Despite the important role played by Anganwadi workers in the smooth running of many government schemes like the Nutrition Scheme as well as many other schemes of the state, such as the Literacy Campaign, Pulse Polio, Census, Counting of Votes, etc., throughout the country, they are facing a lot of difficulties in maintaining their families, as they are not paid an honorarium even at the minimum wage rate in the country.

Therefore, I demand from the Indian Government that their honorarium should be increased to 10 thousand rupees.

(iv)Need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kherwara Tehsil headquarters of Udaipur district, Rajasthan

SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA (UDAIPUR): My Lok Sabha constituency Udaipur is the divisional headquarters of Southern Rajasthan. This is a tribal-dominated area and there are 6 districts under this division in which Udaipur, Dungarpur, Banswara, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh and Rajsamand are the major ones. In this division, 70 percent to 75 percent of the population belongs to Scheduled Castes and Tribes. This area is declared as a shadowed-v (T. S. P.) area by the Government of India.

I inform the Government of India that many government offices, the Police Training Centre, the Mewar Bhil Corps Battalion, and many families of ex-servicemen reside in Kherwada, the tehsil headquarter of Udaipur, Rajasthan. To provide good school education to the children of the government employees and the common people living here, they send their small children away from home to the cities, because of which they have to face a lot of problems.

Therefore, I request the government to kindly open a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Khairwada Tehsil headquarters in Udaipur division so that children of the SC/ST category can get good quality school education.

(v) Regarding Atrocities/Crimes against SCs amd STs

[English]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): This Government has taken several steps to ensure the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in India. However, the National Crime Records Bureau Report 2016 has revealed that atrocities/crimes against STs have increased by 4. 7% in 2016 (6,568) over 2015 (6,276), and atrocities/crimes against SCs have increased by 5. 5%, Furthermore, assault on women with the intent to outrage their modesty increased by 7. 7% (3172 cases) and the year reported the highest number of cases of crimes/atrocities against SCs. This is despite the 2015 Amendment to the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 that was enacted to ensure relief and speedy justice to victims. The Act requires every State Government to establish an exclusive special court and set up a high-powered vigilance and monitoring committee. In the context of the findings of the NCRB Report, I would like to request the Government to ensure that the 2015 Amendment is strictly enforced.

(vi)Need to provide reservation to faculties in Central Universities belonging to Other Backward Classes

[Translation]

SHREE GANESH SINGH (SATNA): A provision was made in the year 1993 to give reservations to OBCs in the Central University. But to date 27 percent of the OBC quota has not been filled. According to information received from 71 Ministries/Departments, as on 1 January, 2014 the representation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in posts and services under the Central Government is 17. 35 percent, 8. 38 percent and 19. 28 percent respectively. As per information received from 10 major ministries/departments, including public sector banks/financial institutions, Central Public Sector Undertakings etc. , as of 31 December 2016, 28713 vacancies were not filled, which is about 31 percent of the 92589 backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. Professors are recruited in Central Universities at three levels. Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor of which Assistant Professor is the lowest rank. But reservation for OBC candidates has been limited only to recruitment to the post of Assistant Professor. Whereas candidates from Scheduled Caste

and Scheduled Tribe get the benefit of reservation in recruitment to all three posts. SC-ST and OBC are the largest stakeholders in any university. Delhi University has reported that many OBC, SC and ST students struggle with their subject courses due to poor English language proficiency, hampering their ability to be placed in suitable employment. Is this not an insult to the official language Hindi and is this not weakening the morale of OBCs/Dalits by calling them weak in English? Is the English of OBCs and Dalits of South India weaker than that of general class people of North India? Is this not a sign of a double mentality?

(vii) Need to release adequate water in Narmada river in Gujarat from Sardar Sarovar dam

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH): After the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project on the Narmada River in my home state of Gujarat and the closing of its gates, the water of the Narmada River has started drying up, and the water has started drying up from Garudeshwar place in the Narmada district till Bharuch, where the Narmada River meets the sea. Due to the lack of water in the Narmada River, the fishermen's fishing business has almost come to an end, and the farmers who used to grow vegetables on the banks of the Narmada River have had their vegetable farming adversely affected due to lack of water. There are many religious places, ashrams and cremation grounds at Narmada Place. Their operations have been affected badly. Due to water stagnation at many places, pollution has increased at those places in the river.

I would like to request the government to release water from the dam to increase the flow of the Narmada River so that farmers can get water, fishermen can continue their fish farming and the work in temples, ashrams and crematoriums can be carried out properly.

(viii) Need to increase the retirement age of home guards to 60 years in Delhi

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the recently evacuated Delhi Home Guards.

Home Guards in Delhi are kept in service for 50 years as per the Home Guards Recruitment Rules. I want to make it clear here that in different states of the country, the retirement age of Home Guards is 60 years, but according to Delhi Retirement Rules, the maximum appointment age is 47 years for men and 42 years for women, and the retirement age is 50 years for both categories. Anyway, the appointment of Home Guard is only for 3 years, which is extended by 2 years on the basis of physical fitness, and as an extension of one or two year's results, it results in a 5-year extension. Thus, the service period of the home guard remains only for 10 years.

In Delhi before 2008, the retirement age of Home Guards was 60 years, which the department suddenly changed to 50 years on its own accord, due to which hundreds of Home Guard jawans were fired after completing 50 years. All these young people become unemployed, and no one gives them any work at this age.

Recently, the soldiers who had turned 50 were expelled from the department. The government is requested to call them back on duty and regularise the service of Home Guard jawans in Delhi till the age of 60 years and save them from unemployment by changing the recruitment rules in Delhi. Anyway, at present thousands of Home Guard posts are lying vacant; they should be filled.

(ix)Need to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to every household in Assam

[English]

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): Assam is famous for a very important natural mineral wealth i. e. gas. But our people face a lot of hardships in getting Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections as well as refills for their domestic and commercial use. The poor people cannot even afford to pay for LPG cylinders. What is worse is sometimes the consumers have to stand in the long queue in front of the LPG distributors' shop to get a refill. In such a scenario it would be a very good step if the government makes provisions for supply of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to every household in the state. In the PNG mechanism, domestic natural gas is piped directly to the customer's facility through the safe and efficient pipeline system. PNG is a safe, convenient and reliable natural gas. It's very cheap as compared to LPG. PNG is also cleaner and more environment friendly. I, therefore, request the Government to take appropriate step for making domestic cooking gas available to the people of Assam through Piped Natural Gas (PNG).

(x)Need to award senior fellowship to researchers belonging to backward classes in Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV (SAGAR): I want to bring to the notice of the Government the matter of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, an undertaking of the Government of India, violating the Government policy of providing 27 percent reservation to the OBCs in all educational institutions.

The Indian Council of Philosophical Research awards the Union Senior Fellowship for Research every year on Philosophy Day. Till last year, the list of researchers from backward classes was being released separately in this fellowship list.

But this year (2017) this category has been removed from the list, and only the general list has been released. This is a clear violation of the declared policy of the Government of India. Therefore, I request that the government investigate this institution and take action against it.

(xi) Delay of flights at Mumbai Airport

[English]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): 45% flights at Mumbai Airport have been delayed for the past three months. More than half of the flights have been delayed by almost one hour. It is due to giving preference to dozens of unscheduled private/ chartered flights which affect the scheduled flights. Not a single flight during a day during the last three months has been cancelled or diverted. It means that all the flights, scheduled flights are accommodated, but then also the passenger has to waste 60 minutes for every flight. The reason is mismanagement, inefficiency and preferred treatment to a selected few. A detailed study and action of Mumbai Airport and Mumbai ATC be undertaken immediately. Corrective measures must be taken to save the time, fuel cost and wear and tear of aircraft.

(xii) Need to ensure transparency in development of Maghar, the birth place of Sank Kabir in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SAINT KABIR NAGAR): Last year on 20th December 2016, the Union Tourism Minister had sanctioned an amount of Rs 24.16 crore for the development of Maghar, the resting place of the great Saint Kabir Das, under the Swadesh Darshan Yojana under the Heritage Circuit. The foundation stone of the scheme was also laid by the then Tourism Minister on 29 December, 2016. The responsibility of executing the above schemes was given to WAPCOS, a public sector undertaking working under the Ministry of Tourism, but I have to say with great regret that WAPCOS adopted a very negligent and irresponsible approach, due to which the work could not be started even after one year had passed, due to which there is a feeling of disappointment among crores of Kabir devotees. It is also appropriate to mention here that the Managing Director and Chief Engineer of WAPCOS are not taking any interest in this matter. The biggest example of this is that even after contacting and requesting several times, to date I have not been provided a copy of the DPR, and an attempt is being made to run the

entire work in an opaque manner. Due to which, there is every possibility that Kabir's Samadhi Sthal will not be developed as per his thoughts. Due to which the money being spent by the government will not be developed according to the views of Kabir.

In this context, it is requested that the officers should adopt a transparent method and, keeping in mind the aspirations of the public representatives and the general public, take the trouble of issuing appropriate guidelines to start this work immediately and complete it soon.

(xiii) Need to set up a Solar Park in Rohtas district, Bihar

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM): It is very important to set up a solar park on the fallow land from Barkatta to Rohtas Fort in the Rohtas district of my parliamentary constituency, Sasaram (Bihar). It is noteworthy that out of the total 138 villages of Aghaura Block (Kaimur), only 3 (three) villages have been electrified, due to which this tribal-dominated area is immersed in darkness, and in Pipardih and Rohtasgarh Panchayat of Rohtas district, electrification is not being done due to the obstruction of the Forest Department.

500-1000 acres of land are required to set up a solar park, which is available in sufficient quantity, and the Rohtas Fort complex is spread over a radius of about 28 miles. With the establishment of Solar Park, a large population of backward areas deprived of electricity and water will get light. Due to lack of electricity and water, the social, economic and educational development of the citizens here is hampered and due to being completely deprived of the mainstream of development, their future is bleak. Being deprived of basic facilities, this area is badly affected by the problem of insurgency. It seems imperative to take cognisance of this important public issue under the determined leadership of the

Hon. Prime Minister for the upliftment of the society deprived of development.

Therefore, my special request to the Hon. Minister is that they please take effective action as soon as possible for setting up the Solar Park.

(xiv) Need to develop Guru Gobind Singh Tourist Circuit in Ambala Parliamentary Constituency, Haryana

SHRI RATNA LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Recently in India, the 350th Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh, a symbol of sacrifice and indomitable courage in the world, was celebrated with great reverence. In the Yamunanagar district of my Lok Sabha constituency, Ambala, the Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh was also celebrated with great pomp at the state level under the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Tourism Minister towards some untouched aspects of Sikh history in my Lok Sabha constituency, Ambala. In my Lok Sabha constituency, there is Lakhnaur Sahib, where Guru Gobind Singh Ji's mother, Gujri Devi, lived. Ambala city has the historic Gurdwara Badshahi, where Guru Gobind Singh had said, 'Chidiyon se main baaj ladaoon, taan guroo govind sinh naam kahaoon.' There is the historic Gurdwara Pajokhra Sahib, where Guru Gobind Singh placed his hand on the head of a dumb person, and in the debate, he defeated the renowned scholars. Similarly, there is a historical Gurudwara of Nadda Sahib in Panchkula. There is a historic Gurudwara in

Kapalmochan Bilaspur in the Yamunanagar district, which is very historic from the viewpoint of attaining salvation, where a big fair is organised every year and lakhs of pilgrims come here. Similarly, there is Lohgarh Gurudwara, which was the capital of Banda Bahadur, one of the five beloveds of Guru Gobind Singh. The Hon. Chief Minister of Haryana also visited that place, understanding the importance of Lohgarh Gurudwara. Similarly, the Hon. Chief Minister Nadda Saheb of Panchkula also visited the historical Gurudwara. The Haryana government is also giving importance to these places from the tourism point of view. Therefore, keeping in mind the importance of the above-mentioned places, I demand from the Tourism Minister that just as you have created tourist circuits from a historical point of view in different parts of the country, in the same series, the Guru Govind Singh Circuit should be created in Ambala Lok Sabha on the lines of the Krishna Circuit of Kurukshetra district so that these historical places can be developed and tourists can get basic facilities.

(xv) Need to restore Haj embarkation point at Kozhikode Airport in Kerala

[English]

SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Kozhikode airport was sending one of the largest segments of Haj pilgrim. However, citing re-development of Kozhikode airport, the Haj embarkation was stopped a few years back. Though the work has been completed, it has not been brought back to Kozhikode airport. There is a huge demand to bring back the Haj embarkation point to Kozhikode once again. The Government of Kerala has also made a request to this effect.

This would also be a revenue earner for Kozhikode airport. It is, therefore, urged that the necessary steps may please be taken to restore the Haj embarkation point back to Kozhikode before the start of the Haj Pilgrimage this season.

(xvi) Problems faced by workers engaged in Cashew Processing Units in getting medical treatment

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): My constituency has a large number of cashew processing units and workers are mostly women. The workers who are ESI card holders have regular health problems while working at highly toxic conditions where deshelling of nuts is done.

The new ESI rule stipulates that to be eligible for treatment in an ESI dispensary/clinic, a card holder would have a minimum of 150 days attendance in a year. The work is seasonal totalling not more than 80/-working days a year, therefore the rule should be revoked and the minimum attendance should be lowered to the earlier level of 75 days a year.

The workers develop ailments/ complications requiring treatment by super specialists at super speciality hospitals. The revised rules deny this facility to cashew workers.

I urge the Centre Government to provide immediate relief to cashew workers on both the above counts on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

(xvii) Need to provide financial assistance to cotton growers who suffered loss of crops due to attack of pink ball worm in Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Cotton farmers in the State suffered loss in their yield this year due to a pink bollworm attack on cotton, the main production crop of Maharashtra. Farmers especially from Vidarbha and Marathwada's Yavatmal, Hingoli and Nanded, suffered most.

Expressing our concern over the damage to the crops of farmers, we had organised a 7-day protest at different places. The state government has not provided any help to the farmers in this regard. I request the government to provide financial assistance of Rs. 30800 for dry land and Rs. 37500 for irrigated land farmers to the affected farmers.

(xviii) Need to curb road accidents on National Highways in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI): As per the Union Government's millennium goal, the fatal accidents/deaths in road accidents in the country should be brought down to 50% by the year 2020. The State Government of Tamil Nadu have initiated many steps for road safety to reduce the number of accidents with the coordinated efforts of all stakeholder departments.

In Tamil Nadu, during the calendar year 2016, 10006 accidents had occurred killing 1631 persons on National Highways. During 2017, from January to October, 6912 accidents had occurred and 1153 persons were killed on National Highways.

There are 78 black spots in Tamil Nadu as identified on National Highways. Proposal has been sent to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways by Chennai NHAI office for sanctioning of funds to rectify these defects.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take concrete action to reduce the number of accidents on National Highways in Tamil Nadu and to sanction the funds required to rectify these 78 black spots in the interest of people of Tamil Nadu.

(xix) Need to allocate Rs 20 crore for archaeological excavations at Keezhadi near Madurai in Tamil Nadu

SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): The Tamil Civilization has 2000 years of continuous history and tradition. The excavations at Keezhadi, near Madurai by the Archaeological Survey of India, had provided concrete proof for the existence of a sophisticated urban settlement belonging to the golden era for Tamil culture, the Sangam Age.

Several archaeological evidences were found at Keezhadi including the ancient structures, ring wells, walls and platforms, large brick floors along with antiquities. Keezhadi excavations had revealed the remnants of urban settlements like a complex drainage systems with terracotta pipes and bigger platforms made of bricks and six furnaces, indicating Industrial activity. 74 Tamil Brahmi inscriptions on ancient potteries revealing Tamil names mentioned in Sangam literature were also discovered.

This is a great moment for all of us and if we excavate the 90 other sites along the Vaigai river, I am sure we will find many more ancient artifacts and archaeological evidences mentioned in Sangam literature of the great Madurai city, the capital of a glorious Sangam Tamil civilization. Thus for the

first time we have clinching evidences for Ancient Sangam age Vaigai river civilization similar to that of Indus Valley civilisation.

I urge the Government to allocate Rs. 20 Crore for conducting further excavations at Keezhadi and to establish an in situ Museum for which the Government of Tamil Nadu has provided 2 acres of land.

(xx) Need to withdraw the fee-hike in Navodaya Vidyalayas

SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA REJESHWARI SINGH (KANDHAMAL): The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas were established to provide quality education to the students who live in rural areas. Irrespective of their social-economic conditions, free education was provided to the prodigies selected from the centre level examination in order to ensure and promote quality education. This was a visionary step as it allowed these students to match with their urban counterpart. As per the Para 5. 14 and 5. 15 of National Policy on Education 1986, children with special talent or aptitude should be provided opportunity to groom at a faster pace, by making good quality education available to them, irrespective of their capacity to pay for it. Residential schools like Navodaya Vidyalayas, intended to serve their purpose, their broad aim will serve the objective of excellence coupled with equality and social justice for rural areas, SCs and STs to promote national integration by providing opportunities to talented children from different parts of the country to leave and learn together, to develop their full potential and Navodaya Vidyalayas are serving this purpose for more than three decades.

Navodaya Vidyalayas Society in the 35th Meeting under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, held on 31st August, 2017 has revised the Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi effective from 31st April, 2018. Subsequently by Ministry of H. R. D has revised the fees of Navodaya Vidyalayas vide its Letter No. 16 - 14/2017/NVS (SA) 135-136 dated 20/12/2017 which is against the objectives of New Education Policy 1986 and fundamental concept of establishing Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. This hike of fee will not only deprive the poor Rural talent to continue their education in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas but at the same time it will also divide the tender minds on the lines of rich and poor, reserved and unreserved elite and non-elite, and also against the feeling of Brotherhood, national integrity.

Therefore, it is requested that Ministry of Human Resource Development withdraw the Notice Dated on 20/12/17 and revoke the fee and fee-hike.

(xxi) Need to consider re-location of Central Cottage Emporium, Mumbai

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): The World famous Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIC), conceived in 1952, is the India's window to the world for over 60 years for authentic handloom and handicraft products. This gives Indian crafts its rightful place and enthuses the creative spirits of millions of crafts persons across the country and help them to earn a decent livelihood. In Mumbai, we have two branches of "Cottage Emporium" catering to vast clientele of domestic, foreign and NRI tourists.

Sadly the Management propose to close the Mumbai Emporium citing its financial non- viability. This is a retrograde step. I request the Government that the proposal to windup the Mumbai Emporium be dropped. An alternative site for leasing big showroom at Flora Fountain, south Mumbai is available at a very reasonable rate Rs. 90/- per square feet; this is owned by LIC of India Limited and has been offered to CCIC. This may be considered for location of the Mumbai Emporium.

The leasing of LIC showroom in Mumbai is the best option /opportunity for management to plan major Cottage Emporium

in Mumbai and restore the pride of Handloom & Handicrafts Industries in the commercial capital of India.

(xxii) Regarding Amaravati – Anantapur Expressway Project

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): The 394 kms long Amaravati-Anantapur Expressway would be the longest in the country which will not have any curves or turns. With the help of two feeder highways connecting Kurnool and Kadapa, this Expressway becomes nearly 600 kms long. This Expressway reduces the distance between Amaraviti and Anantapur by more than 100 kms and travel time by nearly 5 hours. So, this is a very important Expressway for Amaravati and Rayalaseema. This Expressway is the need of the hour since there is no proper connectivity between Rayalaseema and the new capital Amaravati.

The Minister for Road Transport and Highways has made an announcement at the India Transport Logistics Summit 2017 regarding Amaravati-Anantapur Expressway.

After bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the residuary State is left with little or no infrastructure and Government of India (GOI) assured that it would do everything for Andhra Pradesh (AP). So, this is one project which will open tremendous opportunities. But, some reports appearing in the media indicate that GOI wanted State to bear land acquisition cost by

including it under Grand Challenge of Bharatmala. AP is reeling under severe financial crunch hence, it is not possible for it to acquire land on its own.

In view of the above, I request the Minister of Road Transport and Highways to direct the officials concerned in the Ministry to immediately allot National Highway number to Amaravati-Anantapur Expressway without any further delay and take up the entire project and complete it before 2019.

(xxiii) Need to shift 2015-16 batch of MBBS students of Fathima Institute of Medical sciences, Andhra Pradesh to other medical college(s)

SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY (KADAPA): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the burning issue of the 2015-16 Batch MBBS students of Fathima Institute of Medical Sciences which is located in my Parliamentary Constituency, Kadapa of Andhra Pradesh State.

The admissions of 2015-16 Batch MBBS students have been rendered invalid by the Medical Council of India. Madam, this college is affiliated to Dr NTR University of Health Sciences and it did not get permission from MCI for admitting the students during the first and second phases of counselling for the year 2015-16. However, the college admitted 100 students during the third phase of counselling after obtaining an interim order from the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh. Admissions of these students were later cancelled by MCI forcing them to discontinue their studies after the verdict of Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh on April 23, 2016, i. e. , after 8 months of commencement of MBBS Course. Subsequent proposal for relocation of these students to other medical colleges in the state was rejected by MCI. The Hon'ble

Supreme Court dismissed the petition on 27th October, 2017 for relocation of students as the state government filed counter affidavit against the students' wishes by mentioning that it is not willing to forgo these 100 seats in the next academic year.

The students along with their parents are agitating for several months and our party president, the Leader of Opposition of Andhra Pradesh Assembly have requested Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to relocate these students to other medical colleges and save their future as they have already finished 2 academic years and a spent lot of money as well. Previously, when such types of situation arose in Kerala, the Kerala government passed ordinance and protected the future of the students who were studying medicine.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare to take up this issue with state government for either relocating these students to other medical colleges with the consent of MCI or issue an ordinance to protect the future of these students.

(xxiv) Need to provide Central share of arrears for Sarva Siksha Abhiyan project in Kannur district of Kerala

SHRIMATI P. K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been introduced to provide universal access and bridge gender and social category gaps in elementary education and improve the quality of learning as envisaged under RTE Act. Government have provided the above facilities and the SSA is sincerely contributing in such matters. Now it is facing financial constraints due to non-release of central share for the project. Total project cost of SSA during 2017-18 in Kannur District comes to Rs. 30. 9 crore. Out of which central share comes to 18. 58 crore and the remaining burden goes to the state government. But the Ministry of Human Resource Development has released only Rs. 7. 50 crores till date. The balance amount of Rs. 11. 08 crore needs to be released so as to meet the expenditure on construction of school buildings, toilets, distribution of Instruments to differently-abled, salary for the employees etc.

(xxv) Regarding execution of proposed rectification in BML Barwala Link Canal for the benefit of Haryana

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I would like to register here that Haryana is an agricultural state in which 70% of population are engaged in agriculture for their livelihood. However, the state has very limited sources of water for irrigation. The water scarcity in the state has become worse due to the unlawful delay in completion of Satluj Yamuna Link canal. In addition to this, the state of Haryana is also deprived of its right in BML Barwala Link Canal. The state Government of Punjab had submitted a proposal for rectification of BML Barwala link in year 2014. However, the Government of Punjab has not come forward to execute the proposal because of rejections raised by the Government of Rajasthan. Therefore, I urge the central Government to take over the issue in its hand and execute the proposed rectification in BML Barwala Link canal so that the state of Haryana gets its water share through this project.

(xxvi) Need to change the name of Dadupur Railway Station in Pratapgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh as Raniganj Railway Station and also improve passenger facilities there

[Translation]

KUNWAR HARIVANSH SINGH (PRATAPGARH): There has been continuous demand from my parliamentary area, Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh), traders of the Raniganj area, public representatives and lawyers and social workers to change the name of the station from Dadupur to Raniganj. Along with the provision of a passenger waiting room, passenger toilets and clean drinking water at the station, the dilapidated passenger shed should also be replaced. Raniganj is strong from the business point of view, and it is about 30 km from Pratapgarh district. Along with being far and being associated with historical and mythological importance, local traders, students and people of Nagar Panchayat Raniganj have to go to Pratapgarh railway station located at the district headquarters to get reservations. While from the business point of view, Dadupur (Raniganj) Railway Station, besides being situated on the Varanasi Railway route, is also a stronghold of businessmen from the strategic point of view. The stoppage of

the Lucknow-Varanasi Intercity Express (14219-14220) at this station should also be kept for 2 minutes in the public interest.

I request the Hon. Railway Minister to kindly grant immediate approval to the above-mentioned demand of the citizens of the area in the public interest and take action to resolve the problems.

(xxvii) Need to prevent and protect agricultural crops from damage by wild animals in Punjab

[English]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Large number of farmers in the country especially in Punjab have been affected by the wild animals. There are many incidents of the damage of crops by the wild animals. Many cases of human casualties have also happened. Earlier the issue has also been raised by me and by my fellow Members of Parliament but no permanent solution has been found till date. Since the problem still exists, I suggest that the Government of India should help the farmers by providing them the fencing wires on 50% subsidy and remaining 30% share by State Government and 20% by the farmers themselves. Similarly, the stray animals (Cattle & Dogs) have also become a serious problem. Many cases of human causalities have happened. Damage of crops of the farmers is also happening because of these stray animals. The Government of India should draft a policy to overcome such types of problems.

(xxviii)Need to complete the construction work of second terminal at Kollam Railway Station in Kerala

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The construction work of second terminal at Kollam railway station has been delayed. The delay is due to insufficiency of fund. The cost of work is below Rs. 10 crores. The work was announced in the railway Budget 2015-16. The work has not been completed till date. The work relating to second terminal is important. Kollam railway station is sandwiched between two National Highways. The second terminal is entry to one National Highway. The delay in completion is causing difficulty to the railway passengers and public. The passengers' amenity works such as escalator and lift had also been delayed.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to provide sufficient fund and direct the concerned to complete the second terminal work at Kollam Railway Station and ensure passenger amenity works in a time bound manner.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Adjournment motions have come to me, but I have not allowed any adjournment motion.

Chandumajra ji, I have said so. What do you want to call on?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Madam, the CD is being played, and it has also appeared in the newspapers that a Congress leader, Shri Jagdish Tytler, has admitted that he had killed a hundred Sikhs. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry.

…. *(Interruptions)*

12 20 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Non - implementation of the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisations Act, 2014 by the Union Government

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam Speaker, through you, I want to request all the Hon. TDP Members, under the leadership of Shri Chandrababu Naidu *garu,* from Andhra Pradesh that their demand regarding various developmental activities of Andhra Pradesh are very sensitive.

I want to request my friends, through you, Madam, that the Hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India are very sensitive about the development of Andhra Pradesh. … (*Interruptions*) Therefore, the matters that they are raising will be looked into. … (*Interruptions*)

Now, we are going to discuss another very important item, that is, Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. … (*Interruptions*) I would request all our friends from the Telugu

Desam Party, YSRCP as well as our friends from the Trinamool Congress and the BJD to cooperate and see that the whole day today and even by sitting late at night we shall transact the business and unanimously pass the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address for his Address to the Joint Session of the House. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: We have to start the discussion.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am requesting all of you.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam Speaker, our Member, Shri Rakesh Singh, is ready to move the Motion of Thanks. …

(*Interruptions*) I am requesting all of them to cooperate. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No, nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)[*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am requesting all of you to please cooperate. The President's Address has to be discussed.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please cooperate and go back to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am requesting all of you.

… (*Interruptions*)

[*] Not recorded

12 24 hrs

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): Madam Speaker, I preface:

"That a representation be presented to the President in the following words –

'That the members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has graciously delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on January 29th, 2018'."

Hon. Speaker Madam, I stand here to present a motion of thanks for the address given by the president to the parliament. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on such an important topic. I also express my gratitude to my party for giving me this opportunity. Madam, today we are discussing a very important topic.

Madam, we have a healthy tradition that when the president addresses both the houses of the parliament, then as a part of the tradition of expressing our gratitude to him, we express our views on our respective states and our respective regions through discussion in the House. That is why I would like to request all my respected colleagues standing here that we are having an important discussion, and hence I appeal to you that it would be better if you participated in the discussion and placed your views before this House.

Madam, the address of the Hon. President is not just a parliamentary process and our tradition, but it is also a reflection of the sentiments and expectations of the government and of our common people, women power, farmer brothers, labourers and various sections of the society living in this country.

Madam, we are responsible towards all the people living in our country. This is the character of democracy and also the beauty of democracy that we express our commitment towards the people. Through this sacred house we tell them what we are doing. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, at the beginning of his address, he has drawn attention to the statement of the architect of the country's

Constitution, Dr. Baba Saheb B. R. Ambedkar, that political democracy cannot be permanent without social and economic democracy. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, we also believe in the great idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam of our ancestors, and that is why for us everyone is equal. … (*Interruptions*) Be it any state, any religion, caste or class, for our government, everyone is part of one family under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi. … (*Interruptions*) Our government even considers the opposition as its partner in this Yagya of development. … (*Interruptions*) Therefore, in the very beginning, our Prime Minister had made this appeal that let us all come together and develop the country. …(*Interruptions*)

Madam, today a big change is visible in the country. … (*Interruptions*) People sitting here will agree with the fact that earlier, when discussions used to take place among the common man, then the discussions used to be about the scams, frauds and corruption of the government. … (*Interruptions*) After the government being mired in scandals in the last year, is it not a pleasant change that now the common man is talking about the development and achievements of the government…

(*Interruptions*) Now scams and corruption are not being discussed? . . . (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I believe that the cleanliness mission that the President talked about at the beginning of his address is an event that will turn history around. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, Before the Prime Minister spoke about toilets from the Red Fort, previous governments used to hesitate in even uttering this word. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, Despite this, cleanliness was at the top of Mahatma Gandhi's priorities. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, Our opposition colleagues should not feel bad that they spent 70 years as the successors of Gandhi ji's ideas, but cleanliness was never a priority for their governments, and our country continued to be embarrassed in front of the entire world because more than half of the population of the country was forced to defecate in the open. Our mothers and sisters in villages and slums of cities used to wait for darkness. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, But it was never thought about how much adverse effect it has on their health. … (*Interruptions*) But our government thought about this first, and keeping aside all the comments and ridicule that were repeatedly made by the opposition on this issue, the Prime

Minister talked about this subject again and again, and today its pleasant results are coming out.

Madam, today we hear that a daughter refused to marry just because there was no toilet in the house. Mothers stop their daughters from sitting in the palanquin because they say that they will not go to their in-laws' house until there is a toilet in the house. Was this possible earlier? Could this thought have been formed earlier? This was never possible in this country before this. Today there is change in that our mothers and sisters across the country are giving their blessings to the Prime Minister of this country, Shri Narendra Modi ji, for this protection of their honour. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, if we talk about leadership in the world, then we cannot imagine world leadership without meeting the standards of cleanliness. Our country's statistics for the year 2016 show that 60,700 children in the country die every year from diarrhoea, which is caused by open defecation. When the NDA Government had announced the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in October 2014, I would like the entire House to take note of the fact that when cleanliness was announced in the country in October 2014, the coverage of sanitation was only 39 percent. I would like to reiterate again that there was only 39 percent

coverage, and that too in the entire 70 years. Within three years since the launch of this campaign, this figure has reached 74 percent. Isn’t this a major change within the country? Today the country wants to know, the country is asking, who is the real successor of Mahatma Gandhi? Are they those people who, in his name, enjoyed power for 55 years in the country or those who, in just three years, worked to deliver Mahatma Gandhi's spectacles to every home as a symbol of cleanliness? … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, in the last three years, five and a half crore toilets have been constructed in the country. This is a historic figure in itself, but we still believe that there is much work left to be done. On the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, this government under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi is going to realise Gandhi ji's dream of making India free from open defecation. That’s why we are saying that the country is changing now. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, even after 70 years of independence, crores of people in the country are living below the poverty line. Poverty cannot be eradicated merely by raising the slogan of eradicate poverty. The slogan of Garibi Hatao can only turn the poor into a vote bank but cannot bring any real change in their lives. That

is why even after 70 years, crores of people in the country are either homeless or living in huts. We know very well that with the development of civilisation, our ancestors had developed the thought that a person should have his own roof over his head. When a mother gives birth to her child, she dreams that her child should open his eyes under her own roof. When a person is about to take his last breath, he also feels that when his eyes close, he should be inside his house, under his roof.

Madam, this thinking of our ancestors could not change the thinking of the governments for 70 years. That is unfortunate. In a democracy, it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that no person becomes homeless. People sitting here will completely agree with this, and we have been seeing such people in our respective parliamentary constituencies, streets, neighbourhoods, villages, etc., who are homeless, who do not have a permanent house to live in, who are living in huts, or who are living in shelters under trees. Unfortunately, we had nothing to offer them other than sympathy. Today the entire House will agree that now we, the responsible people sitting in the Parliament of this country, can tell them that we are going to give you your own house to live your life with full respect. The right to say this has come into the mind of the Prime

Minister of this country because of these homeless people. These poor people are also citizens of this country, and they should also get an opportunity to live a life with dignity. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, this is where the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' was started. … (*Interruptions*) In such a short time, till now 37 lakh houses have been approved in urban areas under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.’ … (*Interruptions*) There is a greater need for this in rural areas. … (*Interruptions*) 51 lakh houses have been built in the year 2017-18. …(*Interruptions*) The Government has set a target to construct another 51 lakh houses for the upcoming year, i.e., 2018-19. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, with full respect towards these poor people, our government has announced that by the year 2022, every homeless person in this country will be given a house; every eligible person will have his own roof over his head. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I would definitely like to talk about two poor families of my parliamentary constituency. … (*Interruptions*) All of us Hon. MPs sitting here would also have such examples. … (*Interruptions*) There is a district panchayat, Majhauli, in my parliamentary constituency. … (*Interruptions*) There is a

village under it. There is an 80-year-old Adivasi woman—Janaki Bai. … (*Interruptions*) Her husband died long ago. … (*Interruptions*) She has no child. … (*Interruptions*) She was a homeless woman. … (*Interruptions*) When that poor woman got her house under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana,' what that woman said is worth listening to. … (*Interruptions*) She said that God did not give me any child but at this stage of my life he gave me a son in the form of Prime Minister and that son gave me a house and now I will be able to take the last breath of my life peacefully in that house. … (*Interruptions*) Further, she said, May Modi live for ages. … (*Interruptions*) This is the blessing of an old mother whose eyes had dried up with tears. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, another example is also in my parliamentary constituency. Bhedaghat is a world-famous tourist destination. … (*Interruptions*) There is a village near it - Gopalpur. … (*Interruptions*) There is a person named Todu Lal there. … (*Interruptions*) For the last three generations, he had been living with his family in a hut made of mud, since the time of his forefathers. … (*Interruptions*) It was his compulsion. … (*Interruptions*) He had no choice. …(*Interruptions*) It was his and his family's dream to have a permanent house of his own.

… (*Interruptions*) When he got a house under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana,’ the construction work of which is still underway, I was told that he goes to see his house every day. … (*Interruptions*) Today, when I talk to Todu Lal, there are tears of joy in his eyes. … (*Interruptions*) Tears have dried up from one person's eyes, and there are tears of joy in the eyes of the other person; this is the change that the whole country is looking at today. …(*Interruptions*)

Madam, another topic is related to the poor—disaster. … (*Interruptions*) God forbid that any disaster should ever happen to anyone, because a disaster with a poor person brings double tragedy for him. … (*Interruptions*) On one hand, when that person leaves this world, on the other hand, his dependent family too is forced to wander from door to door because no security cover has been provided to the family since independence. … (*Interruptions*) But, our government said that the poor families should also get security cover. … (*Interruptions*) For just one rupee, a total of twelve rupees per year, a 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima' cover of two lakh rupees was given to his family. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, we are proud that this government has made available the world's cheapest insurance to the poor of this

country. … (*Interruptions*) This government has also given the benefit of ‘Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana’ to the poor of this country. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, the biggest thing is that in such a short time, more than 18 crore poor people of the country have been connected through these schemes. … (*Interruptions*) Not only this, but a claim amount of more than Rs. two thousand crore has also been received by their families. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, there is another very important subject. … (*Interruptions*) This question often comes to mind: why did the idea of connecting the poor to the banking system of the country not come to the mind of previous governments? … (*Interruptions*) Our previous governments raised many slogans of equality, but on the ground level they allowed economic inequality to persist. … (*Interruptions*) If a common man of the country joins the banking system of the country, then he becomes a part of the economy of that country, and with this concept, the Hon. Prime Minister moved forward, and when he announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana,' it was perhaps a record that one and a half crore accounts were opened in the country on the very first day. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, this scheme has created a record all over the world. … (*Interruptions*) The name of this project has appeared in the Guinness Book of World Records. … (*Interruptions*) So far 31 crore 1 lakh beneficiaries have deposited funds in banks. … (*Interruptions*) This is a picture of the transformation taking place in India.

Madam, this Government is inspired by Antyodaya, which is based on the philosophy of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji, which aims to provide essential facilities even to the person belonging to the lowest class of the society. Even after 68 years of independence of the country, when this government was in power in the year 2014, 18452 villages in the country were deprived of electricity facilities, but after our government came to power, in such a short time, within just three years, fifteen thousand villages were electrified, and it was also announced that electricity will be provided to the remaining villages by the year 2018. … (*Interruptions*) If the credit for this goes to anyone, then it goes to the Prime Minister of this country, Hon. Shri Narendra Modi. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, electricity has reached the country, but even today there are crores of people who do not have electricity. … (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I want to ask the previous

governments who used to talk about development, what kind of development is this? A large population of poor people see electricity in their villages and in their neighbourhoods, but they and their children have not been fortunate enough to get electricity in their homes in 70 years. … (*Interruptions*) Now under the Prime Minister Saubhagya Yojana, electricity is going to reach the homes of four crore people of the country, and that too free of cost. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I want to say with pride in the House that the day the electric bulb reaches their house, the real Diwali for those poor people will be on that day. … (*Interruptions*) What kind of a government is this that it took 70 years to make the poor feel the joy of Diwali, but today the picture is changing in the country? … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, this is also the first time in the country that today a handicapped person is named, addressed and called Divyaang, not because of any physical weakness or because of his address, but with a pleasant feeling of divinity. … (*Interruptions*) For their rights, this government has also implemented the Disabled People's Rights Act 2016, and not only this, but by giving a 4 percent reservation in government jobs and a 5 percent reservation in higher education, the

government has also provided an opportunity to that class to move forward. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, we will have to accept in this House that in the last 70 years all sections of the society have been used as vote banks. … (*Interruptions*) If this had not happened, then today the economically and educationally backward classes in the country would not have to struggle for justice. … (*Interruptions*) But this government made sincere efforts to ensure that they get justice and the OBC Commission gets constitutional recognition through constitutional amendment. This bill was also presented in the Parliament; the Lok Sabha passed it, but it could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha. … (*Interruptions*) In the coming times, this country will definitely want an answer from the Congress and its opposition partners as to why they played politics with this bill in the Rajya Sabha. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, it is said in our country that a healthy body and good mentality help in building a constructive society. … (*Interruptions*) We all know that illness makes even a rich person poor, and we are aware of what the poor have to do after that. … (*Interruptions*) A large part of the common man's income is spent on his treatment when he falls ill, but in this

year's budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance of the country, Mr. Arun Jaitley, took a historic step. … (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Minister of Finance has presented an example of being a responsible government to the entire world by launching the world's largest health care program, “Ayushman Bhava.” … (*Interruptions*) Around 50 crore people will be affected by this scheme, and every poor family that is a beneficiary under this scheme will not have to spend their own money on treatment up to around Rs. 5 lakh per year. … (*Interruptions*) I believe that this will be the biggest scheme in the field of health since India's independence. … (*Interruptions*) This is a historic scheme among all the schemes made for the poor in the country in the last 70 years, and after the implementation of this scheme, no poor person in this country will die due to lack of treatment. … (*Interruptions*) HON. Prime Minister has given a gift to the poor people of this country, and for this we express our gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with full respect towards the poor and his sensitivity. …(*Interruptions*)

We do not say that nothing has been thought about in the field of health or no work has been done in the field of health. Work was done in the country; hospitals with all facilities were built, and government hospitals were also built. These should

have been built; the country also needed them, but the people we are talking about are such poor people who cannot climb the stairs of those hospitals. They have a need; they are ill but cannot get treatment; they need medicines but cannot buy them; they need an operation but cannot get it done. These circumstances have been there in the country.

Different states started some schemes at their own level. I would like to mention my state Madhya Pradesh, where for the first time a scheme like the State Illness Assistance Scheme was started by the Chief Minister of our state. I have seen how after that people got free treatment up to Rs. two lakh for serious diseases, and because of that, so many lives were saved, which shows that if the government has the will and the government moves forward, then people can get facilities in the field of health also, but this is not enough. States have their own limited resources. There was a need that the poor should get cheap medicines, and if there is an operation, the necessary equipment for it should be available cheaply so that the middle and poor classes can be free from the worry of treatment. For this, the government of our country has opened more than three thousand Prime Minister Jan-Aushadhi Centres. I would like to repeat that here the poor have started getting eight hundred

types of medicines and surgical equipment at concessional rates.

Madam, this must have also happened for the first time in the country: the stents required by heart patients, which used to cost lakhs of rupees, the Government went ahead and fixed their price, and today those stents are available to the poor and common people of the country at 80 percent of the price. I would also like to congratulate our Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda ji for this under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Madam, the issue of independence of the country is often discussed. This country did not become independent just like that. Unfortunately, some people think that they and their party have a monopoly on the country's independence, but that is not true. Countless people have sacrificed their lives to achieve independence in the country, which included people from all sections of the society. We pay our tribute to all those people, but how many of them do we know today?

A large number of our tribal brothers have also sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggle, but that section of the country and society does not have any such legacy that can

make them proud of those sacrifices. Madam, there is a poem by Dinkar ji dedicated to such people.

"The countless small lamps of ours, on one shore in the storms,

"The countless small lamps of ours, on one shore in the storms,

Pen praise them today, Pen praise them today."

This poem is dedicated to those sacrifices.

Madam, to honour the sacrifice and contribution of these tribal fighters, our Government, under the leadership of Hon. Modi Ji, has started the work of establishing Tribal Freedom Struggle Museums in the country because this Government believes that now Governments should not merely pay floral tributes to the tribal patriots but should also pay them functional tributes.

Madam, another important decision has been taken by the Government to open Eklavya Model Tribal Schools in the country. The most important thing is that education will be given to them, skill development will also be theirs, and sports opportunities will also be available in this, but along with this, they will also have facilities to preserve their own local culture

in this school. The country wants to know whether they should not have received this pride. If this pride has been given to them after 70 years of independence today, all of us sitting in this House, together, want to express our gratitude to the Prime Minister of this country, who has not only worried about the sacrifice of ancestors of our tribal brothers but also the future of their future generations and their youth through Eklavya School.

Madam, our country is called an agricultural country. This is not without reason. (*Interruptions*) A large population of the country supports themselves, their families and the country's population of 130 crores through agriculture only.

Madam, agriculture is the lifeblood of any country because we all know that no matter how rich a person is, he eats only rice and roti. This life element has weakened in the last 70 years . . . (*Interruptions*) That too has happened when the population of our country is increasing every 10 years at a rate equal to any other country. Our friends sitting here know very well that many countries of the world, fearing the shortage of food grains, are going to other countries and buying land at high prices … (*Interruptions*) so that grains can be produced to send to their country. In such a situation, isn't it the responsibility of

all of us to keep the farmers of the country orientated towards farming? … (*Interruptions*) We wonder why the governments that have ruled the country since independence have neglected agriculture and farming so much?

Madam, we have some evidence: there has been no healthy policy for fertilisers, there has been no insistence on organic farming, and no irrigation plan has reached fruition. No effort was made to ensure that farmers' produce would have an exploitation-free market. Get a remunerative price for the produce . . . (*Interruptions*) No such thought came to their mind. Despite all this, we would like to salute the farmers of our country that despite these adverse conditions, if farming is visible in this form today, … (*Interruptions*) Behind it is the hard work and efforts of our farmer brothers and their own efforts, and not any contribution from previous governments.

Madam, we are grateful to the Central Government, which had made it clear after forming the government that not only does farming have to be made profitable by the year 2022, but also the income of the farmers has to be doubled. Many times our friends raise this question: how will the income be doubled? The Central Government is very serious about this. Income should double by the year 2022, farming should become

profitable, … (*Interruptions*) For this, the Agriculture Ministry is working on a seven-point plan in a very planned manner. We all know that 14 crore hectares of arable land are there in the country, . . . (*Interruptions*) out of which only 48 percent come under institutional irrigation. Our government has prepared a roadmap under the scheme 'Har Khet Ko Pani' with the objective of providing water to every farm in areas where less than 30 percent of farms are irrigated. Not only has a roadmap been prepared for this. . . (*Interruptions*) In fact, an amount of Rs. 2600 crore has also been initially approved. Work is also going on in the country under the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme.

Madam, I would like to say with great pride that this will be the first time in the country that the farm soil, which is like a mother to the farmer… (*Interruptions*) This government has also implemented the Soil Health Card Scheme for testing its health. Till now, in such a short time, Soil Health Cards have been distributed to more than 10 crore 41 lakh farmer brothers. When we talk about agriculture, I would also like to mention my state, Madhya Pradesh. … (*Interruptions*) Madhya Pradesh is today known all over the country for agriculture. Where the growth rate of agriculture has been recorded for the last few

years. This year also it has reached 29.08 percent at previous rates and 20.02 percent at constant prices. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, all this has happened because the Bharatiya Janata Party government means a farmer-friendly government. This has been the continuous result of the policies that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has continuously made in the interest of farmers. We all know that last year our Prime Minister had said Annadaata Sukhi Bhava., This was his prayer to God, but the farmers heard his prayer. After that, the confidence of the farmers was boosted. … (*Interruptions*) His faith in the country increased after that agriculture proved by producing record production that if the government has honesty in its mind, if the government's intention is clear, then the farmer never disappoints the country; more than two hundred and seventy-five million tonnes of food grains and more than three hundred million tonnes of fruits and vegetables have been produced. … (*Interruptions*)

We would like to express our gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Government that, taking care of the farmers, took the historic decision that the farmer should get one and a half times the profitable price of his produce. That is why today all of us in this House can say together that after this, farmers

in the country will not cry tears of blood. After this announcement, I received calls from many farmers from my parliamentary constituency ... (*Interruptions*) Farmer brothers called me and said that till now whenever the harvest time used to come, the crop used to ripen, and we used to worry that the crop was ready and had grown well, but what would happen - whether we would get a fair price or not - but now after this announcement, we can believe that we will be able to safely hand over the land inherited from our ancestors to our future generations. That farmer also said that my old father, sitting at his home, gave his blessings to the Hon. Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi. This is not the blessing of any one farmer of the country; rather, it is a symbol that after this announcement, crores of farmers of the country are blessing the Hon. Prime Minister and the Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, The government also decided that there are about 22,000 haats in the country; they should be developed as agricultural markets so that farmers are not exploited. This decision has been taken for the first time in the country. Everyone sitting here will agree with this. When we were in the opposition, we also fought for this. We have seen farmers in our areas struggling for urea, and we have seen them being

insulted. At that time governments used to say that we have enough urea, but it was not understood where the urea goes. ... . (*Interruptions*) Today we can say that the farmers knew where the urea was going, but despite that the farmers were left to struggle. Due to the sensitivity that the Hon. Prime Minister has towards farmers, it was decided that urea will now be neem coated. The entire House will agree that after Neem coating, urea became easily available to farmers as its black marketing stopped. ... (*Interruptions*) Governments could have taken this decision earlier also, but this decision was not taken. Not only this, but in order to make the country self-sufficient in the matter of fertilisers, the fertiliser factories, which were closed during the time of the Congress government, the Central Government decided to be restarted by the Central Government. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Ananth Kumar for this decision. … (*Interruptions*)

The farmer of the country has always depended on nature. If nature supported them, then the farmer would breathe a sigh of relief, and if there was a natural calamity, then the farmer would be in a miserable condition. The irony is that the

previous governments never thought about the fact that the farmer saves the country from hunger without caring about the sun and heat; he needs a protective shield that saves agriculture from natural calamities. No such thinking was seen in the government for the last 70 years. It got security cover, but it got it only when the country got the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. The crop insurance scheme was started, and the result was that in 2017, 5 crore 17 lakh farmers got protection cover under this scheme. I would like to express my gratitude to Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh ji for all these achievements under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I would like to thank him. … (*Interruptions*)

The government has taken another step with a view to increasing the income of farmers; our tribal brothers, people of Scheduled Castes, and small farming brothers will also benefit from this. That is, through the Indian Forest Act, 1927, bamboo has been excluded from the definition of tree. For this reason, this government has also done the work of making a large number of small farmers and tribal brothers self-reliant by giving them another way of farming.

13 00 hrs

Madam, today we can say that they will be able to cultivate with dignity on the piece of land inherited from their ancestors. Along with that, in the upcoming times, the country will also be self-sufficient in the matter of importing paper worth thousands of crores of rupees, and foreign currency will be saved.

Madam Speaker, there is gender inequality in our country. At present the percentage of the women population in the country is 48.67, and the literacy percentage has also not been very good. That is why our government started the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign.

Madam, respect for women has been our tradition. I want to dedicate some lines of a poet to the women of this country:

"My introduction is that I am the picture of India,

I feel the pain of those heroes who died for their motherland,

I am the daughter of those sons who are swinging with laughter.

I am the mother of the lions who struggled in the Rann courtyard,

My introduction is that I am the picture of India."

Madam, our country is the country of Gargi, Maitreyi, Jijamata, Rani Chennamma, Rani Durgavati, Rani Lakshmibai and Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, but despite having a woman Prime Minister and a woman president in the last 70 years, the women of this country used to collect wood and cook food on the stove fire. She used to bear the smoke coming out from it. This proves that a woman cannot be respected merely by respecting her position. If there is to be a comprehensive change in people's lives, then there must be the willpower within governments to do so. That willpower was demonstrated by the Prime Minister of this country, Narendra Modi, through the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Madam, today I am proud to say, this House will agree that Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has brought a revolution in the lives of women. This revolution is so widespread that out of the target of reaching five crore women under this scheme, gas connections and gas stoves have reached three crore thirty lakh women. Now the government has decided that it wants to increase this target from five crore to eight crore; that is, there will be a revolution in the families of eight crore women, there will be a change in their lives, and this pleasant change will happen because today there is a sensitive government in the

country. I would like to give an example from my area. In my Lok Sabha constituency there is Vanagar Assembly Constituency, and there is a Gram Panchayat Imliya, and in it there is Tekaria Village. Mamta Bai Kol, a tribal woman living in Sohjana village of Imliya Tekari, not only took advantage of this Ujjwala scheme but also went ahead and helped all the eligible women of her village to get the benefit of this scheme. Regarding this scheme, the woman says that earlier we used to be very cautious, but now the Prime Minister has made it easier for women to cook food and feed their children. It's a blessing for the Prime Minister of this country, which the women of this country are giving.

This country salutes the motherhood of women; we consider their motherhood to be a unique gift of nature. Hence, this government took an important decision to increase maternity leave from 12 weeks to 21 weeks. There might be some difference between housewives and working women, but there is a big difference between delivery and motherhood; that is why the government decided that maternity leave for them should be increased from 12 weeks to 21 weeks, that too with full pay. I want to say that if the economic condition of a woman becomes strong, then she becomes a participant in the

decision-making process; she develops her own power, and this power of our mothers and sisters is utilised in the development journey of the country. That is why the government has accepted it and made many efforts for empowerment.

Mudra Bank, the Prime Minister's Mudra Yojana, is an important scheme in itself. See the impact of this scheme: our mothers and sisters who were engaged in small jobs like making papad and pickles in villages and urban settlements and took loans from banks through this scheme have today become businesswomen, and not only have they become businesswomen, but they are also playing their role in the development of the country by providing employment to other women.

Madam, today the daughters of the country are making their name in every field. All of us sitting here must have seen that in the parade held on the occasion of Republic Day on 26th January, the entire House salutes the courage and valour displayed by the women cadets of BSF. The entire House salutes their spirit and patriotism.

Madam, I want to draw the attention of the House to another sensitive issue. We are called communal, and many illusions and statements are created to keep the minority

community away from us. Those political parties and governments who pretend to be the sympathisers of the minority community enjoyed power for years by making them their vote bank, but the country knows what happened to them in reality. That is why we are saying that Muslim women cannot go alone in this country even for religious activities like Hajj, and that is too when there was never such a restriction on women in other Muslim countries of the world, but there was this discrimination within our country. That is why the government decided that we will remove this ban while giving full respect to our Muslim mothers and sisters, and the government removed this ban.

Madam, for the first time since independence, 1300 of our mothers and sisters above the age of 45 are going on Haj without any male relatives and without any Mahram. What could be a bigger irony in this country than the fact that triple talaq is completely banned in most of the Muslim countries of the world? What could be a bigger irony in this secular country than the fact that triple talaq is completely banned in most of the Muslim countries of the world? The Hon. Prime Minister also considered this triple talaq illegal. Our government decided to allow Muslim women to live a life of self-reliance

and dignity by declaring triple talaq illegal, and we passed it in this House also, but once again Congress and opposition parties played politics on it in Rajya Sabha. Women of the country will also ask for an answer to this. That is why on the very first day of the budget session, the Hon. Prime Minister made an appeal to all opposition parties to come; let us all together give justice to Muslim women in this country. Now the time has come for this House to come together and abolish Triple Talaq to allow people to live a life free from fear and with self-respect. This time has come now. Whenever we talk about the soldiers deployed on our borders, our heads bow with respect. Those soldiers sacrifice their lives to protect the borders. These are the youth because of whom we can sleep peacefully in our homes. The honour of our soldiers must be protected, and that is why the Government has fulfilled the promise of One Rank One Pension and paid an amount of more than Rs. 10,000 crore to more than 20 lakh retired soldiers.

Madam Speaker, I remember, and many of the people sitting here would also know and feel this, that in our childhood when we used to see an aeroplane flying, we used to think that this flying bird can be seen only from a distance because it is the vehicle of the rich. This has been the belief of the people,

and it was correct too, but our government not only brought this flying bird down to the ground but also started the Udan scheme by bringing it down to the ground for the people. The objective of this Udan Yojana is that, on one hand, common people of the country should get its benefits, while on the other hand, development should reach small cities of the country. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Civil Aviation Minister of the country, Shri Ashok Gajapati Raju, and Jai Hind Sena for making this vision of the Hon. Prime Minister a reality.

13 10 hrs

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

Sir, in this development journey of the country, in this changing picture of the country, if we do not talk about foreign countries and foreign politics then it will be incomplete. …(*Interruptions*) We are proud that many historical and meaningful events have happened in the last three years under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister. …(*Interruptions*) I would like to mention one such incident, which has never happened before. …(*Interruptions*)

Sir, on this Republic Day the Heads of State of 10 ASEAN countries were our chief guests. This is an important historical

initiative of our foreign policy that the Heads of State of 10 countries came together on the soil of our country. … (*Interruptions*) People sitting here know very well that once upon a time our culture was dominant in Southeast Asia. The rituals of the Vedas were sung in these countries. The Vedas and Upanishads used to be part of the life here. … (*Interruptions*) Ramayana, Gita and Mahabharata were read here. The religious hymns of Tathagata Buddha have been a part of the daily activities here. There is only one country in the world that has depicted a Hindu temple on its national flag, and that country is Cambodia. But we have to think, how has our behaviour been with these countries since independence? There used to be no proper air connectivity with these countries, but today we are proud to say that our government is working to connect these countries not just through air connectivity but also through road links because all these countries were our natural friends and will remain so in the future too. That is why Modi ji has said that this government works on the policy of 'Act East' and not 'Look East'. A new equation will be formed in his regard. This will increase trade, and India will emerge much stronger on the international stage, and that is why I would like to thank the President, who has mentioned this as a

successful policy of our Government. Today we are very strongly connected with Indians spread across the world. Today we see our Foreign Department in a very proactive role.

Sir, another historical event has taken place in this country. On the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the NRI Parliamentarians Conference was organised. It was attended by 184 Indian expatriate MPs from twenty countries. A large number of these MPs are those whose ancestors were taken to various countries as indentured labourers, and it is a matter of pride for this country that the descendants of those Indians are today sitting in the Parliament of that country and determining the role of policy-makers of that country. The most important thing is that after coming to the country, he said that he was invited to come to this country in this form on the soil of his motherland for the first time when a personality like Narendra Modi sat on the seat of Prime Minister in the country.

Sir, today we are proud to say that in matters of foreign policy we used to be seen at the receiving end, but today we have an able leadership like Narendra Modi ji, and that is why our role has changed in the entire world. For the change in foreign policy that we are seeing today, I would like to express my gratitude to External Affairs Minister, Hon. Sushma Ji,

under the guidance of the Prime Minister. I would like to thank her also.

Sir, many people sitting in this House would have evidence of the fact that if a person from our own parliamentary constituencies is in trouble somewhere abroad and a message is sent to the Ministry of External Affairs of this country, then positive action has started. There are many examples of someone's wife coming to me crying that her husband was stuck in trouble abroad; we sent a message and after a few days the wife brought her husband with her, holding his hand and expressed her gratitude to the Government that because of this Government her husband returned home safely.

Hon. Chairperson, this shows the rapidity with which changes are taking place in the country. The Chabahar Port, which the President has mentioned in his address, is undoubtedly a historic event. Today we are capable of changing the political direction of the world, proof of which is the opening of Chabahar Port. Our friends sitting here who understand foreign policy know very well what the opening of Chabahar Port means, and for this, I thank and express my gratitude to the Hon. Nitin Gadkari ji, who played his role under the guidance of the Prime Minister.

Sir, this is the picture of changing India, to which I want to draw everyone's attention again and again. We will lead the world in the future. When this thing comes to us, there is a confidence behind it, because we have the power of youth and the strength of youth. The whole world is looking towards us because we are the youngest country in the world. 50 percent of India's population is below 25 years of age. 65 percent of the population is below 35 years of age, and it is estimated that by the year 2020 our average age will be only 29 years, which will be much less than 37 years in China and 48 years in Japan. I am happy to say in the House that the two works of providing opportunities and environment to the youth of the world's youngest country have been initiated by the Government of the country under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Modi Ji. Today, the youth in the country are getting the opportunity to become self-reliant through programs like Startup India, Standup India, Skill India Mission, and Mudra Yojana. We are seeing its change; go to any institute, and a positive change is visible there. Till now there was belief in white-collar labour in the country. No thought was developed regarding innovation. Yes, the people sitting here know very well that a company like Google was started in a small garage. The world's biggest

companies like Microsoft, Twitter, and Apple, also started at a very small scale. The youth of the country also knew this, but their compulsion was that they did not have such opportunities; they were also not given resources so that they could take inspiration from such companies and do something in their country, and hence doing white-collar jobs has been the priority of the youth of this country. To encourage the youth, the Central Government has started the scheme of Atal Incubation Centre; we are happy to say that for this, requests from more than two thousand educational institutions have reached NITI Aayog. Atal Tinkering Labs have also been approved in 2400 schools in the country, due to which more than 10 lakh children of this country are going to be prepared as innovators in the coming time. This is an example in independent India. Is this not enough to tell that an environment of innovation is being created among the youth, and this is happening because a confidence has been developed in them that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the entire country stands with them?

Sir, nearly 10 lakh 38 crore cases have been sanctioned in the country through schemes like Mudra Yojana and it is also important that more than 75 percent of them are women and

more than 50 percent are from Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes. These figures show how this government is working on the mantra of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas," and that is why we are repeatedly saying that our country is changing. I would like to urge my colleagues that let us join in the discussion of the Address together. All the members present in this House will agree that in the last three and a half years we have adopted a very tough attitude towards terrorism and terror, and hence we can say with pride that the internal security situation in the country looks much better than before.

Many incidents have already failed due to the high morale of our security forces. Due to the strict attitude of the Central Government, Naxalite incidents have also reduced. The morale of our paramilitary forces has also increased. For this, I also express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Shri Rajnath Singh ji, who is working under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, and congratulate him.

When we talk about making India prosperous, this is possible only when entrepreneurship increases in our country and businesses are simplified. We are happy to say that this is the first time since independence that we have achieved the

100th position in the Ease of Doing Business ranking by making a historic jump of 30 points. Not only this, but I would especially like to tell my colleagues from the Congress and other opposition parties to note that in the matter of electricity connection, in the protection of minority shareholders, and in the ease of getting loans, today India is seen in the top 30, which was never seen before.

Due to the willpower of the Prime Minister, the 'One Nation-One Tax' system was started, and we started GST. We hope and believe that its impact will be seen more rapidly in the times to come, which will lead to further rapid improvement in our ranking.

Even in the field of infrastructure, wonderful work has been done in the last three and a half years. The pace of construction of four-lane roads in the country appears to be more than double that of the previous government. During the UPA government, rural roads were constructed at a pace of only 69 kilometres per day. Today, the pace of construction is more than 133 km per day.

If the freight transport system and roads within the country are not developed, then the industry suffers the most losses due to it. When the industry suffers losses, it also impacts the

economic development of the country. Therefore, to overcome this problem, the 'Bharat Mala' project has been started under the leadership of the Prime Minister. This is a Rs. 5.35 crore project. We can proudly say that this project is going to bring revolutionary changes in the industrial sector and logistics of India.

When we talk of Indian Railways today and discuss it, then at least before my eyes a long picture of struggle begins to appear. As soon as I came to this House, I had to continuously struggle regarding the condition of railways. But today Indian Railways is seen in the role of a positive change. Modern coaches are being built for the convenience of passengers. For the development of the country and the development of railways, it was extremely necessary to lay new railway lines rapidly. During the UPA government, only 4.3 kilometres of railway lines were laid per day. Today, railway lines are being laid in the country at almost double the speed, i.e., 7.9 kilometres per day. This is a new face of our Indian Railways. Railways is more professional, more dynamic, more quick responding and accountable towards the passengers. For this, I would like to congratulate the Railway Minister Hon. Shri Piyush Goyal ji, and his colleagues working under the

leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, due to whom we are seeing this changed face of Indian Railways today.

Hon. Chairperson, today work has started on a new system within the country, which is an integrated transport system. In this, road, rail and water routes have been coordinated together so that passengers can travel without any hassle and travel without any trouble. Even after this, will we not accept that the country is changing?

There is a lot to say on this address of the President, but there is also a time constraint. Therefore, I would like to say that holding repeated elections in the country through the democratic system puts a heavy burden on the economy of the country. It is a very difficult task for political parties to raise resources for repeated elections. Therefore, the idea put forward by the President in his address to hold simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies is welcome. It seems difficult to implement it, but once it is implemented, on one hand it will reduce the burden on our economy, and on the other hand we will also be saved from the devaluation of political parties.

Sir, today there is a need for the opposition to also move forward with positive thinking. The people of the country have

given a lot of time to the Congress. Power has been in your hands most of the time. But today the country remembers you only for these four achievements—poverty, unemployment, corruption and family. But today change has come; the country has woken up. Today we can see the picture of a changing India. Change is taking place at a rapid pace in the country, and the important thing is that this change is reaching all sections of the society. The work of bringing to reality the Antyodaya vision envisioned by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya is underway. Such a system is being created within the country to make life easier for the person sitting at the lowest end of the society. It is the result of the efforts of the government that by the year 2019, all the villages of the country will be connected with paved roads. Electricity will reach all the villages of the country by the year 2022. Only when villages progress along with cities will a new India be created.

Sir, the President has rightly said in his address that this new India will not belong to any one party or any one ideology. It will belong to everyone and will be a symbol of everyone's hopes and aspirations. The dream of a new India is the dream of every Indian as well as of Hon. Narendra Modi. This address by the president is a mirror of how that will be realised. I would

like to quote some lines from a poet here. After listening to this poem, people sitting here will agree that the poet has quoted the sentiments of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi:

> "I had once seen a dream, which is today in every heartbeat; the intention of creating a new India is in my mind. A new India that has new confidence, a sparkle in its eyes, and a new joy. Where there is respect for every caste and every religion. Everyone should surrender to whoever has that goal. The speed with which we are moving towards progress, the whole world is saluting us from the other side. But this victory is incomplete as long as there is poverty here; now we have to free the country from this burden. We have to build the road that connects us to progress; we have to sing the song that the whole country can sing. Look at the new music that is present in every particle today. There is an intention to create a new India in my mind. There is an intention to create a new India in my mind."

With this view, I propose that we, the members of the House sitting in this House, express our gratitude to the President for the address given in the joint meeting of both the Houses gathered on 29th January, 2018. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Thanks, Sir, for providing me this opportunity. I rise to second the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Rakesh Singh *ji* on the Address of His Excellency, the President of India. … (*Interruptions*)

His Excellency, Shri Ram Nath Kovind *ji*, has referred to social justice in his Speech. He has also referred to the architect of our Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar *ji*, who used to say that political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy. … (*Interruptions*) Guided by this fundamental spirit of the Constitution, which is committed to the welfare of the weakest section, the Government is working towards strengthening of economic democracy and the social justice in India. … (*Interruptions*)

'Ease of Living for the common men was stressed upon in the Speech. As President has said, this being the guiding principle, Shri Narendra Modi-led Government is struggling hard day in, day out, to bring structural changes in the systems which have been spoiled and rotten in the last 60 years of the Congress Government. Congress could not change the system because they do not have the mindset to change … (*Interruption*) congress is not ready for any change. They want

people to stay as they are. Those who are poor people, uneducated, illiterate, they should remain illiterate. If they remain illiterate, they can be exploited. This is the thinking and the theory of the Congress Party. That is why, they also did not change and they did not attempt to change the situation in the country also.

It's a simple example, the Budget was being presented, till Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee came, in the evening at 5 o'clock. … (*Interruptions*) I was a student of political science. Till Atal Bihari Vajpayee *ji* changed it, nobody could understand why it was presented in the evening. … (*Interruptions*) that was convenient to the London people. For more than 55 years, they continued like this. … (*Interruptions*) Even they used to present the Budget on 28th February or 29th February. Ultimately, it was also probably done for the convenience of the Britishers. That was also continued till Modi *ji* came. Modi *ji* changed it last year. By doing so, now the funds are available just from the 1st of April itself when our Financial Year starts. … (*Interruptions*) I do not know why this was continued almost up to 70 years, 68 years. This was a really surprising thing. When such simple things they could not change, how can they change the country? … (*Interruption*) This is why, after ruling

for 60 years, the condition in the country was so pathetic. Now, Narendra Modi *ji*-led Government is trying to uplift the status of the people in all the fields, in all walks of life. This government is making every possible effort to raise their heads high. What did you do; even after ruling for 60 years out of 70 years, poverty in the country is more than 50 percent. Ultimately, what did you do? At least, in the last 10 years, you appointed five Committees. … (*Interruptions*) Committee after Committee were appointed; in the report of all the Committees, on an average, it was said that more 50 per cent of the people are below poverty line. Why did it happen? … (*Interruptions*) They are interrupting me but they know what happened 2014. Even you could not become the recognised Opposition. That's why keep patience to listen, it's not right to disturb.

Now, after the Davos summit, after release of the report, Rahul *ji* says, 'Modi *ji* should reply why 73 per cent of the assets is with one per cent of the people. ' He is asking a question to us after ruling for 58 years and recently ruling for 10 years. He is asking as to why it is so.

Actually, the present Government is trying to change the system of disproportionate assets. It is said that 73 per cent of the assets is with one per cent of people. This is proportionately

distributed among the people of the country. That is why, now, with the Benami Act and so many other acts including demonetization and everything, we are trying to unearth the assets which are in the form of 'benami'. The people have such assets because there was no action against anybody. We are trying to do that. But what was your mental status? Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia who was the then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, in a statement, said he was the guiding force for the Congress Economic Policy. He said, anyone who is earning more than Rs. 32 per day in urban areas and Rs. 26 per day in rural areas will not be considered as poor. Shri P. Chidambaram who had presented the highest number of Budgets, said, when the urban middle class can buy a bottle of a mineral water for Rs. 15 and ice cream for Rs. 20, why do they make so much of noise about price rise? This was the question raised by the then Finance Minister and recently, the former Finance Minister has also made a comment that if selling *Pakodas* selling is employment, then begging is also an employment. How is he insulting the poor people? First, you insulted the Narendra Bhai Modi for his selling *chai* during his childhood and now you are insulting *pakorawala.* The Congress people do not know about this. In Hubli-Dharwar,

there are so many people. I want to quote one incident. One person has completed BE Degree and even now, he is selling *pakoras*. Even he got the job. But he rejected that job because in selling *pakoras*, he was earning more. You are insulting those people. You are saying that selling *pakoras* is equivalent to begging. This means you do not respect dignity of labour. The dignity that should be for the labour, you have forgotten completely. One graduate has given the best interview in the TV. I have put it in my facebook. He is selling *kachori* for the last 30 years. Anchor asked him "will you go if you get any job? He replied that no I earn a lot here so I will not go from here. This is the mentality of the people. When Modi ji brought the banking sector closer to the people, due to that people are getting loans, Mudra loans. Because of that, they are not able to digest the changes that are taking place. That's what the mindset is. Shrimati Sheila Dikshit had ruled Delhi for 15 years. She had said that Rs. 650 is enough to support a family of five. In Rs. 600, he would get dal, rice and wheat. A family of five can easily meet their needs. Shri Montek Singh Ahluwali, Shri P. Chidambaram, Shrimati Sheila Dikshit and Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji had said this. While speaking in one function, Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji said that poverty is a mentality.

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selling *Pakodas* selling is employment, then begging is also an employment. How is he insulting the poor people? First, you insulted the Narendra Bhai Modi for his selling *chai* during his childhood and now you are insulting *pakorawala.* The Congress people do not know about this. In Hubli-Dharwar, there are so many people. I want to quote one incident. One person has completed BE Degree and even now, he is selling *pakoras*. Even he got the job. But he rejected that job because in selling *pakoras*, he was earning more. You are insulting those people. You are saying that selling *pakoras* is equivalent to begging. This means you do not respect dignity of labour. The dignity that should be for the labour, you have forgotten completely. One graduate has given the best interview in the TV. I have put it in my facebook. He is selling *kachori* for the last 30 years. Anchor asked him "will you go if you get any job? He replied that no I earn a lot here so I will not go from here. This is the mentality of the people. When Modi ji brought the banking sector closer to the people, due to that people are getting loans, Mudra loans. Because of that, they are not able to digest the changes that are taking place. That’s what the mindset is. Shrimati Sheila Dikshit had ruled Delhi for 15 years. She had said that Rs. 650 is enough to support a family

of five. In Rs. 600, he would get dal, rice and wheat. A family of five can easily meet their needs. Shri Montek Singh Ahluwali, Shri P. Chidambaram, Shrimati Sheila Dikshit and Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji had said this. While speaking in one function, Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji said that poverty is a mentality. They don't know anything about poverty. They don't know anything about poverty. He was born with a golden spoon.

That is why, he says it is a status of mentality. From Arjun Sengupta Committee to everybody, what did they say? I do not want to repeat it. It is all on record now how the country was ruled in the last 10 years by the UPA Government. Scam and corruption had become our identity. Fiscal deficit at one time was more than six per cent. In the world forums, whether it is in BRICS or others, as Arun Jaitley Ji used to put it in his own phrase, “I was shrinking in all the forums where India used to represent. ” May it be the World Economic Forum at Davos, BRICS, the United Nations, SAARC Summit, India’s voice was not there. As Jaitley Ji had said, India’s ‘I’ was missing. But today the entire world is eager to hear the voice of India through Shri Narendra Modi Ji because of the mature and strong leadership of India led by Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

Today, you see how the situation is. Even after the backing out of the United States in the Climate Change Agreement, because of the intervention of Modi Ji, that pact could be saved. It is still in force and it is only because of Shri Modi Ji. There was a time when people in the world were thinking that we may shrink but in just three-and-a-half years of Shri Narendra Modi Ji's led Government, today we are one of the fastest growing economies in the world, our ranking is seventh and very shortly we are going to become fifth largest economy in the world. This is the achievement of Shri Narendra Modi's Government.

Sir, there was a time when people had a lot faith in the political system and political leadership. When these people ruled, they ruled from Delhi to Delhi for more than 50-60 years. They were there in the state, they were there in the centre, they were there in the district panchayat, because of this corruption increased so much. I'll tell you what happened. You should sit down. That's why you left. I will tell you what all happened. When politicians used to move in the lane and bylane if the elders saw, if one person wearing white dress with a Gandhi *topi* on his head, when he wore that and went in a lane people used to greet him. People used to say this is our leader. After your rule, after ruling for 60 years, now the people have started

saying that if a politician passes by, they salute him but later they say that he has come to make someone fool.

13 44 hrs (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

That situation was brought because of the misrule of the Congress Party and mishandling of the Congress Party. Today, the credibility has so much increased. I am very proud to say as per the Pew Survey, 85 percent of Indians trust the national Government which does what is right for India. This number is more. Even in countries like Japan, Russia and France, 79 percent of Indians are satisfied with the way the democracy is functioning in India. People are happy, but they say that in democracy this is happening, that is happening, they keep on giving such speeches. After three-and-half years of the Narendra Modi Ji's rule, 88 per cent of the people feel that Narendra Modi Ji is the most popular leader in the country. 84 per cent of Indians look at BJP favourably. Ultimately, people's verdict is more important in democracy.

After 2014, we have won all the State elections except in Bihar and Delhi. We are ruling in 19 states. Even Shrimati Indira Gandhi ji, who was said to be the strongest leader, had ruled 18 States in those days. Today, Bharatiya Janata Party,

led by Shri Narendra Modi and Shri Amit Shah, is ruling in 19 States covering almost 70 percent of India. Around 35 years back, Madam, we were a Party of just two MPs and these people used to tease us by saying that your party is the party of . . . [1*] . …(*Interruptions*) But, now, the situation has changed.

The Hon. President has mentioned about Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business in his Speech. These are the two important aspects which have been covered by the Government led by Shri Narendra Modi ji.

I would like to refer to the President's Speech regarding ease of living. Narendra Modi ji first started the initiative of Ease of Doing Business. Our dependency on agriculture has gone up. As the population depending on agriculture has increased manifolds, the share of agricultural land has reduced. We see a family of three to four people dependent on the farming of one acre, two acres or half an acre of land.

Looking at the need of the hour, we need to provide alternative employment to the agricultural families. It means that one or two members of a farming family should engage in farming and the remaining members should be provided with

[*] [8*] Not recorded

an alternative source of employment. Otherwise, the upliftment of people would not happen. That is why, first we thought of Ease of Doing Business.

If we look at it, foreign direct investment, business and infrastructure projects had come to a complete standstill during the UPA regime. Today, the Foreign Direct Investment in India is about 60. 8 billion dollars against 36. 5 billion dollars in 2013-14, when they were ruling.

When India benefits, you say 'shame-shame', that is why people have placed you there. …(*Interruptions*) Now, after ease-of-doing-business we have thought about ease-of-living and the Prime Minister is thinking about it.

I do not want to go into the details of the Budget. But, this is the highest ever spending in the social sector, especially in the health sector. … (*Interruptions*)

Similarly, we need to invest more in agriculture because all these days investment was not done. Even before Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, connectivity to the rural India had never been thought of. It was Atal Bihar Vajpayee who sat in Delhi and thought of rural connectivity. … (*Interruptions*) He started the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to connect even the

habitations of 250 or 500 people with roads. Even today that scheme is continued. … (*Interruptions*)

Today, the Government of the day is investing in agriculture. This Budget has allocated about Rs. 14 lakh crore for the rural and agri sectors. This is the highest ever allocation. … (*Interruptions*)

Now, I come to the issue of NPAs. Recently, these people are giving too many statements. …(*Interruptions*) he banks have become financially weak because of the reckless disbursement of loans to some particular section, that is, *khas aadmi*. Though the banks were meant for *aam aadmi*, you made them work for *khaas aadmi*. So, banks were being . . . * during your days. But when a question was raised, one of your Ministers, Shri Salman Khurshid had said, I quote, "If we send industrialists to jail, we would be discouraging investment". This was his statement.

We never said 'send them to jail', but the way disbursement was done, it was not proper. How a loan was given to a person after restructuring, even though he did not have the capacity, loans were given to people like Mr Mallya without looking at

* Not recorded.

him. … (*Interruptions*) It was a plan to sink entire banks. …(*Interruptions*) That man ran away after sinking the banks and what we have done today, I would like to tell one more figure. Due to this attitude, the non-performing assets, which today stand at Rs. 9. 5 lakh crore, had been created during the UPA Government. You say that this has happened during the NDA Government. You suppressed the information by doing restructuring of loans. You suppressed it by doing restructuring etc. … (*Interruptions*) We created a system and brought it all out. What is the actual condition of the banks today?…(*Interruptions*) If any effort has been made to bring it out, it has been done by the government of Shri Narendra Modi ji. …(*Interruptions*) You should remember it. …(*Interruptions*) So, what we did, After unearthing this, what we did is that today, we are refinancing the banks. Our Government is pumping Rs. 88,000 crore into the banks directly and through bonds. Now, we are strengthening the banks so that they can refinance the poor people. You had created banks for the special people, but our Prime Minister has done a huge achievement. … (*Interruptions*) the biggest achievement of the Prime Minister is that he took the banks to the poor people. According to the Inter Media Survey done in 2014, during the

tenure of your Government, 50 percent of the people were out of the banking net. After the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, now more than 80 percent of the people are covered under the banking net. This happened in just six to seven months. This was the biggest achievement of this Government and it has gone into the Guinness Book of World Records also. More than 31 crore people opened bank accounts. You see the credibility of Modi ji. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana had envisaged zero balance accounts, but despite that, people deposited more than Rs. 73,000 crores. You say that NPAs were created during the tenure of our Government. Nothing can be greater . . . * and more untrue than this. … (*Interruptions*) You suppressed the information and we made it open.

For 31 crore people with Jan Dhan accounts, 23 crore RuPay cards have been issued with a minimum transaction. As a result, today, the last person in the queue and the most backward person is having a Rupay debit card or credit card, but you did not do it. You distributed debit cards and credit cards to the rich people and we took it to the poor people. That is the achievement of Shri Modi ji-led Government.

* Not recorded

Today, the Congress leaders, especially the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Siddaramaiah, are asking again and again where are the good days,…(*Interruptions*) Good days have not yet arrived, this is what you people are talking about. …(*Interruptions*) I would like to tell the Congress leaders, especially Shri Siddaramaiah and Shri Kharge, that they have misunderstood it. *Achche din* will not come to the Congress. That is why, you are feeling that good days have not come and are not going to come. … (*Interruptions*) You have misunderstood this. You must understand that good days are never going to come for the Congress. … (*Interruptions*) You be sure that the Congress will never have *Achche din*.

That is why in the coming days, bad days are going to come for you in Karnataka too, be careful. Now, I would like to tell this House as to how the things have changed in the country in the last few years. … (*Interruptions*) The *Economic Survey* says that the agricultural growth will accelerate from 1. 2 per cent to 4. 1 per cent in the current financial year. … (*Interruptions*) During 2017, under the Rabi and Kharif crops, 5,71,00,000 farmers have been provided with protective coverage under the *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*

(PMFBY) with a premium of 1. 5 per cent or 2 per cent. … (*Interruptions*)

What used to happen in the National Crop Insurance Scheme? … (*Interruptions*) The premium used to be Rs. 1,000, Rs. 2,000, Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 and the premium was deducted. The Prime Minister took a decision. We provide insurance for cars, scooters, houses, we provide insurance for people, nearly 70 percent of the agricultural community is purely dependent on the agricultural activities. … (*Interruptions*) There was no proper crop insurance for those poor people. … (*Interruptions*) This is now being given through the PMFBY with just 1. 2 per cent premium. … (*Interruptions*)

This was one of the recommendations that affordable crop insurance scheme should be there. … (*Interruptions*) The Swaminathan Committee also mentioned it, and this issue is now taken care of. … (*Interruptions*)

The Swaminathan Committee has also made one of the important recommendations, namely, 1. 5 times support price of the cost of production, and by announcing this in the Budget, the Government of India led by Shri Narendra Modi ji has taken a historic decision. … *(Interruptions*) This is one of the major

steps to upgrade whatever our dream is, our intention is to increase the income of farmers by 2020, we have done it, but what have they done?

In Karnataka, though the *Fasal Bima Yojana* is one of the best schemes, the State Government of Karnataka has not implemented it properly. … (*Interruptions*) Even today, Rs. 81 crore for 52,000 farmers is yet to be distributed. … (*Interruptions*) Why is it so? … (*Interruptions*) It is because it was mishandled. … (*Interruptions*) It has specially happened as far as the cotton and red chilli are concerned. … (*Interruptions*) Why has it happened like this with these crops? … (*Interruptions*) Madam, I would like to tell this House, through you, that the Report of the Crop Cutting Experiment, which was supposed to be presented to the insurance company, was not done. … (*Interruptions*) It was written like this in the agreement that the agreement is made by the state government, not the central government. What did the State Government do? … (*Interruptions*) The State Government did an agreement with a few of the insurance companies and in that they said especially for chilli and cotton that they will present the Crop Cutting Experiment Report for first plucking, second plucking and third plucking. … (*Interruptions*) Ultimately, they did not

submit it, but in the portal they have declared that you will get so much money under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and put it on the portal. It came on the portal, it came on the portal automatically, but even after coming on the portal, the insurance companies, which have been appointed by the Siddaramaiah Government are not ready to pay, and more than 52,000 farmers are yet to get their relief. … (*Interruptions*) Such a large number of people have participated in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana including both Rabi and Kharif.

Recently, in Haveri, when farmers went to demand the amount they were supposed to get under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government went there and lathi-charged them, they were arrested and all the farmers were put in jail. … (*Interruptions*)

14 00 hrs

They were arrested in midnight. What wrong have they done? They were demanding under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The said scheme is one of the best and most important schemes, which has a very minimum premium. Farmers went to the DC office. When they went to inquire about the amount of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, they

were arrested and put behind bars by the Siddaramaiah Government.

Crop cutting experiment which was supposed to be given to the insurance company, was not given. I asked the Principal Secretary, Karnataka as to why he did not submit. What they said is not surprising. When Modi *ji* has been implementing beautiful schemes for the farmers including the scheme on crop cutting experiment. Their response was - We do not have the manpower to do it in every Gram Panchayat. This is what the Siddaramaiah Government responded.

Look at the infrastructure. Congress ruled the country for 60 years. Especially in the last three years of the UPA II rule, only 69 km. rural roads were constructed. Today, the number is almost doubled – in 2013-14, 4,260 km. of National Highway roads were constructed. At present, we are constructing 30 km. per day. Today, in just a span of three years, the number has almost doubled. In 2016-17, we had already constructed 8,230 km. which is almost double of what had been constructed during the UPA regime. This has been made possible under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi *ji,* under whose guidance, Shri Nitin Gadkari is taking so much of pain for increasing the length of the National Highways.

During the UPA Government, for Karnataka, the CRF allotment was Rs. 170 crore but within three years of Modi *ji*'s Government, Rs. 5,580 crore has been allotted. But the Karnataka Government has called tenders to the tune of only 2,000 km. , and out of 200 odd projects, only 96 projects have been approved. This is the attitude towards the development of Karnataka. The total length of National Highways has also increased. They were constructing two km. per day, and we are constructing 30 km. per day.

As far as electricity is concerned, it has already been mentioned that India is a surplus country. We are the net exporter of electricity, as His Excellency, President has stated in his Address. But today in Karnataka in spite of country having surplus – in Karnataka too, Congress ruled for 40-45 years – only three to four hours electricity is supplied, that too for irrigation purposes. Within three hours, more than 30 times electricity supply is disrupted.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Ghar Yojana, free connection is provided to four crore people. This is the achievement of the NDA Government at the Centre.

Because of this attitude of the Siddaramaiah Government, 3500 farmers have committed suicide and he has given

'*Atmahatya Bhagya*' to the Karnataka farmers. For the Soil Health Card, we have given Rs. 10 crore and they have spent just Rs. 6 crores. As far as the Soil Health Card is concerned, only 38. 2 percent farmers have got the Soil Health Cards whereas for Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, ten crore rupees were given and you used six crore rupees. Not only this, they gave a big fortune to the Congress, the transfer fortune of the Siddaramaiah Government. ... (*Interruptions*) PWD officers, revenue officers, they were given full authority to transfer MLAs. ... (*Interruptions*) It has become the most attractive business in Karnataka. … *(Interruptions)*

Now, I would like to talk about LPG connection. A lot has been said about LPG connections, what did you do? Up till 1999, before Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee came, only 4. 35 crore LPG connections were given to the households in the country. 3. 5 Crore connections were given when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee came and the replacement of the cylinder was eased only during the Vajpayee Government. Before he came, getting an LPG connection was so difficult. Today, I would like to tell you that 8 crore connections are being given in this Budget. Already, more than 3. 3 crore connections have been issued. The people are cooking their food through LPG now. What was

in your tenure? In 80s, I am not telling the story of 50s, 60s and 70s.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: One day, I went to my home in the evening. my mother had called all the women from the neighbourhood for a tea party. it was in the evening and I asked my mother that why she called those women from the neighbourhood. I asked my mother, she said that cooking gas has come to our house so I am giving the party. … (*Interruptions*) it was in my house 20-30 years back. Today, every household in the village is getting the LPG connectivity. That is the achievement of this government. With the same companies like IOCL, HPCL and BPCL, you could have done it but you did not have the mindset to support the poor people. It was the core of the mind set. That is why, under UPA-I and UPA-II government, you distributed just 7 crore connexions out of which, after DBT, more than 3 crore connexions were cancelled. Now, with this, only by one simple call of shri narendra modi ji, more than 1. 2 crore people have given up their subsidy. This is the credibility of a leadership and you did

not have that credibility because you did not give the connexions. People didn't believe it.

Under UJALA Scheme, 28. 73 crore LED Bulbs have been distributed. More than Rs. 14,926 crore has been saved per year and 7,470 MW of peak demand has been reduced.

This has helped the environment and it has led to annual reduction of three crore tonne of carbon dioxide in India. In Karnataka, the Central Government has supplied 1. 88 crore LED bulbs as a result of which Rs. 991 crore is saved owing to reduced electricity consumption. What is the Karnataka Government doing? The name of the Ujala scheme has been changed to their name. All the money is ours. you are procuring led bulbs at the rate of Rs. 310 and we are procuring them at Rs. 38. We are providing led bulbs in Karnataka. You changed their name. The spokesperson of Congress is being made the brand ambassador and is being sent across the state with a bulb in her hand. Our work and your name. … (*Interruptions*) This is what is happening there. Similarly, you changed the name of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. You did not do it in the UPA. You were saying - Unfortune. … (*Interruptions*) recently the minister concerned in Karnataka gave a statement in the legislative council that under Anna Bhagya Scheme, 2. 1 lakh

metric tonnes of rice is supplied by the central government and 60,000 tonnes of rice is supplied by the state government every month. And the state government is publishing the picture of shri Siddaramaiah and calling it Anna Bhagya Scheme. Whatever food grains are available, from the Government of India and from the Narendra Modi government, but you are putting a photo of Siddaramaiah ji. even in the case of wheat, two thirds of the quantity is supplied by the central government and one third is supplied by the government of Karnataka. The central government is purchasing it at the rate of Rs. 32 and supplying it for Rs. 29. the state government is paying rs. 3 and yet putting their photos on that. Take gas, take LED, look at ration. As regards whatever is supplied from the Central Government fund, the State Government does not have even the courtesy – as far as LED bulbs is concerned, as far as Anna Bhagya is concerned – of putting the photograph of the Hon. Prime Minister who is supporting this cause. Keep in mind that when UPA Government was in power, in 2013 when Siddaramaiah Government came to power in Karnataka he announced Anna Bhagya. He approached the then UPA Government Minister asking for supply of more rice for Karnataka. At that time, the UPA Government rejected his

request. But, Narendra Modi Government supported Anna Bhagya because it is for the benefit of the poor people. But what is the State Government doing? Siddharamaya ji's photo has been put up. Anna Bhagya Scheme belong to Siddharamaya. You have named the Ujala Yojana as 'Hosabedku', we are giving bulbs in it and you are putting your name in it. People will not like your such work for a long time. The day has come for you to go to Karnataka. … (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. … (*Interruptions*)

Coming to fertilisers, India is a urea-surplus country today. We began to supply neem-coated urea. The earlier Government too could have done that. Why did it not do it? It has no answer for that question? After introducing neem-coated urea, today there is no problem in supply of urea anywhere in the country.

I remember, in 2005 when I became an MP, I was sitting in *dharna* on the road for getting urea from the Central Government. This was the situation. … (*Interruptions*)

You please sit down and listen to me. You will understand how you ruled the country for 60 years. … (*Interruptions*)

You are doing our fate by taking our money, the so called fate, but what is the law and order situation in Karnataka, you

are giving *murder bhagyas.* More than 23 people of the RSS, Sangh Parivar, and BJP have been murdered very recently. Of these 23, more than 15 are OBCs. Shri Siddharamaiah says that he is the champion of OBCs. … (*Interruptions*)

They keep talking about Ahind-Ahind , they talk about Dalits, minorities but out of the 23 people murdered, 15 or 16 are from OBC communities. Shri Siddharamaiah or his Ministers have not visited the kith and kin of those who have been murdered by PFI. … (*Interruptions*)

Popular front India people have murdered, murdered has been done by their hand but instead of visiting the houses of those people who have been murdered, Shri Siddharamaiah has withdrawn the cases against PFI; 1,700 cases have been withdrawn. Leave our workers. This is the state of affairs of law and order in Karnataka. … (*Interruptions*)

Hey look, let me say it. You should sit down. If anyone took the case of Mahadayi to the Supreme Court, then the Chief Minister of Goa was from the Congress. You listen first. You should sit down. On 24. 22. 2008, the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court. I would quote what he said in the affidavit. … (*Interruptions*) He has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying, ‘An

amicable settlement is not possible in the Mahadayi river water dispute though I have called meeting for 14 times. Hence I request the Supreme Court to constitute a tribunal. ' … (*Interruptions*)This is the affidavit of the Manmohan Singh Government in 2008. Who was ruling in 2008? With whose consent was that affidavit filed? … (*Interruptions*)

At that time, under the leadership of Shri Yediyurappa and Shri Ananthkumar, we went to Dr. Manmohan Singh to ask him not to file an affidavit like that. We told him that once a tribunal was constituted an amicable settlement would not be possible. … (*Interruptions*) The Prime Minister said, 'It is not possible. There is no possibility of negotiated settlement. ' … (*Interruptions*) He said, 'I am constituting the tribunal. ' Those people who constituted the tribunal and those people who said in the Supreme Court that an amicable solution was not possible are talking about Mahadayi. … (*Interruptions*)

When Shrimati Sonia Gandhi went to Goa in 2006, she made an announcement in an open meeting. Even today, press clippings are there. She said, 'For Karnataka, we are not going to give a single drop of water. ' … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I will conclude in another five minutes. … (*Interruptions*)

Even today, from the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party, we tried to request Hon. Shri Parikkar. He made one statement. … (*Interruptions*)

When the Maharashtra Chief Minister called for a meeting at Mumbai, we went and met him. Shri Ananthkumar and I went for the meeting. The then Chief Minister was Shri Parsekar. We requested him to participate in a meeting. … (*Interruptions*)

He was ready. He gave a statement. He called an all-party meeting. Congress closed down Goa. …(*Interruptions*) Congress created violence. Whatever efforts we may make, you want to play politics in Goa. Can you say why Dr. Manmohan Singh filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court? If you will reply to it, I will discuss the remaining things with you. … (*Interruptions*) Please sit down.

[Translation]

I was talking about murder fate; inflation came up in between, so I am replying about inflation. Even today, if Rahul

Gandhi and their President Shantaram Naik are allowed to say that whatever Parikar has written in the letter to Yadyurappa ji, I will support it. Let them give them a statement, we will try to do further. … (*Interruptions*) You talk of improving politics and here you fight for power. This is your problem.

[English]

I was talking about the 'murder *Bhagya*'. He has propagated the murder *Bhagya*. Not only RSS and BJP workers but also Gauri Lankesh and Kalburgi were murdered. It's been two years. ... (*Interruptions*) Gauri Lankesh murder is about to complete a year. They are totally clueless. Forget about catching and arresting one person, they do not know who has done it. Their job is to spread false propaganda. Congress has become habituated to speaking lies. What have they said that from Mahatma Gandhi till today whether it is Kalburgi or Gauri Lankesh, they do not know who has murdered them but they are telling that it has happened due to ideological reasons, this was done, that was done…(*Interruptions*) Meeting with some people and blaming the RSS has become a habit. …(*Interruptions*) They have not only given annoyance from the Centre, but have given death, exploitation and destruction. (*Interruptions*) They are harassing people.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana a sum of about Rs. 10 crore has been sanctioned as loans. A sum of Rs. 600 crore has been released for Karnataka which has got 1. 17 crore beneficiaries under this Yojana.

I have already talked about the *Shoshan Bhagya*. The harassment of officers in Karnataka is very high. SP Ganpati died under mysterious circumstances. The Supreme Court referred it to the CBI. On being referred to the CBI, the first accused named was . . . *, a Minister in the Siddaramaiah Government. He is not ready to resign till date.

HON. SPEAKER: Name will not go on record.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: So all I want to say is that the exploitation fare, murder fare and corruption fare. . . (*Interruptions*) he State Government has crossed all limits in three years. The Karnataka Government has taken a loan of Rs. 1,30,000 crore. If you calculate per capita average it will come to a loan of around Rs. . 37,000 per person residing in Karnataka.

In Arkawati denotification scam, on our insistence a judicial enquiry was initiated. Actually, we insisted for a CBI

* Not recorded

inquiry but they said that they will go for the judicial enquiry. The judicial enquiry commission has submitted its report but that has not been made public. This is the extent of corruption that is going on.

Lastly, I would like to thank Shri Narendra Modi for effectively controlling inflation which was almost in double digit under the UPA Government. Now it is well under control. The highest foreign exchange reserves which stand at 410 billion dollars has made India the fastest growing economy in the world. India is now ranked seven and shortly it is going to be the fifth largest economy in the world. During UPA Government India was being watched in the world forum as a sinking ship. From fragile five today we have almost become the fifth largest economy in the world.

I thank Shri Modi Ji for struggling day-in-and-day-out and working for more than 16 hours a day to uplift India. Vivekananda Ji had said that those who live for others, they only are alive and rest are more dead than alive. If someone is a living example for these words today, it is the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi… (*Interruptions*)

At the end, I will conclude my talk by telling a joke that come has on WhatsApp. in the beginning of my speech, I told

you how the poor people were treated in the UPA government. At the end of my speech, let me tell joke. "If you kill a chicken and eat it, it is a chicken party. If you kill a goat and eat it, it is a mutton party. If you kill poor people and eat, it is a. . . * ” The Congress party has never helped the poor and is not going to help them.

With these words, I once again thank His Excellency, the President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji, for addressing and enlightening the country through Joint Session of Parliament. I also second the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Rakesh Singh… (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I thank you very much and our Prime Minister and our leader, Shri Narendra Modi Ji as also Shri Ananth Kumar Ji for providing this opportunity to second this Motion… (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Address be presented to the President in the following terms:--

'That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on January 29, 2018'. "

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14 26 hrs

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Amendments to Motion of Thanks on The President's Address

HON. SPEAKER: I am again requesting all of you to go back to your seats.

Hon. Members whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their amendments, send slips at the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Only those amendments, slips in respect of which are received at the Table within the stipulated time, will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case Members find any discrepancy in the list, they may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officers at the Table immediately.

———

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down, Kharge ji will speak.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Thank you, Madam; you have given me an opportunity to speak. … (*Interruptions*) I would request you that the House is not in order. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam, please bring order in the House?… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please be seated, everyone. You cannot do that in front of any Hon. Member who speaks in the House. He is speaking. I am sorry.

… (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, please bring order in the House? … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Maybe they have learnt from you.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please keep it down. When he is speaking, you should not do something like that. You cannot paper in front of any Hon. Member. I am sorry. Please understand this. When he is speaking, do not do that. This is not fair.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, how can he speak in this environment? … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, you can speak from the back seat.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, you can control me, can't you control them? . . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You do the same. Now you can understand that when you do this, such disturbance occurs.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This is Government sponsored and is being done purposely … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am allowing you.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Let them go to that side and do it and not on this side … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge ji, you don't want to speak?

… (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, he is the leader of the Congress Party … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I know that but you were also doing the same thing. Such disruption has happened before as well.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHREE MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: These people are standing in front of me. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge ji, I said that you can go a little back and speak.

… (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If we would have stood before the Hon. Prime Minister, then would he have gone back and spoken? … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is not the proper thing that you are doing.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What you are doing is not allowed. I will now have to take your names. I will name you now. This is not proper. Since morning I have been requesting you to return to your seats. This is not proper. Do you not want to give thanks to the Hon. *Rashtrapati* ji?

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2. 45 p. m.

14 33 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

———

14 47 hrs

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

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

(*At this stage, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu Reddy and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge may speak now.

I am requesting all of you not to disturb the Member speaking. It is not a proper way to do so. You may stand here but do not disturb him and do not bring any paper before the Member speaking.

… (*Interruptions*)

14 48 hrs

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Speaker Madam, I am grateful that you have given me an opportunity to speak on the President's Address.

Our MPs from Andhra Pradesh did not get the rights that they should have gotten under the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act; they are here with that demand. Therefore, these people want the package that was given by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the provision that was made in the Act… (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Salim, why are you saying anything to them? You are not supposed to say anything.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Mohammad Salim ji,

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down. You are not supposed to say anything.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Their genuine demands need to be implemented … (*Interruptions*) That's why my party . . .

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: What are you doing? I am requesting you again and again not to do it. It is his right also. He is also a Member. Please go there.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam, the Prime Minister is sitting on that side. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The leaders of my party had written a letter. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: What can I do?

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam, Prime Minister, please answer. He is accountable.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, we asked the prime Minister about their problem. … (*Interruptions*) We're about to inform. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam, the prime minister is sitting inside the House and this House will carry on like this. … (*Interruptions*) The Prime Minister is accountable. He is still silent. … (*Interruptions*) He is silent on woman protection, silent on Andhra Pradesh. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, you speak.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, our party's Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee President had written a letter to our AICC President that he had appealed to Rahul Gandhi to fulfil the promises that we had made earlier, and we want to raise the same issues and tell him that as much as he is pained, we will put in all our strength and heart to implement the law and perform rituals regarding those things. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam, what is this? Madam, how will the discussion take place in the House in this manner? … (*Interruptions*) Madam, what is happening? … (*Interruptions*) Madam, how can a discussion take place like this? … (*Interruptions*) Madam, what is this? …(*Interruptions*) Madam, the Prime Minister is sitting in the House. … (*Interruptions*) The Prime Minister should answer this issue. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It does not happen like this.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam, The Prime Minister is sitting. … (*Interruptions*) He must answer it. … (*Interruptions*) He should answer for the injustice that is being done to Andhra Pradesh today. … (*Interruptions*) The Prime Minister, answer the injustice that is happening. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, would you like to speak?

…(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam, what is happening? … (*Interruptions*) Madam, there

is a total conspiracy of the Government in it… (*Interruptions*) Madam, how will the discussion go on here? … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3. 30 p. m.

14 56 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock

15 31 hrs

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

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

…(*Interruptions*)

15 32 hrs

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

…(*Interruptions*)

15 32 ½ hrs

(*At this stage, Y. V. Subba Reddy and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

15 33 hrs

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): I would like to begin my speech with a poem.

"Enmity should be fierce, but there should be scope for this,

Don't be embarrassed whenever we become friends."

Madam, Rakesh Singh Ji spoke time and again on this motion of thanks, and he told what we have done in 70 years and that in 70 years the Congress Party did nothing in this country, and in just four years he has done many such programs that are very beneficial for the public. After him, Joshi Saheb, who seconded it, said, What have you done in 60 years?. In telling this again and again, I feel that the work we did in 60 years, they have not been able to understand it in these four years. This means that they do not want to know our program, and they do not want to recognise the work that we have done. Therefore, I would like to say that with great foresight, Nehruji laid the foundation of five-year plans for the development of agriculture and industry. It was our first work. Today, the big

factories in the country, be it Bhilai, Bokaro, scientific laboratories, or huge dams like Bhakra-Nangal, Rihand, Hirakund, etc., are visible; all are the result of these schemes.

These are the contributions of these schemes. This is the gift of the Congress, which is feeding you today. Large public sector undertakings like BHEL and HAL were established, and in 1954 the Bhabha Atomic Energy Programme was launched at Trombay in India. In 1955, India installed its first computer, HEC-2M, and in 1961, India led the first meeting of non-aligned nations. Launched the Green Revolution in 1965 to get rid of external dependence for grains. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in the year 1969. In 1971, India gave Bangladesh freedom from Pakistan, and in 1974, India conducted a peaceful nuclear test, which shocked the world. Launched the Aryabhatta satellite in 1975, becoming one of the countries that have their own satellite. The truth is that from the ground to the sky, from infrastructure to rocket science, from battle tanks to missiles, from grain to milk production, wherever you point your finger, you will see the hard work and contribution of the Congress. Will you believe it? There will be a story of sacrifice and success for the country. We made our place as a self-reliant, capable and self-respecting

country in the world. Strengthened democracy. Kept democracy alive. Could you tell me what you did? Communal forces are raising their heads. The weaker sections are being suppressed. Freedom of speech has been taken away. Women and children are not safe. The NDA ministers did a very wise thing. Changed the name of every scheme of UPA and named it its own name. Whatever schemes they were, they changed the name of those schemes. I don't want to read that entire list because it is a very long list. These are the work of UPA. Where we had worked, it was reinaugurated by the Prime Minister. And I have a recent example. I respect the Prime Minister because he is the leader of this House, but the railway line from Bidar to Humnabad and from Humnabad to Gulbarga—I had already inaugurated that railway line in Humnabad, but someone told a lie to the Prime Minister and he again inaugurated it from Bidar to Gulbarga. If that happens, will that be your new job? There is not just one like that; take the railway line of Kashmir or the railway line of Arunachal. We did all these things, and today he inaugurated them. Then they ask us what we did in 60 years and ask us what you did. If we had not done anything, people would not be able to eat with full satisfaction.

The green revolution and the white revolution happened; if anybody is entitled to these, then it is the Congress. … (*Interruptions*) They are eating our food, drinking our water, drinking our milk and asking, What are you doing? … (*Interruptions*) The stomach does not fill with beautiful slogans and jumlas. I believe that important things like toilets are needed, especially for the dignity of women. But if you have food in your stomach, then you can remember the toilet. We used to procure wheat from America; they used to take it in line, but the production we produced in such a country is an example. Today the grain reserves are full, so Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji and Manmohan Singh ji did the work of giving three rupees per kg of rice and other things. People need to fill their stomachs. You don't remember what we've done. … (*Interruptions*) Our Prime Minister always says that Dr. Ambedkar made the Constitution for the poor; he always fought for them, and he always speaks in this House remembering Baba Saheb Ambedkar. … (*Interruptions*) The Constitution was written by Baba Saheb Ambedkar and many people like Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh Bhai Patel, and Malviya Ji have worked on it, but the foundation of democracy was laid by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and this Constitution was written by Baba

Saheb Ambedkar so that everyone gets equality and social justice, liberty, fraternity and democracy. … (*Interruptions*) I want to say that the Prime Minister always says that we are moving ahead with the ideals of Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Deendayal Upadhyaya is a hero; he has ideals, and we also want to follow his principles. On one hand you keep the principles of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, and on the other hand you keep the thoughts of Deendayal ji. How will these two be coordinated, because Deendayal Upadhyaya ji asks to follow Sanatan Dharma, and his ideology is above Sanatan Dharma; he wanted to bring Manusmriti. ... (*Interruptions*) Babasaheb did not give place to these things in the Constitution. ... (*Interruptions*) These two ideas cannot match, but you always go everywhere for this and keep changing the names and making new schemes in the name of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya ji.

Regarding controversial things and things that cannot be matched, the Prime Minister should say how he will coordinate them. Clean India is being promoted widely. Within five years, Rs 1,96,000 crore was to be spent in rural and urban areas, and eleven crore eleven lakh toilets were to be constructed. To date, only five crore fifty lakh toilets have been built. It means that

even the set targets could not be achieved. You are lagging behind even in the success that you are claiming.

Now I want to talk about "Aadhaar." We introduced Aadhaar because it was to be used for subsidies, and where there are leakages, there identification was to be used. But now personal accounts, telephone and personal information are being given to people by putting it on WhatsApp for five hundred rupees. Is it going right? We wanted to implement Aadhaar, but there was no way that would have been good for the people and right for the government as well. And we worked with that view. The misuse of "Aadhaar" today should be stopped. The intention with which it was brought is not being used. Your intention is different; you want to blackmail everyone by collecting all the information. You want to scare everyone and keep them in your control.

You said that the GDP growth rate is increasing. The highest GDP growth was 9.1% during the UPA government, but today in the NDA government, during the BJP rule, due to demonetisation, the growth rate came down to 5.6 percent, and now it has reached 6.3%. World rating agencies say it will be between 6.7% and 6.9%. Your economic report says that it will be 7 or 7.5 percent for the future. This is impossible because

you could not achieve the target that you had set. This year is an election year; it is difficult to achieve this target in this, and it has been made a fake promise just for the people.

Madam, everyone is worried about this. Therefore, everyone is worried because the prices of petrol and diesel have increased so much that it has become difficult for the common man today. Today, in the year 2018, the price of diesel is Rs 64 per litre. The price of petrol is Rs 72 per litre. This is at a time when the price of crude oil is much lower than in the year 2013-14. In our time it used to be 120-125 dollars per barrel. Today it has come down to 50-60 dollars a barrel, but those selling petrol and diesel are selling diesel at Rs 64 a litre and petrol at Rs 72 a litre. Tell me, where is this money going? From the year 2014 to the year 2017, excise duty has increased by 386 percent, and excise duty on petrol has increased by 126 percent. Petrol, which is the most expensive, has increased by Rs 9.48 per litre, and diesel, which is the most expensive, has increased by Rs 21. How much money are you saving from this? Every year one lakh 62 thousand crore is being saved. You have saved six lakh crore rupees so far. Where have you kept it? Under what scheme are you spending it? Within four years you have made a profit of six lakh crore, but which scheme is it in? How

much of it are you going to spend? How much profit have you made from it? Please tell me. You repeatedly say that good days will come, good days will come. There will be 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'; they have forgotten. They should give a new slogan. Instead of ‘Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas,’ he had said one more thing, ‘I would neither eat nor let others eat.’ It is in their minds that ‘I will not eat, I will not let them eat,’ but I will definitely feed my friends. They are feeding the corporate companies. They are feeding them by reducing the five percent tax. This is their attitude. Outside they say and all the BJP leaders say the same thing that Modi Saheb has said: 'I will neither eat nor let others eat.’ But they are definitely feeding their friends. Everyone knows it.

With 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' the poor, labourers and Dalits of the country have gotten nothing. Only those people who were big industrialist friends of the Prime Minister, rich people, got it; their loan of one lakh ten crore was waived off. But the poor farmers got nothing. Apart from this, Shri Rakesh Singh was just saying, and Joshi ji was also saying, that the non-performing asset was worth five lakh crore rupees during your time.

In fact, the amount, which was Rs 2.63 lac crores in the previous UPA government, has today jumped to Rs 9 lac crores. This is their achievement. Their progress is in such things.

Madam, you must have also read that the Oxfam agency report was tweeted by the AICC President, and we also read it in the newspaper. It has been stated that out of the wealth of Rs 20 lac crore generated in this country, 73 percent of the wealth has gone to only one percent of the people, and the remaining 27 percent has gone to 99 percent of the people. It is making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The wealth of the rich kept increasing day by day, and one percent of the people of this country own 58 percent of the total wealth of the country. Their money is increasing every year. On the other hand, 42 percent of the accumulated wealth is owned by the remaining 99 percent of people, which shows that the government has nothing for the poor, nor does it want to do anything.

I want to speak through you about reservations in promotions for SC/ST employees. The bill, which was brought forward by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, has been stopped there itself. It should be carried forward. Even after the arrival of Modi ji, it is not progressing. That is why I

want the reservation to go ahead with the Promotion Bill. that the Reservation should go ahead with the Promotion Bill.

16 00 hrs

Fourth, the Women Reservation Bill of 33 percent, for which the UPA Chairperson made so much effort—she met everyone and talked to all the parties—but to date that bill has not been passed. At least in the 17 sessions of this House, bring this reservation bill, pass it and show the concern you have for women. Work doesn't get done by talking; it gets done by working. That is why I would request you that this, which is a proper Bill for women, should be introduced and passed immediately. You yourself say that the representation of women in the Lok Sabha is only 11.8 percent… (*Interruptions*) There are 11 percent in Rajya Sabha and only 9 percent in state assemblies. Madam, you should at least take the lead and get it passed. We are behind you; we will fully support you. On this issue, it happened that when Shrimati Mahajan was its chairperson, it was passed. All India Judicial Service, Madam, this is very important, especially for SC-ST and backward classes. Just like you constituted the Union Public Service Commission, and just like there are Public Service Commissions in the states, similarly, if you establish the All

India Judicial Service and form it, then all the people will get its benefit, and then there will be no question of reservation. Whoever writes will be passed; he will get similar support from the session judge to the high court and supreme court. Madam, it is very important. I think that our Prime Minister will pay attention to this because he will not give reservations in the judiciary, which will now at least constitute the All India Judicial Service. Take the exam; if someone passes the exam, make him a session judge. You don't do anything; you tell people that you are working. You try it; do something. Instead of misleading people by just talking about small things, do such big things. Reservation for women, reservation for promotion of SC-ST, and reservation in the judiciary—talk about these.

The second thing is that the Prime Minister gave a very good speech in Davos. He also got publicity everywhere. It was told again and again on our television. He gave such a wonderful speech that perhaps no one had done so before. … (*Interruptions*) The investors who are coming, the people who come after listening to his speech, can be killed by any cow protectors, anywhere. Here is a dispute going on between non-vegetarians and vegetarians. Where you yourself say that in the name of cow protection, fights are taking place everywhere in

Rajasthan, Gujarat and U.P., and people are being killed. That is why it is published in the Swiss paper; all this is written in its editorial also. He said that on one hand these people are calling us for investment and on the other hand, in our own country, so many fights are happening in the name of religion, caste and food, and discrimination is happening there. How is that happening? I will also tell the name of that paper. That paper is with our Jakhar Saheb, but it is in the German language.

Another interesting thing is that a BJP leader, while launching a book, said, "We have learnt the art of forming the Government without even fighting the elections." He said, I'm not saying that. He is a great leader of the RSS, a spokesperson, and now a member of the Rajya Sabha. He said that "We have learnt the art of forming the Government without even fighting the election."

Madam, law and order are deteriorating everywhere. That is why the Supreme Court has sent a notice to the Centre and the states and has shown that all is not well in India; all is not well in Hindustan. That is why the Supreme Court is also interfering in this and saying, For how long will you not fix this?, because in front of everybody's eyes, there is the issue of

Gujarat, Mandsaur, the mistreatment of Dalit women, Faridabad, Banaskantha in Haryana and innocent Dalit children were burnt alive. These are all the things. From this you can guess how bad the law and order situation has become.

Wherever BJP people rule, wherever there is a BJP government, this happens the most. … (*Interruptions*) I will tell; I have the figures. … (*Interruptions*) I will tell you the name. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, in Kasganj in U. P., where people used to live together in harmony, the situation there is also getting worse now. … (*Interruptions*) Even the police could not control the incident that happened a hundred meters away from the station, because the Chief Minister of that place himself says that if someone creates trouble, then take the law into your own hands and open fire. … (*Interruptions*) If this continues, people will go out of control, law and order will deteriorate, and we will keep fighting with each other, and people will not live in peace. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, I am not saying this. … (*Interruptions*) It has been said by a DM of Bareilly. … (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Madam, what Kharge ji is saying about the Chief Hon. Minister of Uttar Pradesh is absolutely far from the truth. … (*Interruptions*) All this is baseless. … (*Interruptions*) It is wrong to make such false allegations against the Chief Minister who is not here and who will not be able to defend himself. … (*Interruptions*) Therefore, it should be removed completely from the record. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No, no. . . I have not taken anyone's name. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, I want to tell you that when the Bareilly DM told the true situation on Facebook, the Chief Minister expressed his displeasure and ordered an inquiry. … (*Interruptions*) A woman officer from Saharanpur has also expressed her views on Facebook that a truthful person has to apologise for saying the right thing. … (*Interruptions*) Don't you all read the newspaper? Such things are happening. … (*Interruptions*) This is the situation of law and order. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, the situation of employment is such that this government had promised to provide two crore jobs every year. … (*Interruptions*) Leave aside two crore; you did not even give one crore, but today, by giving employment to only 15 lac

people, by changing the figures in EPFO and ESIC, you are showing that it has become 55 lac. … (*Interruptions*) Because you got those people registered who had not registered for EPF, and after doing so, their number became 55 lakh, and you are telling those 55 lakh people that we have provided so many new jobs. … (*Interruptions*) That was an old employment. … Disruptions) How did this happen? … (*Interruptions*)

The second thing is that Yashwant Sinha ji, who was the Minister of Finance in the previous NDA government, has said - he has said, I have not said it, he has said - that after demonetisation, 20 lakh people have lost their jobs. … (*Interruptions*) But their Government still considers demonetisation to be successful. … (*Interruptions*) This is what the leader of his party said. … (*Interruptions*)

This is what the leader of his party said. …(*Interruptions*) They want to take credit for everything; they even want to take credit for demonetisation and believe that people are praising it. … (*Interruptions*) Everyone is very happy about it. Because poor people could not find jobs, the money that women had saved disappeared, construction stopped, and businesses stopped. …(*Interruptions*) Small traders were ruined. … (*Interruptions*) Because of it people are suffering even today,

but still you say that demonetisation was successful. Every economist in the world has rejected it. … (*Interruptions*) We said in this House that this is not right, but still they did not listen, because they are not in the habit of listening and correcting it after listening. … (*Interruptions*) They continued this thing and after that gave a new slogan that is Digital and Cashless Economy. … (*Interruptions*) They are again misleading people by talking about things like plastic money, Paytm, Bhim App, etc. … (*Interruptions*) All their exploits are visible in it. …(*Interruptions*) Along with this, by implementing GST, people have been troubled even more. We do not say that GST should not be implemented, but how it should be implemented and how much tax should be levied on which things—this is important. … (*Interruptions*) That is why all of us in this House together said that it should be capped at 18 percent. …(*Interruptions*) Do not increase it beyond 18 percent. …(*Interruptions*) You did not listen to anyone; you increased it, and after increasing it, today MSMEs and all the public and private sectors are finished. …(*Interruptions*) After this, the interesting thing is, when we said that the way of implementing GST is not good, then they did not agree, but when did they agree? When the Gujarat elections were

declared. Keeping the Gujarat elections in mind, the Minister of Finance reduced the prices of 200 things. …(*Interruptions*) Tax reduced on 200 items. …(*Interruptions*) Why did he do this? Because he had to win the elections in Gujarat, that is why he reduced taxes on 200 things. …(*Interruptions*) Now in the budget, because right now there are elections in seven states, there is also an election in Karnataka, so keeping this in mind, they have again reduced the tax on 300 things. …(*Interruptions*) Tax has been reduced on 500 things; this is an election stunt. …(*Interruptions*) We genuinely wanted that the poor should not suffer, the poor should not face any problems, and we will implement GST in this manner. …(*Interruptions*) We will accept it in this manner. …(*Interruptions*) You did not accept it. I will tell you the same thing, and people are saying the same thing. Listen to what people are saying. People are saying this, farmers are saying that, and farmers are committing suicide. Even small traders have become unemployed, and that is why their livelihood, business, etc., has all stopped. That is why people are saying, Oh water, what is your colour?, It becomes like whatever you mix it with. …(*Interruptions*) Just like our Jaitley Saheb is like water, whatever Modi Saheb said, he did this, he added some

more colour, and he did that. …(*Interruptions*) That is why water, oh water, what is your colour? It is like whatever you mix it with; if you mix it with black, you will get black; if you mix it with white, you will get white. Whatever colour of theirs they mix, they will tell you that. … (*Interruptions*)

The second thing is poverty eradication. I would say that their Chief Economic Advisor Subramanian ji said that during the UPA regime between the years 2005 and 2012, the pace of reduction in poverty was the fastest in the history of India. It was not me, his economic advisor said this in the year 2015. He further said that this was twice as fast as the previous decade, and more than fifteen crore people had been freed from poverty. This is what they say, not us, and yet they ask us what we have done. Your own people believe that during the UPA regime, 15 crore people came above the poverty line, and the benefit they got is because of our economic policy, they say. But you are not accepting it. To eradicate poverty, our leader, UPA Chairperson Manmohan Singh ji, had introduced schemes like NREGA to reduce poverty. The right to education was introduced so that children can be given education. The Food Security Act was brought in to feed people. We have taken such steps. There is no compliment for it; you have no words to

speak about it. You keep standing up and saying, What have you done in 70 years? What have you done in 60 years? We did all these things. You keep counting, and I will keep speaking. … (*Interruptions*)

Madam, you talk about agriculture. Growth of Gross Value Added in Agriculture Sector: The agriculture GDP registered by the UPA government between 2004-05 and 2013-14 had a growth rate of 3.7 percent. In the year 2013-14 it was 4.2 percent; in the year 2014-15 it went to minus, and in the year 2015-16 there has been an increase of only 1.1 percent. It can still be 1.9; it cannot be more than that. The Government says that the production of grains, fruits, and vegetables has increased. But the government does not say how much benefit the farmers have received. … (*Interruptions*)

The Prime Minister talked about potatoes, tomato and onions in Bengaluru. He said that we will promote such things and export them. But what is your position in exports? Agricultural exports had increased from Rs. 50,000 crore to Rs. 260,000 crore between 2004 and 2014. During the time of the Modi government in the year 2015-16, it reduced to Rs 2,10,000 crore. It came down from 260,000 to 210,000, meaning it decreased by Rs. 50,000 crores. They say that the

country is growing and moving forward. Where's he going? The middleman is eating all the money, the agents are eating, and the brokers are eating. But, you are saying that in agriculture, we are moving forward. … (*Interruptions*)

Second thing, it is important to look at the import. The import in the year 2013-14 was Rs. 90,000 crore. … Disruptions) How much was it? It was Rs 90 lakh crore. … (*Interruptions*) In the year 2015-16, it increased to Rs 1 lac 50 thousand crore, meaning the import increased by Rs 60 thousand crore, that is, the amount that was imported at that time, but today goods worth Rs 1 lac 50 thousand crore are imported. … (*Interruptions*) You did not provide any relief worth Rs 60 thousand crores to all the farmers who are engaged in agriculture in this country. … (*Interruptions*)

Finally, I want to talk about the suicides of the farmers. Maharashtra has the highest number of farmer suicides. (*Interruptions*) A total of 12602 people committed suicide in 2015, which was 42 percent more than in 2014. … (*Interruptions*) It is a serious issue. The UPA government under the leadership of Shri Manmohan Singh ji, including the UPA Chairperson, had waived off loans worth Rs. 72 thousand crores to alleviate the suffering of the farmers. …

(*Interruptions*) You waive off the loans of big people amounting to Rs. 1 lac 10 thousand crores, but you do not waive off the loans of the poor and farmers. … (*Interruptions*) That is why I would request you to at least waive off the loan, waive the loan. . . (*Interruptions*) We demand this, and we all say so. … (*Interruptions*)

You talk about MSP (*Interruptions*). Madam, I request you give them time as well. … (*Interruptions*) Give me as much time as you have given to Shri Rakesh Singh ji, not more than that. … (*Interruptions*) In the year 2014, you had talked about giving them the benefit of cost plus 50 percent, but what did you do in the Supreme Court when a case was filed regarding this? Then you gave an affidavit. … (*Interruptions*) The government gave an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying that we cannot do this because it was an election slogan. … (*Interruptions*) You gave an affidavit that you cannot pay cost plus 50 percent, so why did you say so? … (*Interruptions*) If you cannot give, why do you say so? . . . (*Interruptions*) You say something and do something else; that is why today farmers and poor people are all troubled, and they are saying:

"We were murdered in instalments like this,

Sometimes the dagger changed, sometimes the murderer changed'

Madam, this is the farmer saying this; this is the labourer saying this. … (*Interruptions*) Today, there is no job, no loan waiver, and no MSP, and when he is troubled by everything, he is saying this:

'We were murdered in installments like this; sometimes the dagger changed, sometimes the murderer changed.'

Madam, now I want to say something about MNREGA. … (*Interruptions*) Earlier you made fun of MNREGA, but I thank you that now you have realised it, because MNREGA is a need, MNREGA is a necessity. … (*Interruptions*) What the UPA Government had done is necessary, and now we will implement it. . . (*Interruptions*) But, what did you do while implementing? … (*Interruptions*) You kept only Rs. 60 thousand crore for this. If one person has to be given employment for a hundred days and there are four crore households below the poverty line in the country, even if three crore people come to work… (*Interruptions*)

At least if we consider today's minimum wage of Rs 300, then Rs 90 thousand crore will be required. You kept Rs 60

thousand crore, and you are saying that we are increasing it. Earlier it was Rs 40 thousand crore, then Rs 45 thousand crore, then Rs 50 thousand crore, then Rs 55 thousand crore. You don't say the number. The money that is required to give 100 days of work, which you should give under minimum wages, requires Rs. 90 thousand crore. You can't do this. … (*Interruptions*)

Nothing has happened in the skill development for years. They are telling the target of 2022 to fifty crore people. Whenever we request that at least this be the budget of 2019 and ask them what they are going to do with it, they always say that they have kept this for 2022 and 50 crore people. Who has received training in it so far? So, 1 crore 17 lakh people have received training in two years. 1 crore 17 lakh people have been given skill training. If we continue at this pace, it will take 75 years to train 50 crore people. This government is doing such things and saying that we are moving forward. … (*Interruptions*)

Now I come to corruption. Modi Ji always says, I will neither eat nor let others eat, but I will feed my loved ones. This issue has come up in the corporate sector. I want to ask that there has been so much debate here. When Bofors is discussed,

then there is debate; people stand up. When the issue of Augusta comes up, they stand up, so I want to ask, why did you not take steps in the Rafale deal? … (*Interruptions*) When our government was in power in the Rafale deal, its price was fixed at Rs 526 crore, but in your time, it is going to cost Rs 1,600 crore. Three times? Why? Where did it come from? How did it happen? Answer it. This was decided earlier, but later it did not happen. You had negotiated, you had gone yourself, and the industrialists had also come with you. Together, did you all buy it for Rs 526 crore or Rs 1,600 crore? I want to ask that when it increased three times, how far did it reach, how many fighter planes did you buy, how did you buy them, in what ways did you buy them, was it discussed in the Cabinet, and what things and what conditions led to this? We want an answer to this. Modi will answer it. … (*Interruptions*)

Finally, I would like to talk about the situation in Kashmir, foreign policy … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Not now, finish it now.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Attacks are happening in Kashmir day by day. Pakistan is attacking, killing our

soldiers every day. Earlier they used to say that if he fires one bullet, we will fire ten bullets; if he cuts one head, we will cut ten heads. Where is the 56-inch chest? … (*Interruptions*) So many people are leaving their homes; there has been a loss of Rs 75,000 crore; 75,000 people from the border are leaving their homes and coming out. They have to be stopped, they have to be protected, and you have to take steps for them. It is important to speak about how you will deal with Pakistan. You speak a lot abroad. … (*Interruptions*) but do not speak in the House. If he gives 100 speeches abroad, he will give one speech in the House. … (*Interruptions*) If he does that and goes, he won't come back, then tata bye-bye.

HON. SPEAKER: Your party's time is also over.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: After the arrival of new members, the number has increased by five. Five new members have come from Punjab.

HON. SPEAKER: I have extended his speech by five minutes. Give him the remaining papers, he will speak.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: How much money has been allocated for the National Health Project? Two thousand

crore rupees for a population of fifty thousand. … (*Interruptions*) Rs 2000 crore for 50 crore people; Rs 2000 crore does not even give Rs 40 to a person. I am not saying this, but everyone is saying it. This is an election fake promise, an election stunt; this has been done for the elections, and it is not going to be implemented. This is just to say. … (*Interruptions*) It is not known what kind of improvements will be made in it, whether the rules will be changed, or which disease will be identified in it. … (*Interruptions*) That is why this scheme is only for showing in the mirror; it is not meant to be implemented.

Madam, remove the criminalisation of triple talaq. We will help regarding triple talaq, but you were so adamant. We said send it to the standing committee, but you did not. … (*Interruptions*) On the contrary, they are attacking us by saying that Congress is opposing it and Congress is stopping it. Congress is helping, but who will feed the parents of those who will go to jail later? How will they provide maintenance to their wives? Who will feed their children? … (*Interruptions*) It should be improved.

HON. SPEAKER: Now finish by reciting the poem.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: People are yearning for water; I also want to drink some water. Water is a huge issue in Karnataka; it is a Karnataka and Goa issue. The Prime Minister is sitting here. . . (*Interruptions*) I appeal to them that it is a question of people's drinking water. We should get 7.5 TMC of water from the Mandovi River. … (*Interruptions*) For this you intervene and mediate; if there is a dispute among the states and they do not agree, then the Prime Minister interferes. A similar thing had come up; a similar thing had happened earlier, when Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra had given 50 TMC of drinking water to Tamil Nadu during the time of Indira Gandhi. Take that kind of historic decision. Modi Ji, I request that if you take such a historic decision, then at least you will provide water to one and a half crore people. ... . (*Interruptions*)

In the end, I want to say that the present government has failed at every step so far and has not been able to fulfil any of its promises. Modiji, who repeatedly dreams of a Congress-free state, recently said in Karnataka that he will make the state Congress-free. ... (*Interruptions*)

In the end I want to say that Congress free India is a dream.

Modi Sir, try your best to bury us in the ground,

Maybe you don't know that we are seeds,

It's our habit to grow again and again.

No matter how much you try to mix in the soil, we are seeds; we grow again and again. You cannot finish us; we will not end. Come and sit here and answer at this place. Thank you.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

(approx. 40 pages)

HON. SPEAKER: Arun Jaitley ji, some papers were left unfinished.

… (*Interruptions*)

[English]

16 37 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE. . . Contd.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy of Notification No. 24/2018-Cusotms (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 6th February, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to further amend Notification No. 50/2017-Customs dated 30. 6. 2017 so as to increase import duty on sugar (Raw sugar, Refined or White sugar, Raw sugar if imported by bulk consumer) under tariff head 1701, from the present 50% to 100% with immediate effect and without an end date under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8701/16/18)

(2) A copy of Notification No. 25/2018-Cusotms (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 6th February, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to increase BCD tariff rate on Chana (chickpeas), falling under Tariff heading 0713 20 00, of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 from 30% to 40% under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the said Act.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 8702/16/18)

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16 37 ½ hrs

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

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, any Hon. Member who wishes to give his written speech may do so on the Table of the House. Please give it typed or written in clear letters; this is my request.

[English]

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): I rise to thank the Hon. President for his Address to both the Houses of Parliament, which he delivered on 29th January, 2018.

16 38 hrs

(Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

To begin with, I would like to sadly say that it is a very dull Address. Presently, people of India are facing great challenges - farmers are desperate; youths are not getting employment; common man is facing unprecedented rise in the prices of essential commodities etc.; Tamil Nadu fishermen are continuously being harassed and the President's Address did not mention how it is going to address these challenges.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, coming to the Address, as it is, at page 2 of the Address, the Hon. President mentioned about the provision for 26 weeks' paid leave for working women by amending the Maternity Benefit Act. I would like to proudly point out that the Tamil Nadu Government had already extended this benefit to women in Tamil Nadu by giving 9 months or 217 days' paid leave to such woman employees. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also giving Rs. 18,000 to poor pregnant women under Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme, as per our party's election manifesto of 2016.

The President mentioned about removing the difficulties faced by the farmers and to raise their standard of living. But whenever drought or flood occurs, it is the farming community, which is worst affected; and this happens perennially. There is a huge agrarian crisis throughout the country. Over the years, thousands of farmers had committed suicide. Here, I would request the Government to consider waiver of loans taken by the farmers so that they come out of their present difficulties … (*Interruptions*)

Moreover, the farmers of Tamil Nadu are dependent on Cauvery waters for farming; and due to the unavailability of Cauvery water, the delta farmers of Tamil Nadu are facing

distress. The sharing of Cauvery water by Karnataka is still under dispute. The Cauvery River Water Dispute Tribunal had mandated setting up of Cauvery Management Board to ensure implementation of its final order on sharing of water between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. I demand from the Government to immediately constitute the Cauvery Management Board … (*Interruptions*)

16 41 hrs

(*At this stage, Shri Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while the President's Address talks about dairy sector, I am sorry to state that it does not make a mention about Fisheries Sector and the plight of the Tamil fishermen who are being harassed on a daily basis. Fishermen issue is a frustrating issue with no end in sight. It is lingering on for several years without a permanent solution. This is an issue of livelihood of lakhs of fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the worst part of it is that presently, the Sri Lankan Parliament has passed the Foreign Fishing Vessels Bill giving powers to the Sri Lankan

Government to impose huge penalties running into crores of rupees, longer incarceration of captured fishermen and also confiscation and final disposal of fishing trawlers and gears of the Tamilian fishermen.

Ordinarily, the Sri Lankan Navy personnel capture Tamilian fishermen even when they fish peacefully in their traditional waters, take them to Sri Lanka, put them in jail and harass them. And, now, with the passage of this Bill, which is a unilateral move on the part of Sri Lanka, the fishermen are a worried lot, left completely at the mercy of Sri Lanka. There is a widespread resentment and panic among them. I would request the Centre to use its diplomatic might to prevail upon Sri Lanka not to implement this Act and to save Tamil fishermen from the agony … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. P. Venugopal, one minute please.

16 43 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS. ... . . Contd.

Re: Non - implementation of the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisations Act, 2014 by the Union Government

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister wants to say something regarding the issue concerning Andhra Pradesh.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, my Hon. Friends from Andhra Pradesh have been raising this issue with regard to the Special Package for Andhra Pradesh. I have earlier also said that the Central Government is completely committed to the package.

Let me just acquaint them … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): There is nothing in the Budget in this regard … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Two years ago, the package had been announced; and the package itself involve that as a Special Category State, you get 90:10 from the Centre in terms of Central Sector Schemes and the normal States will get 60:40. The difference is 30 per cent. So, the State had suggested that this 30 per cent for five years should be given by way of Externally Aided Programmes. Now, these Externally Aided Projects have to be cleared by the external agencies, which takes time.

So, now, the State has made a proposal that instead of Externally Aided Projects, it should be done from NABARD. There is some issue with regard to in whose fiscal deficit that will go. So, in order to get out of that situation, I have had a discussion with the friends from Andhra Pradesh today, and we have asked the Expenditure Secretary to work out the details of an extra budgetary mechanism that the quantum of amount will remain the same, and that assistance, therefore, can be made available to the State in a manner. I think, he has invited the Finance Secretary of Andhra Pradesh to fix the procedures. Our officers will fixt it; and I am sure that this will be done.

As a Centre, let me reassert that whatever is given in the Andhra Pradesh Organisation Act, we stand fully committed to every aspect of it … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Dr. P. Venugopal, may continue.

… (*Interruptions*)

16 44 hrs

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

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): In this regard, I also request the Government to rescind the two unconstitutional agreements signed in 1972 and 1974 and retrieve Katchatheevu which will only restore the traditional fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen.

As regards fisheries sector in general, the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has requested for a Comprehensive Special Package for Diversification of Fisheries through his Memorandum submitted to the Hon. Prime Minister on 27th February, 2017. It is for a total of Rs. 1650 crore with a recurring component of Rs. 10 crore. I request the Centre to kindly approve this at the earliest.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, here, I may also point out that the Government of India had sanctioned construction of five fishing harbours in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 521 crore, of which Rs. 298 crore was committed as the Centre's share. Though the construction of fishing harbours is nearing completion, Centre's release of Rs. 143 crore is still pending. I

request the Centre to look into this and release the Centre's share.

The President mentions about ensuring the availability of two square meals to poor persons. Here, I would like to state that the Government of Tamil Nadu is already giving 20 kilograms of cost-free rice to nearly 1. 85 crore cardholders.

16 47 hrs

(At this stage, Dr. Ravindra Babu and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.)

While the President makes a mention about women's empowerment, I am sorry to say that it did not mention about political empowerment of women. The Bill to reserve 33 per cent of seats for women in legislatures is pending and it has not yet seen the light of the day. In Tamil Nadu, we have given 50 per cent reservation of seats for women in local bodies. I request the Government to bring forward the Women Reservation Bill and pass it during the current Lok Sabha.

Even though the Address mentions about the Railways, it did not make a mention about solution to the problems being faced in Railways.

Coming to railway infrastructure, the less said the better. I welcome the Government's initiative for introducing Bullet Trains. At the same time, the Government should strengthen the railway infrastructure so as to avoid accidents, one of the major reasons for this being rail fracture.

As regards recruitment in railways, during the last nearly ten years, there have been widespread malpractices and irregularities. If one browses through the list of appointees, particularly, in the Southern Railways, one would know it. Here, I would like to plead with the Centre to leave the recruitment process of Group C & D employees to the Zonal Railways, instead of doing it at the All-India level.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the youth. Youths, who have completed Act Apprenticeship course, are yet to be employed in the Railways. It is because of the introduction of only 20 per cent reservation for the Course Completed Act Apprentices. Throughout the country, there are more than 20,000 such apprentices. Those who have completed this course with the hope that they will be absorbed in the Railways, which was the practice till some years back, they are undergoing mental agony due to their uncertain future. It is reliably learnt that there are about 1,70,000 vacancies in the

Railways, in which they could easily be absorbed. I request the Railway Minister to consider sympathetically the plight of those people and grant one-time relaxation from the present rule so that they are employed in the Railways.

The policy related to Defence manufacturing sector has been mentioned. I would like to mention about a shocking decision taken by the Government to grant Rs. 10,000 as uniform allowance to our brave soldiers, in place of stitched uniform. I would like to remind the House about a report which stated that one of the reasons why India had a setback in the 1962 war with China, was non-provision of suitable uniform to our soldiers. This led to the establishment of Ordnance Clothing Factories, including one in Avadi, Chennai, which is in my constituency. Since then, for the last more than 50 years, the OCF has been manufacturing several types of strategic combat uniforms, required for the Armed Forces.

Hence, the implementation of the decision of the Govt. to grant Uniform Allowance would make 12,000 permanent defence civilian employees jobless, which includes nearly 2000 women employees. Moreover, asking the employees to purchase uniforms from the market would not only jeopardize the uniformity in their dresses, but also would lead to purchase

of poor quality uniform, endangering their lives, and also would pose a threat to the national security. Hence, I request the Government to kindly intervene immediately and withdraw this order for the sake of Armed Forces of our country.

With regard to recruitment of civilians in defence particularly in HUF and OCF Avadi, I am dismayed to see that malpractices have taken place, including impersonation, for which three persons had been arrested. It is a two-three years old case. We do not know what happened to that now. I request the Government to see that exams are held in a fair way so that talent is given priority.

The President's Address talks about the introduction of GST. Here, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the lacuna which is existing in levying GST on projects executed for the State Governments. This, in essence, amounts to fiscal transfer from the States to the Union Government and it is, in a way, tax on States, paid from the taxes collected from the people. This affects adversely the financial capacity of the States to execute works. Hence, I request the Government to take it up in the next GST Council so that the work-contracts executed for the State Governments are exempt from the purview of the GST.

Finally, I would like to make a point about how the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission have adversely affected developed and developing States, like Tamil Nadu. I may point out that while the devolution to the States was increased from 32 per cent to 42 per cent, the Government had reduced its share of Centrally Sponsored Schemes from 75 per cent to 60 per cent. For the State of Tamil Nadu, the share was reduced from 4. 969 per cent to 4. 023 per cent, leaving it to fill the gap, from its own scarce resources. This has impacted severely, the ability of the State Government to finance the State's own schemes. No doubt, Tamil Nadu is a developed State, but to maintain and sustain the development, we also need resources. Hence, I request the Government to compensate States like Tamil Nadu, which have lost resources from the Centre, to ensure equity in Centre's allocation.

To make a specific point, the Union Government has not increased allocations for schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan over the last three years; and they have been largely stagnant. Today's education is tomorrow's national wealth and if we do not make adequate allocations now, we may lose on nation's economic

development in future. I therefore request the Govt. to increase the allocations to these schemes.

Similarly, I wish to point out that there are huge backlogs in release of Grants from the Centre, affecting the implementation of the schemes.

The Tamil Nadu has the pending arrears of Rs. 6,696 crore to be received from the Government of India under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. For example, an amount of Rs. 1,547 crore is pending under the post-metric scholarship for the Scheduled Castes, Rs. 1,312 crore under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rs. 1,588 crore under Rashtriya Madyamik Shiksha Abhiyan etc. Since the release of pending arrears directly and positively impact the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, I request the Government to consider and make release of funds in time to the States to implement these schemes effectively.

With these words, once again, I thank the Hon. Speaker Madam for having given me the time and I support the Motion of Thanks of the President’s Address.

Thank you Sir.

***SHRI R. DHRUVNARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** As the countrymen ushered in the New Year with joy and hope for a better year, the miseries of the year left behind, smirked and waited to rear its ugly head once again. 2017 was a year where the people of this country were seen celebrating the introduction of a new tax, only to be met with disappointment as this new member of the economy managed to be extremely fickle minded with GST, tax rates changing from time to time, and burning a hole in the pockets of the citizens of this country.

The President's Address portrayed the image of a bright and shining India, one that seems to have tackled its problems effectively and is on its way to solve the remaining issues. However, the reality paints a grim picture of this nation altogether. The President spoke about various schemes of this Government and mentioned how the removal of difficulties of the farmers of this country is the topmost priority for this Government. In the light of this argument, it is important to bring to attention the cries of all the farmers who had gathered outside the Parliament of India, protesting against the Government. The perils of demonetisation continue to shake the economy of the country, where the farmers are worst

* Speech was laid on the Table

affected by it. The year saw a fall in remunerative prices of commodities in several states due to lack of parity in demand and supply. The small the marginal farmers did not have money in hand, leading to country-wide unrest and agrarian distress. The problem of burning the paddy stubble in Punjab added to the toxic smog of New Delhi, which affected people drastically.

The President also addressed the need for digitisation and focused on how Aadhaar has managed to digitise the economy and has furthered the cause of digital payments of schemes, perhaps overlooking the fact that had presented itself in the form of "Data Leaks" by virtue of which, anyone could "purchase" Aadhaar detail through an anonymous "agent" by paying a mere sum of 500 Rupees. Is this the cost of digitisation? Do we deserve to live in constant fear of data breaches? Speaking of fear, how can we possibly overlook the communal violence that continues to shake this country? 11 deaths have been recorded as a result of cow vigilantism in the year 2017, which is the highest toll from cow-related crimes since 2012. Out of all victims, killed or injured, whose identity was reported in news reports, 53% were Muslims, 12% were Dalits, and 10% were Hindu. How does this Government considered the safety of women and the welfare and

development of the weaker and deprived sections of the society, as one of their core focus regions. However, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data of 2016 reveals that atrocities against Dalits and women are still a prevalent practice in this country. Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of atrocities against Dalits (25. 6%), followed by Bihar (14%) and Rajasthan (12. 6%). The data also revealed that most crimes committed against the Scheduled Castes were mainly crimes against women. In general, the NCRB data revealed that the rate of crime against women in India had rose sharply from 41. 7 per 100,000 female populations in 2012 to 55. 2 in 2016. "Cruelty by husband or his relatives" accounted for 33% of all crimes in 2016. Rape accounted for 11% of all crimes against women with 38,947 cases reported in 2016, or four every hour. At this rate, there will not be any more *betis* (daughters) to save in our country.

We may bask in the glory of our history or even stand by and witness major issues being overshadowed by the news of theatres and buses being burnt down for preventing the release of a movie. But, as a servant of this nation, I humbly urge this Government to wake up from their slumber and leave their ivory towers, for if they wish to do good, then they have to

come down with us and get their hands dirty while cleaning up and making this country ‘Swachh’ in all aspects, for its population. A lot of speeches and jargon can be and has been used, but at the end of the day, who does this benefit? We cannot grow or develop if the very base of our economy, that is, agriculture, continues to struggle. We cannot build a strong economy when the shoulders of our farmers continue to be weak. We cannot succeed while half of our population is scared to leave their homes at night and face a constant threat to their modesty. I, therefore, request this Government to look up and act. Effective action is the need to the hour. It is time to stop sitting idly and it is time to cater to the needs to the masses. They have to act for the people deserve to live in a nation where the press and media need not be silenced or censored, where words do not have to be spoken for the actions would speak for themselves. That would be a truly developed nation. An empowered nation, a nation that we should strive to make and be a part of, to usher in a new dawn and a better tomorrow.

*DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI): Education is eye of the society. A country without proper education is like a person with a blurred vision. It is heartening to see that the Government aims to create an educated, healthy and clean India. Our beloved leader Puratchi Talaivi AMMA had focused exclusively for the development of education in the State and had been taking far-sighted initiatives for the welfare of students in the State. AMMA's scheme for provision of priceless Laptop for students is first of its kind in the country. I wish the Union Government will take a leaf out of AMMA's many innovative, inclusive schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu.

The introduction of NEET has created huge uproar in Tamil Nadu and many pertinent questions were raised as it was a direct infringement on the rights of the State and would cause grave injustice to the students of Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had established many Government medical colleges across the state to achieve the optimum Doctor-population ratio and to augment the medical service infrastructure. If these seats are taken away by students

* Speech was laid on the Table

of other states through NEET, it will create non-availability of doctors and medical services particularly in rural areas of Tamil Nadu.

Keeping this in view, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed two Bills for protecting the existing admission policy for UG and PG admissions in Medical and Dental Colleges. The two Bills have been sent to the Government of the India for obtaining the assent of the President of India under Article 254 (2) of the Constitution of India.

With a view to protect the prospects of the State Board students and provide them fair and equal opportunity, the Government has taken a policy decision to allocate 85% of State quota seats to the Tamil Nadu State Board students and balance 15% to the students from other Boards and conduct admission based on marks obtained in NEET.

Medical education is at the core of access to quality healthcare in any country. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dates 2nd May, 2016 had directed the Government to consider and take appropriate action on the recommendations of the Rai Choudhary Committee. Accordingly, it is proposed to introduce the National Medical Commission Bill, 2017.

Government doctors in the country and Tamil Nadu in particular are opposing certain ill-fated clauses in the Bill and they showed their opposition through protest against the National Medical Commission Bill.

The Government has incorporated the spirit of the Standing Committee report on Medical Council of India, but there are far too "many problematic" provisions in the Bill which "go against" the committee report.

The Indian Medical Association is against the provision that allows alternative medicine practitioners take up modern medicine after attending a short course and feels that the Bridge course provision in National Medical Commission Bill will 'sanction quackery'. This provision is totally unacceptable as it will lead to an army of half-baked doctors in the country.

Almost 2. 7 lakh Indian doctors had protested across the country against this provision of the Bill. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to desist from including such problematic provisions in the National Medical Commission Bill.

In a turbulent global economy, India is a haven of stability. GDP growth has increased making India the world's fasted

growing economy among large economies. India recorded the highest ever foreign exchange reserves in 2017. We must not forget the contributions from the productive States like Tamil Nadu in our GDP growth.

Safety and Security of the nation are the most important and cannot be compromised. We are happy that this Government is fully committed to firmly deal with all challenges concerning the security of the country. Terrorism is a global threat and strong counter-terrorism measures are necessary worldwide to eradicate it completely. Firm and effective steps will be taken to deal with any situation arising out of cross-border terrorism. We are indebted to those who inspire by their selfless service and their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Acknowledgement must not hinge on ceremony or noble gestures of gratitude alone. Adequate financial support and compensation benefits including job opportunities should be extended to the family of the defence personnel who lost their invaluable lives while fighting our enemies and while protecting the Nation.

[Translation]

***KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):** The comprehensive efforts being made to increase India's prestige in the world, improve relations with various countries (especially with ASEAN countries), and increase health and wealth to make everyone healthy in New India will rapidly take the country on the path of progress. The government introduced the Triple Talaq bill in Parliament, and it will soon be made a law. The scope of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is increasing in the country. The government is trying to alleviate the suffering of the poor; the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is running in 640 districts. The government's focus is on doubling the income of farmers. Pulse production has registered a record increase of 38 percent. The target of the Government is to complete 99 irrigation projects. Working towards the goal of making grain waste available. In the last year, more than 45 lakh students have been given the benefit of scholarship, fellowship, skill development and coaching schemes. The government has formulated a new 'National Health Policy' to provide better and more affordable health facilities to the poor and middle-class people. 800 types of

* Speech was laid on the Table

medicines are being provided to the poor at affordable rates through 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi' centres. The number of these centres has crossed 3,000. Under the 'Deendayal Amrit Yojana,' discounts ranging from 60 percent to 90 percent are being given on more than 5,200 life-saving branded medicines and surgical implants through 111 outlets. To increase the availability of doctors, 13 thousand MBBS seats and more than 7,000 postgraduate seats have been approved. To ensure quality and transparency in medical education, the Government has also introduced the 'National Medical Commission Bill' in the Lok Sabha. More than 2,400 'Atal Tinkering Labs' have been approved by the Government under the 'Atal Innovation Mission' to lay the foundation of entrepreneurship and creativity in children from an early age. The government has approved the formation of an autonomous examination organisation, the 'National Testing Agency,' to conduct all the examinations of higher educational institutions in the country. Working on creating 20 'Institutes of Eminence'. Under this mission, financial assistance of Rs 10,000 crore will be given to the selected educational institutions. Our country is the youngest country in the world. To enable the youth of the country to fulfil their dreams and become self-employed, the

government is running programs like Start Up India, Stand Up India, Skill India Mission, and Mudra Yojana. The industries or companies that are creating new employment opportunities are being given financial help under the 'Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana.‘ Under this scheme, more than 20 lakh beneficiaries have received assistance from this scheme so far. The Government has increased the minimum wage of workers by more than 40 percent. The number of registers for compliance of labour laws has been reduced from 56 to 5. Now all the returns on the Shram Suvidha Portal are filled online. It is a matter of pride for all of us that Kumbh Mela has been included in the list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO. Ahmedabad has been given the status of India's first 'Heritage City' by UNESCO. Chennai has been ranked by UNESCO in the list of Creative Cities. India’s ambitious space program is achieving new milestones in national development and regional and international cooperation. For the first time in the world, ISRO successfully launched 104 satellites at a time. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan,' the government is running the world's largest digital literacy program. Under this program, so far one crore people have been made literate in digital form. The 'Bhima App' is playing a big

role in promoting digital transactions. More than 100 public facilities have been made available on mobile through the recently launched 'Umang App.' Due to commendable efforts in the electronics manufacturing sector, now there are 113 mobile companies operating in the country, the number of which was only 2 in 2014. Due to this, our youth are getting new employment opportunities even in small cities of the country. The Government has approved a new mega program, 'Bharatmala,' for the highway sector with an outlay of Rs 535,000 crore. To increase National Corridor Efficiency, about 53,000 km of National Highways have been identified. The 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' or 'UDAN' scheme has been launched so that small cities of the country can be connected by air and the lower middle class, middle class and youth can easily avail the benefit of air travel at low cost. After independence, only 76 airports in the country were connected with commercial flights, whereas in just 15 months of the 'UDAN' scheme, work has been started to connect 56 airports and 31 helipads. Until now, 16 such airports have started flights. This is the first time when the expansion of power capacity in the country has increased more than the target. Now that India has become a net exporter of electricity, the work of

providing electricity to 18,000 villages is also moving towards completion. The government has ensured availability of electricity to the states at affordable rates by completing the work of 'One Nation One Grid'. To strengthen the power distribution system in every village and town of the country, schemes worth approximately Rs one and a half lakh crore have been implemented. Under 'Ujala Yojana,' more than 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed in the country. More than 50 crore LED bulbs have also been sold by the private sector. Due to this, the poor and middle class are saving more than Rs 40,000 crore annually in their electricity bills. Along with protecting the environment, 10,000 crore units of electricity are also being saved every year in the country. The generation of solar energy has increased 7 times in the last three years. Due to India's efforts, the International Solar Alliance has become a legislative body. Its headquarters has been established in India itself. The policy on strategic partnership in the defence manufacturing sector has also been finalised, which will promote greater participation of the private sector and employment generation in the manufacturing of major defence platforms and equipment. Due to the diplomatic efforts of the government, India has gained new respect in the world. India

has got representation in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organisation, and the Economic and Social Council. India found success in the election of ICJ. After joining the Missile Technology Control Regime last year, India has also been included as a member in the Australia Group this year. This success has been achieved after a long struggle and is an important achievement of the government.

The country is not only moving in the right direction but is also realising the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbaddam with the support of many countries of the world due to its ability to lead the world. So, I support the Motion of Thanks.

*__SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH)__: Women and minorities need protection for social justice. The government prepares the speech of the president. The president has to announce their policies. The President has emphasised about social justice in his speech. Social justice cannot be achieved unless there is social security. Is there social security in the country today? Today, minorities and women are not safe all over the country. Why are fear, dread and insecurity being

* Speech was laid on the Table

created in the country today? Why is the power of goons and anti-social elements increasing? Concern is growing across the country over this. 67 retired IAS officers of the country have sent a letter to the Prime Minister expressing their grave concern over the insecurity of minorities. They are being attacked in the name of cow protection. Cow protection should be necessary, but hooliganism under its cover and government protection for it will destroy social justice.

The Prime Minister gave the slogan for Clean India. This is necessary, but what is even more important is to control the growing lawlessness in the country and order and provide security to girls and women. The government, which cannot provide security to the common man, especially girls, has no right to rule. No matter how big its majority is. Women have to be empowered by making laws, but before that, their safety is important.

The President and the Prime Minister have also said that the bill presented on Triple Talaq should be given the form of a law, which will remove the fear and crisis faced by Muslim women. The Supreme Court has given the order to do this by declaring Triple Talaq illegal. The Lok Sabha has already passed it. Rajya Sabha will also pass it, but the reason for doing

it in such a hurry could be that there is an effort to hold Lok Sabha elections early, and BJP wants to take advantage of this. If this is so, then this is not an issue of empowerment but an attempt to get votes of Muslim women in the elections, which is not right. It cannot be considered a progressive step of the Government.

The President has raised the issue of holding simultaneous elections of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. By 1967, four general elections were held together. Then Congress was in power all over the country. First of all, the Communist government of Kerala was dismissed by Nehru ji's government. After that, after 1967, due to the central government, the use of President's rule started in the states. It is true that holding simultaneous elections will reduce expenditure, but how will it be decided what will happen if the majority in the assemblies ends? It will not be possible to hold Lok Sabha and Assembly elections once in five years. There is no central system in the Constitution, but a federal system of government. Therefore, in any system it will be necessary to hold elections twice. It may also require a constitutional amendment. Therefore, this system should be seriously debated in the Parliament.

The President has said in his speech that raising the standard of living of farmers is his first priority. The government claims to double their income by 2022, but it is important to see the condition of the farmers in 2018. Today, farmers in Uttar Pradesh do not have the means to dig potatoes and take them to the market. Potato farmers are pouring potatoes outside the CM's bungalow. Hurricanes: farmers are crying. The government has failed to pay their dues. It is true that farmers have produced record production across the country, but they are burdened with debt, and farmers are ready to abandon farming and run towards the cities. Farmers do not even hesitate to commit suicide.

The President has put forward the dream of a new India, but India is thousands and millions of years old. The culture of old India is ours. No government can create a new India. A new dream can be added to the history of India. At present, the dream that the President has added in his speech does not fulfil the dream of establishing social justice and economic democracy in the country. Unless the government and the government machinery develop strong will, this dream cannot be of a new India but of a new election.

[English]

***SHRI D. K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** The President's Address was deeply disappointing which made claims that are contrary to the ground realities and known facts. The address was meant to give an impression that all the promises made by the Narendra Modi- led Government are being fulfilled. Hon. President said the economy is booming, which it is not - because of the two reckless decisions, GST and Demonetization.

The employment, as promised, has not been created. Jobs have been destroyed because of wrong decisions, including that of demonetization. Over 3. 7 crore of 13 crore jobs in the informal sector of the economy have been lost due to demonetization. It is time for the Government to give an account. But, surely the President in this address could not have given the account of the non- performance and betrayal of the promises.

This Government is in denial and therefore will not be in a position to improve the situation on all fronts including alleviation of agrarian distress, redressal of the grievances of

* Speech was laid on the Table

farmers, improving rural wages which have fallen sharply and so has the agricultural growth. It is a joke for the government to claim that everything is fine, everybody is happy, and there is complete welfare and prosperity in the company.

Hon. President, Ram Nath Kovind spoke of the accomplishments of the Narendra Modi government so far. The speech appeared more like an election manifesto of the BJP-led NDA government. It contained provisions for all major sections of the society. However, a glaring omission in President's speech was that of the Scheduled Castes (SCs). Nowhere in his speech did the President talk about the Dalits.

The President said that addressing farmers' problem and raising their standard of living was the highest priority of the government, but ironically he has not made a single statement about the suicide of farmers in various parts of the country.

He also said that the Government was working "actively and with sensitivity" to remove the feeling of economic insecurity among the farmers, besides reducing farm input cost. "My government is committed to doubling of farmers' income by 2022", but there is nothing about waving of farmer loans.

The Government has failed miserably in keeping its promises in the 2014 election manifesto. The Government has achieved not even 10% of its promises in last three and half years. Over three crore people have lost their jobs because of the Prime Minister's reckless decisions. We know the President could not have given an account of the government's non-performance and failures, but they should not make a mockery of the people's problems.

With these words, I oppose the motion.

***SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA):** The President's Address is looked upon as a reflection of the policies, programmes and initiatives of the Government in the past one year and the road map for the coming year.

The President's Address, however, has turned out to be deeply depressing. The performance of this Government during the last about four years has proved to be an exercise in futility. Neither the lofty electoral promises made by the Prime Minister nor the hopes generated by NDA were fulfilled. People, by and large, feel cheated and the negative and anti- people attitude of the Government once again indicate that it is least concerned about the welfare of the people.

This Government could not fulfil the aspirations of any section of the society except the corporate of this country, who are the greatest beneficiaries of this pro- rich Government

Farmers are reeling under great distress. They are not getting remunerative prices for their produce and thereby, they are unable to repay their huge loans leading many to commit suicide. The indifferent and complacent attitude of this

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Government towards the woes of farmers is condemnable in a large agrarian economy like India. Farmers are the backbone of our country and even a ripple in issues affecting them will have far reaching consequences.

Having realized that rural India is up in arms against the negative attitude of this Government, the Prime Minister and the Government have now again come up with hollow promise of doubling the income of farmers by 2022 with no indication on how this will work out.

There is no proclamation about how the present states of affairs are to be improved without any loss of time. Along with agriculture, the areas which are totally neglected by this Government are Education, Employment and Health sectors.

Education is in total mess and there is no serious attempt to improve the quality of education from elementary to higher education level. Commercialization of education from pre-primary level has made qualitative education a distant dream to millions of aspiring children from weak and vulnerable sections. There is acute shortage of trained and qualified teachers all over the country and there are numerous cases regarding the bogus teachers dominating the education scene.

If India is to dream of a better tomorrow our journey will have to begin with Human Resource Development.

The Right to Education Act was a revolutionary legislation brought about by the UPA Government. However, no serious effort was made by this NDA Government to implement the provisions of the Act. The budgetary allocation made during the last four budgets of this Government is a true reflection of the scant regard this Government has for education.

India is the youngest among all nations in the world and the teeming millions of aspiring youngsters have been literally taken for a ride by this Government's empty promises of providing two crore job opportunities each year. It is appalling to note that not even a few lakh employment opportunities have been provided during the last four years.

Health is another sector which causes great concern in the minds of ordinary people as health care has become an expensive proposition for the common man. National Rural Health Scheme promoted by the UPA Government was a commendable step in the right direction to reach healthcare to millions of poor people in rural India. The various Health Schemes proposed by this Government in the present Budget is not intended to improve the conditions prevailing in the health

sector. It was meant for enabling various Insurance Companies to defraud the people.

The ill effects of Demonetization and the faulty and hasty implementation of GST have played havoc with the economy and the worst-hit are the ordinary people. The high taxation on goods and services has upset the family budget of common man. The budget of a family shot by a minimum average of Rs. 3000/- per month.

The politics of intolerance existing in the country has caused deep anxiety and panic in the minds of people belonging to minority communities. The social fabric of our country is totally broken as Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes are under constant attack. Democratic polity and secular values of this country also face grave threat ever since this Government has come into office. Irresponsible utterances of Ministers and leaders of the ruling Party pose danger to the pluralistic character of this nation.

The Cooperative Federalism is being questioned and the latest decision of the Government to go in for simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in the country is contradictory to the democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution. India is the largest Democracy in the world and it

is unimaginable and illogical to conduct simultaneous elections.

To sum up, the Address of the President has not generated any hope or expectation for better days and is thus totally depressing and disappointing.

[*]**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** I would like to begin by stating that I am deeply grateful to the President for his eloquent address and his firm commitment towards the cause of social justice. In his words, he proclaimed that "social and economic equality for the deprived and disempowered sections is the first promise of our Constitution."

The President highlighted the efforts taken by this Government towards the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country. He spoke about the Stand-Up India Initiative, under which the National Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes hub has been launched, with an initial allocation of Rs. 490 crore for promoting entrepreneurship. In fact, he also noted that under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 37 percent of the Ujjwala beneficiaries belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

As highlighted by the President, this Government has increased the allocation under the Tribal sub—plan. Under the Forest Rights Act, about 16. 5 lakh individual Forest Rights titles have been granted over an area of 55. 4 lakh acres of forest

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

land. Further, Community Forest Rights titles have been distributed over an area of about 47 lakh acres of forest land.

Coming to the sector of health and in the context of the newly announced National Health Protection Scheme, which is touted to be the world's largest health insurance scheme, the President highlighted the achievements of the Government in this regard. A new National Health Policy has been formulated for providing better and affordable healthcare facilities. Through Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras, 800 medicines have been made available at affordable rates. More than 3,000 Kendras have been established. To enhance the availability of doctors, 7,000 post graduate seats and over 13,000 MBBS seats have been approved. The Intensified Mission Indradhanush was recently launched and the annual rate of increase in immunisation coverage has increased from 1% to 6. 7%.

Furthermore, this Government has proved that it stands for "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance”, and this idea was also prevalent in the President’s Address. The President noted that in the last three years, 1,428 obsolete laws have been repealed. Through initiatives, such as Aadhaar, Jan Dhan Yojana and Digital India, not only have Rs 57,000 crore been

saved by providing benefits of 400 schemes, but the objective of financial inclusion is also being achieved.

Finally, the President recognized that 65 percent of our population today is below the age of 35 and that this demographic dividend needs to be effectively channelized. For these purposes of youth skill development entrepreneurship, this Government has launched a variety of schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, which has been launched with a budget outlay of rupees twelve thousand crore to train one crore youth over the next four years. Over 20 lakh youth have already benefitted under the scheme. Furthermore, the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme has been launched with a budget outlay of rupees ten thousand crore.

The President, in his Address, has reaffirmed the commitment of this Government to social justice, economic growth and the development of the nation, as a whole. Both the Economic Survey 2017-18 and the Budget 2018-19 have indicated a reversal of the economy from the earlier slowdown to a stronger and more robust GDP. Within this context, I would like to thank the President for his Address and the Government for their efforts and commitment to realizing the ideals of liberty, equality and justice as enshrined in our Constitution.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA):** I thank His Excellency the President for his address to the joint session of Parliament on 29th January. The biggest example of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam was proved by the presence of presidents of 10 ASEAN countries on 26th January. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took the oath of Prime Minister in 2014 in the presence of the heads of State of SAARC countries.

Hon. President has mentioned the statement of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar that political democracy cannot be permanent without social and economic democracy. It is true that since democracy came to countries, the needy people have had the expectation that now their problems will be solved.

Earlier, the slogan of social justice was definitely given, but now, since the coming of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the way the country has been given a new direction by creating a framework of holistic development to take the country forward, the solution to even the toughest problems seems to be happening.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

Sensitive to the aspirations of every section of the society, the Government has introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill to give constitutional status to the 'National Commission for Backward Classes.' Even within the backward classes, a commission has been formed to study the sub-categorisation of backward classes in order to facilitate the benefits of higher education and appointments to the most backward classes.

The dignity of Muslim women remained hostage to political gains and losses for many decades. Now the country has got an opportunity to remove them from this situation. The government has presented a bill regarding triple talaq in the Parliament. Hopefully, the Parliament will give it a legal shape soon. After the law on triple talaq is enacted, Muslim sisters and daughters will also be able to live a fear-free life with self-respect.

The minimum support price of many forest products that are collected by the tribals has been increased. The livelihood of millions of people in various tribal areas of the country, especially in the Northeast, is dependent on the bamboo industry. Being classified as a tree, it was difficult to use bamboo for livelihood. Keeping these problems in mind, my government has removed bamboo from the category of tree.

With this, there is now freedom to cut, transport and use bamboo.

Tribal Freedom Struggle Museums are being established in the country to honour the valuable contribution of tribal communities in the freedom struggle. The foundation stone of the museum was laid recently at Kevadia, near the Sardar Sarovar Dam, on the banks of the Narmada in Gujarat. Proposals from several other states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Manipur, are also under consideration.

There are more than two and a half crore differently abled persons in our country. The Government has enacted the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. A provision of 4 percent reservation in government jobs and 5 percent reservation in higher education has been made for the disabled. In the last three years, by organising more than 6 thousand camps, more than 9 lakh rupees worth of essential equipment has also been provided to them.

My government had started the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme to end discrimination against daughters. Seeing the positive results of this scheme, its scope has now been increased from 161 districts to 640 districts. The government

has taken a big step by making changes in the Maternity Benefit Act. Provision has been made to give 26 weeks leave with pay to women instead of 12 weeks. Now working women will have more time to take care of their newborn babies in the most delicate initial days of their lives.

With the resolve of ‘Empowerment not Appeasement,’ the Government is working strongly towards the economic, social and educational empowerment of the minorities. Employment opportunities have been provided to youth of Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain communities through programs such as 'Learn and Earn,' 'Ustad,' 'Garib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme,' 'Nai Roshni,' etc. In the last year, more than 45 lakh students have also been given the benefit of scholarship, fellowship, skill development and coaching schemes.

Keeping in mind the objective of women's empowerment, for the first time since independence, the restriction on women above 45 years of age without male relatives to go on Haj has been lifted. This year more than 1,300 women are going on Haj without Mehram. ‘Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana’ has provided an opportunity for women to compete with the underprivileged and has addressed an overlooked aspect of

social justice. So far, more than 3 crore 30 lac gas connections have been given under this scheme.

Under the 'Jan Dhan Yojana,' bank accounts of about 31 crore poor people have been opened so far. Before the launch of this scheme, the number of women's savings accounts in the country was around 28 percent, which has now increased to more than 40 percent.

The government has emphasisedproviding loans without bank guarantees to the poor and middle class, especially to promote self-employment. Under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana,’ around 10 crore loans have been sanctioned so far, and loans worth more than Rs 4 lac crore have been given. There are about three crore people who have taken advantage of this scheme for the first time and have succeeded in starting self-employment.

It is a result of the policies of the Government and the hard work of the farmers that there has been a record production of more than 275 million tonnes of food grains and about 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables in the country. The Government is committed to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. Work is underway to connect the country's agricultural markets online so that farmers can get a fair price

for their produce. So far, agricultural commodities worth more than Rs 36 thousand crore have been traded on the eNAM portal.

The work of completing 99 irrigation projects pending for decades is also in progress. The government is also protecting the interests of farmers through production bonuses in the pulses and oilseeds sector. Due to the new policy made for pulses, the production of pulses has increased by more than 38 percent compared to last year, which is a record.

To increase the income of farmers, an ambitious scheme of Rs 11 thousand crore has been started in the dairy sector through the 'Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund.' On one hand, urea production has increased due to the government policies; on the other hand, black marketing of urea has also stopped after 100 percent neem coating. Work is being done at a fast pace towards restarting the fertiliser factories in Gorakhpur, Barauni, Sindri, Talcher and Ramagundam.

Under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana,’ cheap and simple insurance services are being provided to the farmers. During the year 2017, 5 crore 71 lakh farmers have been

provided security cover under this scheme for Rabi and Kharif crops.

The government has made insurance schemes accessible to the poor at a premium of one rupee per month and 90 paise per day. Till now, more than 18 crore poor people have joined the 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana' and 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.' Under these schemes, the poor have received a claim amount of about Rs 2 thousand crores. About 80 lakh senior citizens are getting benefits under Atal Pension Yojana.

Around 270 thousand Common Service Centres have been created across the country, which are providing digital delivery of various services at affordable rates even in the remote areas of the country. Under the 'BharatNet Project,' work is being done to connect two and a half lakh gram panchayats of the country with broadband connectivity. More than one lakh panchayats have been connected in the first phase. This scheme will play an important role in taking e-health, e-education, e-governance and e-commerce to every village of the country.

To bring light into the lives of the poor and enable them to walk on the path of development, the government is providing electricity connections to 4 crore poor people under the

“Saubhagya” scheme. The work of 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana' is progressing rapidly. In 2014 only 56 percent of the villages were connected with road connectivity. Now more than 82 percent of the villages have been connected by roads, most of which are in remote and inaccessible areas. Our goal is to connect every village in the country with road connectivity by 2019.

It is essential to make the objective of the law effective so that every poor person gets enough food. Under the National Food Security Act, the system of providing food grains at cheap rates in all the states of the country is being made transparent and leakage-proof.

Working on the target of providing houses to homeless poor families by the year 2022. In the last three and a half years, more than 93 lakh houses have been constructed in urban and rural areas. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban,' 6 percent relief in interest rate is being given to the poor for building houses. For the first time, two new schemes have also been launched, keeping in mind the middle class.

The government has formulated a new 'National Health Policy' to provide better and more affordable health facilities to the poor and middle-class people. Along with this, traditional

medical systems like Yoga-Ayurveda are being promoted by the 'National Ayush Mission.' I am happy to share with you all that 800 types of medicines are being provided to the poor at affordable rates through 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi' centres. The number of these centres has crossed 3 thousand.

- Under 'Deendayal Amrit Yojana,' a concession of 60 percent to 90 percent is being given on more than 5,200 life-saving branded drugs and surgical implants through 111 outlets.
- Along with medicines, the price of 'Stent' for heart patients has been reduced by 80 percent. The price of knee surgery has also been controlled.
- Through the ‘Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme,’ more than 22 lakh dialysis sessions have been conducted for 2 lakh patients at subsidised rates in more than 500 districts.
- To increase the availability of doctors, 13 thousand MBBS seats and more than 7 thousand postgraduate seats have been approved.

- To ensure quality and transparency in medical education, the Government has also introduced the 'National Medical Commission Bill' in the Lok Sabha.
- I am happy to inform you that the growth rate of vaccination in the country, which used to be only 1 percent per annum, has now increased to 6.7 percent. Due to this, the children living in remote, special and tribal areas of the country have also gotten a lot of benefit. Recently my government has also started 'Intensified Mission Indradhanush.'

[English]

***SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):** I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to the Joint Session of Parliament. As a matter of fact, the Address given by the Hon'ble President of India is one of the best Addresses given in the Parliament of India, as it has highlighted all the important issues concerning our country in general and the North East in particular. Moreover, the President's Address has also reflected the Government's objectives of comprehensive development of each and every section of the society living in

* Speech was laid on the Table

every nook and corner of the country. I express my heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble President for his Address to the Joint Session of Parliament. He has rightly said that the Bill on Triple Talaq when becomes a law will enable all Muslim women to live a life of dignity, prestige and self-respect. The tabling of the Bill is undoubtedly a historic step on the party of the Government. It is a matter of great joy for all of us that the Government has announced a number of schemes for the welfare of common man. Pradhan Mantri Kishan Sampada Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana are some of the important schemes that aim at providing much needed help to our farmers. This would boost agrarian economy.

The Social Security Schemes launched by the Government for uplifting the poor is a commendable step for which the Government deserves accolades. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana are such ambitious schemes for the poor under which 18 crore poor have been covered. The introduction of Atal Pension Yojana for the benefit of Senior Citizens is also a commendable step. I whole heartedly thank the Hon'ble President of India for his concern for the tribal people living in North-East India. Exclusion of bamboo from the category of tree has now provided freedom to

cut, transport and use bamboo. This would help the tribal people in improving their livelihood as bamboo is a very important source of livelihood for many of the tribal people living in the North-East. The Government's commitment for the empowerment of the minorities without appeasing them is another bold step which needs to be praised by all of us.

The Hon'ble President in his speech has mentioned about a lot of welfare measures for the poor and the downtrodden. Housing for everyone, New Health Policy, schemes to strengthen higher education system, SANKALP and STRVIE for skill development of youth are some of the important schemes that will bring cheers to millions of poor of our country.

I belong to Assam and I am extremely grateful to the Hon'ble President for giving special emphasis on the accelerated development of the North-East. To speed up the process of development of North-Eastern region, North-East Special Infrastructure Development Schemes has been sanctioned which is undoubtedly a welcome step. I sincerely hope that the Government,s focused approach towards the speedy development of the North-East region will put an end to the years of neglect and isolation.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Hon'ble President for he has not only touched upon various important issues concerning the nation but at the same time, he has also expressed Government's desire to take India on the road of progress through various ambitious schemes. I wholeheartedly support the motion of thanks on President's Address.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRARUL HAQUE (KISHANGANJ):** Thank God that at least the dignity of this hall is still intact so that we can also express our views here. After coming out from here, it seems that if you intend to open your mouth, then you get a certificate of being a traitor.

In the current atmosphere in the whole country, the minorities are feeling unprotected. Till now there was a threat to life only from the liquor lovers, but now there is a threat to integrity from the government itself. Now the heat has reached our faith and our beliefs. People talk about their faith and belief, but the faith and belief of others have no importance for them. Now even matters related to our homes have started getting interfered with. Where aren't the bad people? In any

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

community, not hundreds of the people follow their religion, so can the personal law of such a large community be changed because of a handful of people?

Hon. Sadar-e-Jamhuria Sahib has also mentioned the triple talaq bill in his sermon. I am surprised that the government has even made the honourable Sadar Saheb mention a bill that is controversial and has not yet been passed. This is a bill on which the entire opposition is against you. This is such a bill on which Muslim women themselves are protesting against you across the country. After all, how did you use Sadar Saheb for such a bill? Keeping in mind the dignity and honour of the President, you should have asked him to mention this bill?

It is important for us, the government and the opposition to not allow any such action to take place that may pose a threat to the security of the country, disturb the peace of the country, or cause discord among the people. But in domestic matters, you are making the common quarrels between husband and wife a basis for making them fight among themselves and creating bitterness in their relationships forever. Relationships cannot be improved by criminalising a social issue. Social evil can be a subsidised evil. Its improvement can also happen only through social methods. But you cannot correct this evil by

making it a non-bailable offence and by imposing such a severe punishment on it.

I do not want to speak much here about Talaq-e-Salasa or Talaq-e-Biddat. This has been debated in the Aiwan. But what percentage of Muslims use this method of divorce? Does the government have any data on it? No one has any data. But this is the one that is making the most noise. We are not against women's rights. Who would respect women's rights more than us? Our Prophet used to stand up when his daughter arrived and spread his sheet for her. But I will repeat the same thing again: where are there not a few bad people? The government says that Muslim women are being oppressed. The question is, how many women came to you and described the atrocities committed against them?

Travel across the country today and take details of the situation. A large number of Muslim women are opposing this move of the government in which an attempt is being made to introduce changes in the Muslim Personal Law. Are these not women?

Our Supreme Court has declared triple talaq illegal. But the government is accepting the legal status of triple talaq by declaring it a non-bailable offence. When the Supreme Court

has made it clear that Triple Talaq will not be accepted, then what is the point of giving punishment for the charge of giving Triple Talaq? Then I want to ask, suppose someone gives triple talaq to his wife and he is arrested and sent to jail, then what will happen to that woman? And what about their children? What will happen to that woman and her children during the three-year punishment? Then when he comes back after completing his punishment, what will be the status of both of them? Will these two be husband and wife, and if yes, then do you think that they will be able to live a peaceful life in that situation? Will you make them fall in love by force? According to the note prepared by the Ministry of Law, despite the decision of the Supreme Court and the credibility of the All India Muslim Personal Law, reports of Talaq-e-Biddat are still being received. The question is how many reports have you received? When you are making laws through the Parliament, then also tell the Parliament how many thousands or lakhs of divorce cases have taken place till now after the Supreme Court's decision. I think the government has neither any such data nor any report. This is just a conspiracy to keep a particular community mohemmedan constantly troubled and confused.

In this note you say that it is necessary to make urgent laws to stop the continuous harassment of Muslim women. I want to ask whether women are harassed only among Muslims. What kind of environment are you creating? You are also dividing social evils into religious sections. This will worsen our society instead of improving it. Thank you very much.

*__SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE (RAJSAMAND):__ We are very thankful to the President for giving a very informative speech on the impact of the government's work on people's lives and the country's development. I would like to start my point directly on the President's statement, with the example of my parliamentary constituency. There are many people in my parliamentary constituency who have changed their lives by taking advantage of the government schemes. A person who did not have money to buy expensive medicines was a heart patient. The doctor talked about putting in a stent, but due to lack of money, he was worried. In such a situation, due to the efforts of the government, the price of stents came down. This news came as a boon in his life, and the stent, which used to be very expensive and cost up to Rs 1.5 lakh, is now available for less than Rs 40 thousand, and what's more, those who did not

* Speech was laid on the Table

have money for expensive medicines are today taking advantage of generic medicines from the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Store. 800 types of medicines are being made available at a cheaper rate at 3 thousand centres. At the same time, under Deendayal Amrit Yojana, 5200 life-saving medicines are being taken at a concession rate. These two things are proving to be very beneficial for the budget of the poor and middle-class people in the country and also for those who are heart patients. Statistics show that every year around 1.75 crore people in the country are falling victim to heart disease, so for them this is giving direct benefit.

Another important thing is that this government has also emphasised that those unconventional treatments that have been used in India in a small way and are effective too, but due to a lack of proper government schemes, these methods were vanishing like Ayurvedic, Yoga Science, Unani Homoeopathy, etc. I am happy that research has started in the country on facts like the hundred percent cure of cancer through the cow urine method.

This becomes very important for those people who are troubled by the side effects of allopathy and are looking for another method.

Talking about education, MBBS seats have increased, and postgraduate seats have also increased; hence, the availability of doctors in rural and remote areas is becoming easier. The National Medical Commission is being welcomed by all stakeholders, as it will increase transparency in the medical sector. To ensure quality and transparency in the medical sector, the Government has also introduced the National Medical Commission Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Institutes of Eminence are being opened for the youth. Their number is 20. Progress in any country takes place by using the youth and their positive imagination. For this, laboratories are being opened under the Atal Innovation Mission, through which not only will people raise their standards, but also they will contribute to the progress of the country with their new experiments. Startup India, Skill Mission Mudra - these are the schemes through which people are standing on their own feet and becoming capable of giving employment to others.

Various programs are being run for women; programs like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao are also bringing about change in the society. Mothers are revered by all of us, but Narendra Modi's government has increased the facilities for mothers a lot; 26

weeks of maternity leave instead of 12 weeks is an example of this.

The President told how the government is working towards Digital India by creating the BHIM app and the Umang app. Electronic transactions of money are being done through the BHIM app from anywhere and at any time, eliminating the hassle of standing in queues in banks to deposit or withdraw money. This is the success of e-governance. More than 30 percent of banks are connected to its interface, which means almost everyone in the banking system is covered under it. Today, non-cash retail payments have increased by 89 percent in the volume term and have increased by 63 percent in the value term.

Farmers are the backbone of our country; a large part of the economy depends on them. The government is working hard to double the income of farmers. For this, farmers are being directly linked to the market; the links between consumers and farmers are being reduced, which will benefit the farmers. Along with production, emphasis is being laid on farmers' profit; agricultural trade worth more than Rs 36 thousand crore is being done under the Inam Yojana. These are big changes

that will definitely increase the income of farmers, which is on average around 6,224 rupees.

I have seen a big change; everyone must have noticed that a few years ago, news channels and newspapers used to carry news about farmers protesting against the non-availability of urea, so much so that state governments had to distribute urea under police supervision. Today, this news is not there because the availability of urea has increased due to neem-coated urea. Earlier, urea used to go towards industries, but neem-coated urea reduced black marketing of urea towards industries, making urea available to farmers.

In India, we have seen a statistic that only 2 percent of the agricultural produce is processed, and a lot of produce is wasted. The government is doing a lot of work to increase this. Improving the supply chain and creating infrastructure through the Kisan Sampada Yojana will bring about improvement in this direction.

The insurance scheme for the poor and needy, be it Rs. 1 per month or 90 paise per day, shows that the government is working for every section of the society. Learn, Earn, Ustad, and Garib Nawaz Skill Scheme for minorities is such a scheme, which is becoming a medium of empowerment. At the same

time, issues like triple talaq are a good step of the government towards true freedom of women.

For the first time such an occasion has come when there has been a huge increase in power generation in the country; now India has become an exporter.

Continuous investments are being made for capacity development and modernisation of railways. The government is making efforts to make railways world-class.

Along with this, everyone should have a roof over their head and get the facilities of water, electricity and a toilet. With this sensitive thought, my government is working towards the target of providing houses to every homeless poor family in the country by the year 2022.

While giving the countrymen a glimpse of the politics of development, progress and good governance through the President's address, this Government will also change the direction and condition of India and will take India to the position of a world leader.

[English]

*__SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK (KOLHAPUR__): The fine print of Hon'ble President's Address is that the agriculture sector seems to be emerging as one of the biggest challenges for the Narendra Modi Government.

In his presidential address, he emphasised on the farm sector, reiterating the government's promise to double agricultural growth by 2022. While showcasing government schemes and initiatives for rural and agricultural sector, the President tried to give a message to the people about the Government's plans for the farmers. The Economic Survey 2018 tabled soon thereafter projected agricultural growth of 2. 1 per cent for FY 2018. However, agricultural experts are not convinced about the growth story and see the prediction as a 'mirage' created by the Government to impress the electorate.

If agricultural income has to be doubled in the next four years, the growth trajectory of agriculture has to be assumed at an annual rate of minimum 20 per cent which anyway is not going to happen. In the last four years, the purchasing power in rural areas has declined by 30 per cent to 40 per cent. There's

* Speech was laid on the Table

no clear roadmap of public investment in agriculture, which at present is less than 3 per cent of planned allocation. The minimum support price (MSP) issue is the main poll promise of Shri Narendra Modi ji in the year 2014 and also as per BJP's election manifesto, it was to implement Swaminathan Committee's recommendation and ensure that the crop prices were remunerative. But, immediately after coming to power they went back on it by giving an affidavit to the Supreme Court. The farmers are not even getting the MSP on 17 commodities except rice and wheat as announced.

The first new issue- yet in some ways the oldest issue - is agriculture. Successful economic and social transformation has always happened against the background of rising agricultural productivity. In the last four years, the level of real agricultural GDP and real agriculture revenues has remained constant, owing partly to weak monsoons in two of those years.

In June 2017, Mandsaur district in Madhya Pradesh became the epicentre of farmer's agitation and witnessed large- scale mob violence. The farmer's issue is likely to emerge in a big way in at least Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. There's no concrete projection given towards achievement. It's mere sloganeering. The promises made by the

Government to farmers are nothing less than a potent bluff and it's going to have a cascading effect in future.

The agricultural growth rate has declined to 1. 9 per cent-1. 7 per cent from 4 per cent. This Government is in denial and therefore will not be in a position to improve the situation on all fronts including alleviation of agrarian distress, redressal of grievances of the farmers, improvement in rural wages which have fallen sharply, and so has agricultural growth.

[Translation]

*__NINONG INRING (ARUNACHAL EAST):__ I would like to thank the Hon. President of India for addressing the Parliament. I would like to thank him for providing invaluable guidance. We are satisfied with the trust we place in the Members of Parliament representing the people that we have placed in them to accelerate the great journey of development of our nation. Your comment is that political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy. Assures us that we are all working under the sound guardianship of a visionary leader. Your speech makes us optimistic.

The president said that agriculture and farmers are the priority of the government. Every year not only is production increasing in the country, but there has also been an increase in the suicide of farmers. If they somehow survive, then the government shoots them, which we have experienced in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Civil society is considered to be the fifth pillar of democracy. However, the voice of farmer civil society organisations has been severely suppressed by the regime. The joint protest of more than 120 farmers organisations in Delhi was ignored. Farmers from across the country jointly organised a huge protest in Delhi with thousands of farmers, which was ignored by the public representatives, government and media. Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, the farmers wing of RSS, was also one of the protesting organisations, but it was ignored. The silence of the media and the people shows that the government has strong control over

public opinion and is expert in creating manufactured consent among the people.

Hon. President told about broadband connectivity and the 'Bharat Net Project.' A large part of Arunachal Pradesh is not yet connected to India. The situation is so grave that recently the Chinese Army built a road up to Bishing, a village in Arunachal Pradesh, and entered India with equipment. Unfortunately, the locals did not have mobile or internet connectivity to inform the Army. I appreciate the bravery and patriotism of the villagers who destroyed the machines and drove away the Chinese army. Seeing such incidents, I feel sad that the government is not able to connect with the last person standing in the queue, which is the most important principle of Deendayal Upadhyaya, the principle of Antyodaya. Deviation from its principles ensures the end of that organisation. Not only is the mobile and broadband connectivity poor, but the Northeast is also disconnected from the rest of India. Anjaw is

a border district of India. In Anjaw, a road between Hauliang and Glotonglat is desperately needed. Village residents and the army have to use pathetic porter tracks and bamboo bridges to commute and carry essential commodities. The villagers had been urging the BRO to build a 45 km road from Hemyuliang to Glotonglat village for the last two decades, but it was ignored. Golotonglet village has immense strategic importance for India. During the 1962 Chinese incursion, the Chinese army invaded and stayed in Glotonglat village for 15 days. Due to bad roads and no transport facilities, the army arrived late, and by then 17 of our soldiers had already sacrificed their lives.

The effort to set up tribal freedom struggle museums is a laudable step, but looking at the same tribal communities in Arunachal Pradesh, it is noticed that even decades after independence, many communities, including Yobin, Nocte, Tangsa, Wanchos and Tutsa, have still not been recognised by the government. Due to which the people of the community are

forced to live a low level of life. In some parts of the States, they have to walk for four days to reach the main road near them. When will the Government include them in the mainstream? The government seems ambitious about the National Health Policy. In case of an emergency in Arunachal Pradesh, it takes three to four days for the patients to be flown to AIIMS in Delhi for treatment. There is a growing demand for providing AIIMS to Eastern Arunachal Pradesh, for which I have also offered to donate my land. However, the Government has not assured us that it will provide AIIMS so far. Hon. President quoted about the government's commitment to higher education. When we look at Arunachal, the state does not have a single national-level higher education institution. These institutes, when established in Arunachal, attract students from all over India and help in creating awareness about the local culture across the country. Quality higher

education will help overcome the lack of resources and infrastructure, especially in the Northeastern region.

I would like to congratulate the Government for taking up the idea of skill development among youth and dedicating an entire Ministry to it. However, the number of fake trainees exceeding the actual trainees/beneficiaries has made us pessimistic about the scheme. Moreover, blind implementation of skills will not be useful unless the local skills of the specific region are mapped and the youth of that region are trained to excel in those particular skills inherited in the particular community or region.

The government introduced the UDAN scheme with the tag line "Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik." The only major airport for half of Arunachal was built at Pasighat. However, no progress has been made so far, and only two flights have been operated from that airport so far.

The Hon. President has stated that the Shillong-Tura road will connect the entire Northeast. The government needs to explain how a single road can connect the entire Northeast. How can a road connect the seven states of NortheastIndia apart from the state of Sikkim?

The Hon. President remarked that the longest river bridge in the country - Dhola-Sadiya - has reduced the distance between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh by 165 kilometres. This is a misleading number. If the distance between the two ends of the river is only 3 kilometres, how can the pool reduce the length of 165 kilometres?

There was talk of approving the NESIDS scheme with 100 percent central assistance, but we all know that this scheme is not a new effort but is just a new name for LNCPR.

The president argues that the security situation in the Northeast has improved and that the government's efforts for peace talks are commendable. However, the nation needs to be informed about the talks taking place with insurgent groups like the NSCN. The results of the peace talks should be made public. The government should also clarify its policy on NEC.

Apart from this, in the general budget also the government has not given anything to the Northeast except Sela Pass, which I oppose.

The President has referred to the successes of the Government in the field of defence. Throughout the speech, I kept expecting the president to say something on Chinese

intrusion, but ultimately I was disappointed. Satellite images have revealed that China is building an underwater tunnel to divert the Brahmaputra River. In Arunachal Pradesh, the water of Siang/Brahmaputra is very transparent. Due to the river turning, the water became extremely black, and the turbidity, which always lived under 5, reached 482. Aquatic creatures died due to sand, mud and iron; even migratory birds did not come this year. Apart from this, recently the Chinese intruded into Bishing village in Arunachal and continue to do such intrusions. They have built roads up to the border areas and are waiting to capture our land. I wrote numerous letters to the government, but the Nationalist Government turned a blind eye to an issue of immediate strategic importance. Not only this, but ridiculous arguments were made that the river has become polluted due to the impact of underwater earthquakes.

As the Hon. President highlighted, nation building is a continuous process in which every citizen of the country has a special role to play. We all have to work together with full dedication to fulfil the dream of 130 crore countrymen. I am very optimistic about the government and hope to work together and lead the nation towards development.

Jai Hind.

*__SHRI DADDAN MISHRA (SHRAVASTI):__ We are proud that the Government of India is working in accordance with the basic spirit of the Constitution to strengthen social justice and economic democracy as well as keeping in mind the bright future of the common citizens of the country. Our government has taken seriously the inequality in women's rights and exploitation of women in independent India, and by presenting a bill to make a law regarding triple talaq, it has paved the way for Muslim women to live a life with dignity. Today, women all over the world are appreciating it. This historic decision will prove to be a milestone for Muslim women, daughters-in-law and daughters.

In the last four years, the Bharatiya Janata Party government has implemented the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme honestly; as a result, the expected results are visible. The government has expanded the scheme from 161 districts to 640 districts now. This shows the government's commitment towards the all-round development of women; we strongly welcome this decision. Till now, our working daughters-in-law were getting 12 weeks of maternity leave to take care of their newborn babies. We are very happy that the Bharatiya Janata

* Speech was laid on the Table

Party government has now made a provision to give 26 weeks of leave with salary. This is a historic decision.

Under the 'Jan Dhan Yojana,' about 31 crore bank accounts of poor people have been opened; in this the percentage of women's savings accounts has increased to more than 40; this will be very helpful in the progress of women. For the poor and the middle class, emphasis has been laid on giving loans without bank guarantees to promote self-employment schemes; this decision will enable people to realise their dream of running their own enterprise. It shows that the Bharatiya Janata Party government is fully aware of making the poor and the middle class prosperous and is taking concrete decisions in this direction. We are happy that to date around 10 crore loans have been sanctioned under 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana' and loans worth more than Rs 4 lakh crore have been given. About 3 crore people have taken the benefit of this scheme for the first time and have become successful in starting self-employment; this is a great achievement of the Bharatiya Janata Party government. Our government has given priority to solving the problems of farmers and raising their standard of living; this proves how serious the government is in changing the condition and direction of the farmers. The government's schemes are not

only reducing the worries of the farmers but are also reducing their expenditure on farming. With low cost and higher production, our farmer brothers will definitely become self-reliant and prosperous. We thank the government with respect and honour for this effort. We are extremely happy to know that due to the policies of the Government and the hard work of the farmers, our country has produced more than 275 million tonnes of food grains and about 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables. Our Government of the Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi ji is committed to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. Work is underway to connect the country's agricultural markets online so that farmers can get a fair price for their produce. So far, agricultural commodities worth more than Rs 36,000 crore have been traded on e-NAM, which reflects the government's continuous hard work.

Our government has also taken effective steps towards completing 99 irrigation projects that were pending for several decades; this is most commendable. Taking seriously the skyrocketing inflation due to the shortage of pulses in India, due to the new policy made for pulses by the Bharatiya Janata Party government, the production of pulses has increased by

more than 38 percent compared to last year, which is a record. We heartily thank the Government of India for this achievement.

In its continuous and sustained effort to increase the income of farmers, the Government has launched an ambitious scheme in the dairy sector by way of the 'Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund' with an outlay of Rs. 11,000 crore, which will surely succeed in making the farmers prosperous. Due to the policies of the government, the production of urea has increased in the country, and along with this, the black marketing of urea has also stopped after 100 percent neem coating. Work is being done at a fast pace towards restarting the fertiliser factories in Gorakhpur, Barauni, Sindri, Talcher and Ramagundam, which were closed due to the wrong policies and decisions of the Congress government; this will prove to be a boon for the farmers. Our government has provided cheap and simple insurance service to the farmers under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.' During the year 2017, the government has provided protection cover to 5 crore 71 lakh farmers under this scheme for Rabi and Kharif crops; this shows the commitment of the government.

At a premium of one rupee per month and 90 paise per day, insurance schemes have been made available to the poor. Till now, more than 18 crore poor people have joined the 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana' and 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.' This will provide great support to the poor in times of trouble and will increase their self-reliance. The Government committed to the social security of the elderly has benefited about 80 lakh senior citizens under the "Atal Pension Yojana." The policy decisions taken by our government for all sections in the last four years will yield positive results. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the President and conclude my speech with thanks.

[English]

***SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI):** While I remain appreciative of the efforts taken by the Government for the welfare of people, I have my doubts as to how effective these schemes are and how much truth lies in the tall claims made in the President's speech. I would like to start by mentioning that despite the Government claiming to be one that aspires for 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' the President's address has failed to address issues such as human trafficking, mob lynching, Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes, women's safety, huge farmer distress witnessed due to failed BT cotton seeds in various States, disability, malnutrition among children, huge gap in job opportunities and cases of Aadhar leakages, etc. I would like to know from Government what has been done on these fronts and to what end.

The Government claims that it is nearing the completion of its 2019 target of Swachh Bharat, but I would like to ask the Government that while Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin guidelines clearly envisages a yearly, country-wide, independent third-party assessment of the sanitation status of

* Speech was laid on the Table

rural areas, why there has been no independent monitoring so far. ODF is more than just building toilets. It's about bringing behavioural change in the people. But less focus has been given on the IEC- information, education and communication regarding the use of toilets. It has mostly been a race without quality check and verified data of ground reality. Various cases have been reported where the said subsidy of Government for building toilets has not been timely transferred, toilets built are not functional and people threatened by administration in the horde of achieving first rank in Swachhta mission at the cost of peoples' lives. And most important of all, villages and areas where there is scarcity of drinking water for people, how are they going to spend water on every day toilet use. Government must take into account all these factors and not jump to declare victory over half achieved goals.

At the beginning of the year, some seven manual scavengers died fixing a sewer line. Laws have not been able to curb the demeaning and life threatening job of manual scavenging. Last year, in August, Bezwada Wilson- social activist and Magsaysay award winner- had said that more than 12 crore toilets are being built under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, but the Government is relying on the services of

manual scavengers who are overwhelmingly Dalit to clean these toilets. No mechanised and well thought out plan has been devised by the Government to tackle the cleaning of the septic tanks.

We welcome Triple Talaq Bill was brought to provide justice and equal rights to Muslim women in their married life, but no effort was seen on the part of Government to bring about a legislation on the Women's reservation. I want to ask the Government, if you really claim to be messiah of women by building toilets, bringing legislation on Triple Talaq and providing LPG connection, why not go ahead and bring the much awaited Women Reservation Bill. Why don't take steps to curb rapes?

The issue of women safety also received no attention of the current Government despite increasing and brutal incidents occurring every day. The rape of 8-month old girl in the National Capital is a shameful event for our society. We keep hearing news of infant and teenage rapes occurring around us but see no action being taken. NCRB data shows 38,947 rape cases of women in the year 2016. The 1,000 crore corpus fund, called the Nirbhaya Fund also remains largely unutilised. As a women, I welcome the decision of the Supreme Court where it

recognised marital rape to minors below 18 years of age but it saddens me to know that for women about 18 years, there exist no way to receive justice if raped within the institution of marriage. I demand legislation by the Government for the same. The #MeToo campaign brought into light the stories of many women across the country who have suffered sexual violence at the hand of relatives or outsiders. The Economic Survey tells us that Indian population still prefers son, leading to some 21 million unwanted girls. This figure is also symbolic of cases of female foeticide practised in the country. And, all of this remain unattended by the Government.

Human trafficking is again a very serious matter which needs due consideration, but has been highly neglected. Nearly 20,000 women and children were trafficked in the year 2016 and according to a report by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, there are 3 million sex workers in India of whom 40 % (1. 2 million) are minors brought in the trafficking. I want to ask the Government that, on one hand, you talk of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, while on the other hand this is a cruel reality you refuse to even acknowledge. You boast of women empowerment, but don’t those lost lives deserve a better chance at life?

In rural India, 23 % of girls have listed menstruation as the chief reason for dropping out of school. As many as 28 % of them said they do not go to school during their period because they lack clean and affordable protection, as India Spend reported on June 19, 2017. Yet no steps have been taken to promote menstrual hygiene among teenage girls, especially in rural areas. The demand of exempting sanitary pads from the purview of GST also went unnoticed by the Government.

ASER reports bring out the ugly and distorted face of education system in the country where only 53 % of all 14 year old can read a simple English text and just 44 % can perform a simple division. Access to quality secondary education is still a dream for many in India. I was very upset when I learned of State Government's decision to shut more than 1000 primary schools in Maharashtra. The logic given by Government behind the decision is completely baseless. I would like to ask the Hon'ble HRD minister what does he has to say about this? What is the reason behind low spending on the Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan despite our country facing hardships in the secondary education? The schools in villages lack adequate infrastructure, with majority of them with no proper access to sanitation. There is a huge disparity in teacher-

pupil ratio, wherein some schools do not even have regular teaching staffs. I want to ask the Government what good is all these schemes if it fails to change the reality of our education system which continues to be plagued by corruption, lack of effective teaching staff and curriculum and quality education.

India is primarily an agrarian economy with more than 50 % of its population linked to agricultural production, whether directly or indirectly. In such a scenario, it becomes critical to focus on the development and innovation of agriculture and allied sectors. However, still a large number of Indian farmers depend on local moneylenders for loan at high rates of interests. Institutionalised money lending has still not been able to percolate the small and medium farmers. The lack of updated research has led to the failure of BT cotton crops and subsequent death of farmers in Maharashtra due to pesticide spraying. More than 50 % of the cotton crop got infected by pink bollworm in the state causing huge economic loss to the farmers. The bollworm infestation has occurred even as Indian farmers have adopted genetically modified seeds known as BT cotton that are resistant to the pest. These seeds were approved by Government in 2006. I would like to ask the Government, what you are doing to prevent another Yavatmal incident. I

would also like to ask the Government, how many farmers of Yavatmal and Vidharbha were compensated through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna when the crops failed in the State.

The current formula used by the Government for calculating MSP puts States like Maharashtra, having high input cost owing to low irrigation facility and low productivity, at a disadvantage as it takes into account the average input costs of all States. The Government launched e-NAM facility but how are farmers supposed to benefit when there is no internet connectivity in the rural and remote areas, no facility for transportation. Also, it limits the options of the farmers who are forced to sell their products at the APMC market at the available bidding prices even if they are getting better prices somewhere else. Export limitations again harm the interest of farmers. This results n huge debts and suicide. NCRB data states that a total of 12,602 persons involved in farming sector have committed suicides during 2015, accounting for 9. 4 % of total suicides victims in the year.

This Government promised to double farmer's income by 2022, but the state of agriculture in the country sings the reverse tone. I come from a state which has a large number of farmers and would like to see some policy formation at the Centre for

the welfare of farmers. Research and development has never picked up pace in agriculture due to negligence and hesitation on part of policy makers, due to which agriculture in India still suffers from perils such as weather and rainfall uncertainty, dwindling market prices and so on. Farmers suicide were highest in the past 2 years with as many as 2,414 farmers suicide in Maharashtra alone between January 1 and 31st October, as per the data reported by six divisional commissionerates across the States.

Our Hon'ble President in his speech talked about simultaneous State and Centre elections. I am all for stable governance and people's welfare but the idea of simultaneous election is just not the way to achieve it. One must remember that not only are elections a necessary condition for democracy, but they are lifeblood of our system. The proposal is, from start highly undemocratic and an attack on India's federal structure as simultaneous election means that dominance of national issues will hurt the breadth of debates on people's issue pertaining to particular State. And even if India was able to sync all Assembly and Parliamentary elections in the future, how does one stop the decoupling cycle from starting once again, as it did after the initial synced start in 1951-52?

One of the major promises given by the Government in its 2014 manifesto was creation of one crore jobs. However, the Labour Bureau, which collects quarterly data on jobs created or lost in key sectors, showed only 1. 4 new lakh jobs, had been created in these sectors in FY 2016 against 11 lakh jobs in FY 2013 and 3. 7 lakh jobs in FY 2014. At 1. 4 lakhs, the number of jobs created in FY 2016 is miniscule. It stands in stark contrast to the promise of one crore jobs per annum that the Prime Minister had claimed he would create or his other wild claims that he would create 15 crore jobs (approximately 2 crore jobs per year) by 2022. What is even more depressing is that the pace of creation of new jobs is not increasing but actually declining. Government went on a spree by launching slew of schemes such as Skill India, Make in India, Start-Up India, etc. but it has failed miserably in generating enough job opportunities for the citizens.

In India, the population with disabilities is around 26. 8 million, constituting 2. 21 % India’s total population, as reported by 2011 population census data. But this significant population has not received much attention from the Government, whether we talk of 5 % GST on disabled equipment, or the discriminatory clause in the Foreign Affairs

Ministry's guidelines which prohibits disabled people from applying to Hajj. Instead of helping them out or making smart cities disabled friendly, the Government shows no empathy to the disadvantaged of our society. Even now, most buildings in India are not disability friendly, despite the Government of India, under the Accessible India Campaign, instructing all ministries to make their buildings accessible to persons with disabilities. There is no talk about making railways more disabled friendly or about how the reserved coach at the end of the train makes it inaccessible for the disabled population. India still lags behind in a big way when it comes to removing infrastructural, institutional and attitudinal barriers for their persons with disabilities, yet it found no mention in the President's address.

I want to raise another very important question to the Government regarding its decision to discontinue the scholarships given to SC and ST girls under the National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education from March 31. Is this your way of educating girls in the name of Beti Padhao? I am very confused. This Government says something else and then go ahead and does just the opposite. The Government has also not been releasing the due funds for

Dalit and Tribal students under the post-metric scholarship. I ask again how is this Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas?

Ours is a country where we highly respect our elders and touch their feet to show our respect. Considering India is expected to be home to 300 million elderly people by 2050, and with India shifting towards nuclear families, we need welfare schemes that target our elders and enable them to lead a comfortable life away in absence of care from their children. However, I was shocked to learn that the Centre supported Integrated Programme for Older Persons has seen a decline from 269 homes in 2012-13 to a dismal 137 in 2014-15 despite the growing population of senior citizens in the country. There is an urgent need to provide affordable housing and healthcare to the older to enable them bring Government's attention to the rising prices of diesel and petrol, since the BJP-led NDA Government has come to power making it costliest in the Southeast Asian countries. Taxes currently constitute 45 % - 52 % of the retail price of auto fuels, thus making diesel and petrol costly for Indians. Ever since this Government has come into power, excise duty has been raised 9 times between November 2014 and January 2016 itself. They refuse to bring petrol and diesel into the tax ambit, which would significantly reduce the

price burden of oils for consumers. Everyday fluctuation in the prices badly hurts the consumers. The so called *ACCHE DIN* seems a farfetched dream to the common man and poor under this Government regime.

Healthcare is an important parameter when you measure the demographic potential of a country. But last year's negligence leading to death of children in Gorakhpur due to alleged disruption of oxygen supply and cases of excessive billing and negligence in big corporate hospitals, such as the case of dengue death in Fortis Hospital, Gurugram are proofs of the systematic failures in public health services. National Family Health Survey, 2015-16 also revealed that less than one-third (29%) of households have at least one member covered under health insurance or health scheme. Most Government hospitals do not have adequate infrastructure as reported by Rural Health Statistics 2017, with only 11% of sub-centres and about 13% of primary health centres functioning according to Indian Public Health Standard. The Janani Suraksha Yojna which provides cash incentive of Rs1400 to poor women for institutional delivery does not cover even half of the expenses that women have to bear. I would urge the Government to strengthen the delivery of public health services

by filing the gap of acute shortage of qualified professionals and medical supplies.

Extreme malnutrition resulting in stunted growth of children is another issue plaguing our society. I would ask the Government to focus on improving the health of all those children by providing nutritious meal. I thank the President for outlining the goals and achievements of the Government, but I also sincerely hope that the Government would now focus on the aspects so far neglected in their tenure.

[Translation]

*__DR SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR):__ President Ram Nath Kovind Ji addressed the members of both our houses. Our country's popular Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Hon. The president gave their entire speech in Hindi. Our national language is Hindi. I thank you very much that you delivered your speech in the official language of our country. -

The most revered constitution maker, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar ji, has been mentioned. A special mention has been made in the speech of this budget session to give equal rights and greater progress to the last man in the society who is downtrodden and poor. In the last three years, a lot of work has been done towards cleaning house and cleaning India. Free gas connections were given to the houses of poor people under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Gas Yojana in the name of the Prime Minister. Crores of poor families have benefited from it. In my Lok Sabha constituency, 5-7 thousand families have gotten the benefit of the Ujjwala Gas Scheme. The Hon. Prime Minister has done great serviceable work under this scheme. In my Lok

* Speech was laid on the Table

Sabha constituency, more than 50 thousand people have gotten the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Ghar Yojana in the last 3 years. There was a big problem of water for the municipality in Latur city; for that, an amount of 100 crore has been received under the AMRUT scheme. The Hon. Prime Minister has also started an important scheme for the benefit of the poor. To date, in my Lok Sabha constituency, Latur, very poor patients have received more than crores of rupees from the Hon. Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

No matter how much we thank the head of our government, the Hon. Prime Minister, it will be less because people in Latur were facing problems due to lack of water. The historic work of providing water through trains was also done by the Hon. Prime Minister. Now around 9 new trains have started running at Latur railway station. I thank him for this as well. Our Modi ji's government has passed the Triple Talaq Bill. Now, under the world's largest Ayushman Mediclaim, expenditure up to 5 lac will be given by the government in a year. I thank the Hon. Prime Minister for his compassion towards the poor.

Even in my Lok Sabha constituency, Latur, our Government in Maharashtra has constructed two super speciality hospitals. Construction of a 200-bed super speciality

hospital in my Latur area has started from zero. The benefit of this hospital will be so much that the poor patients from the states surrounding my Lok Sabha constituency, Andhra, Telangana, and Karnataka, will benefit from it. Under the leadership of Hon. Nitin Ji, construction work worth Rs. 9 thousand crores for the construction of the National Highway has been started in my Lok Sabha constituency. Our government has also done the work of providing a good amount of money for the new road line.

The government of a developing and growing country under the leadership of Modi Ji is striving for the progress of the people of the country and is working to bring the poor people of the country into the mainstream. I welcome and thank the Hon. President for his speech. Modi ji's government has made a huge contribution to building a progressive nation.

I welcome the speech of this budget session and thank and support the president. Thank you.

[English]

***SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH):** I am submitting my opinion, thoughts and including myself to Hon'ble President's Address to the nation as a vision road map of the development. The Government has taken up more welfare projects for the poor and I am proud that the Government has made a huge provision for providing LPG connections to the poor people of 8 crore houses, out of which 3. 5 crore houses are already provided the benefits. The Government has also made needful provision to provide as much as toilets and sanitation facilities needed to the poor citizen, especially to control school going children's dropout rate, especially among women in large. The Government has also provided maximum benefits to farmers in agriculture sector through Bhima Yojana and also implemented Swaminathan Committee report by accepting the demand of 1. 5 times rate of cost price. I congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Power Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal for fulfilling the promise of providing electricity to 15000 villages out of 18000 villages not provided electricity even after the 70 years of Independence. Remaining 3500 villages are also to get

* Speech was laid on the Table

electricity in coming days. The Government has also announced that 4. 5 Crore houses of the poor are going to be benefited by electricity connection free of cost, because of Government's excellent budget allocation for this needful area. I am proud to say that under Modi ji's visionary leadership, implementation of the projects on ground has increased more than 300% of previous Government.

Also, on behalf of whole country, I congratulate Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Modi and Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley for announcing world's biggest social security on medical health for poor people of our country and made huge provision in the budget. Provision of Rs. 5 lacs medical help to the poor and middle class people, which is 10 crore houses and near about 50 crore people of our country, will be directly benefitted.

On behalf of people of our country, I take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Finance Minister and also Health Minister, Shri Nadda, and Shri Shripad Naik for bringing New Medical colleges in every 3 Parliamentary constituency areas where there is no medical college and it will be on priority basis, which will be a big change in the mindset of the people of our country and making them to available

generic medicine at very cheaper rate. Under Make in India, Ministry of AYUSH is also making dramatic change in the health care sector under Shri Shripad Naik. Since this Government has taken serious note of young job seekers and Shri Jaitley has given big relief to MSME Sector, especially the small scale industry by giving huge tax relief has encouraged Make in India concept. Also, the Government of India has continued its efforts to boost skill development to the youth, educated or uneducated or unemployed, to enhance their skill as per the requirement of the industry and society and thus generating big job opportunity.

Further, it is for the first time, Modi Government is providing as much as small loan without collateral guarantee under the Mudra Scheme, at lesser rate of interest, to protect the micro and poor traders and vendors and thus again creating an opportunity of millions of new jobs. With Government's Mudra Loan, the middle and poor class families as well as the youth are getting benefitted and Start-up and Stand-up schemes are big success. They are not only building their future, but fulfilling their parent's dreams, but in true sense, these entrepreneurs are becoming an asset and job providers instead

of job seekers and thus, Hon'ble Prime Minister efforts are greatly successful in this regard.

I am proud to witness budgets from 2014-2018. Every year, the fiscal deficit is coming down in spite of many financial reforms like Demonetizations and implementation of GST. I am thankful to 125 crore people of our country for supporting and standing strongly behind our great Prime Minister for making two major financial reforms successful, which will lead our country to greater heights in the world map. It is a proud moment for the people of our country, due to the positive action plan of our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister. The number of income tax payers in our country has increased from 4. 5 crore to 6 crore expecting more increase in the coming days. This will generate more revenue for the infrastructure development which is seen in the current budget allocation for different development schemes under various ministries, like MGNREGA alone gets 55 thousand crore rupees, and 45 crores for Panchayati Raj which is again for the development of rural infrastructure.

When we talk about infrastructure, how can we forget the name of our Hon'ble Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Road Transport and Highways Minister. He has created a biggest

milestone in the Highway road infrastructure from 2 km of road development in 2014 to 27 + km per day in the year 2017-18.

We must thank the vehicle user of our country who has contributed huge amount by paying more price to petrol and diesel in spite of fall in the price in the international market.

Further, we all must extend a big thank to Shri Arun Jaitely for taking note of a published report that 1 % people are having 73% revenue and resources of our country and the rest 27%, which is 99% people to fill this gap tax on long term capital gaine has to pay 10% taxes. This will again bring huge revenue, which can be used for the development of poor middle class people under various welfare schemes.

Over all, the Government has taken every one into confidence, be it poor class, middle class people, senior citizens, women, working class, small scale industry, education, health care, nation security at the end.

Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikash

Desh Badal Raha Hai Aage Badh Raha Hai.

[Translation]

*__SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR (KARNAL):__ In his address, the President has given a detailed account of many schemes launched by the government for the benefit of various sections of the society. There is definitely something for every class in these programs. I would like to mention only two or three things here.

First of all, about our farmer brothers, their contribution and their needs, which we call farmers distress in English. India is an agricultural country, and its contribution to the economy of the country is important. The President rightly said that due to the hard work, dedication and courage of the farmers and the full contribution of the government, this time some 275 million tonnes of food grains and 300 million tonnes of horticulture have been produced, which is a record. The government is also committed to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. Farmers do not need repeated increases in minimum support price for crops, subsidies in fertilisers, etc., or loan waivers because these are not permanent solutions. He should get a fair price for the produce of his hard work, which should be more than the

* Speech was laid on the Table

cost and which should be permanent so that he can live with dignity and not be forced to commit suicide. It is the job of the government to provide necessary facilities. Our Minister of Finance has paid special attention to farmers in this year's budget, and the facilities he has provided to them are praiseworthy. For this I thank Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley ji.

The President also referred to the infiltration of terrorists into Kashmir by Pakistan and the handling of the situation by our security agencies. Kashmir has become a serious issue today. Despite all the efforts of India, Pakistan is not desisting from its nefarious activities. He is sending terrorists across the border, creating religious frenzy among the youth of Kashmir, killing innocent people and ruining Kashmiriyat.

Kashmiriat is formed by Sufism in the valley, Hinduism in Jammu and Buddhism in Ladakh. Today the condition of Kashmir has become such that "the disease kept increasing as the medicine was given." When the medicine did not work, we did surgical strikes twice, but all were ineffective. Pakistan doesn't get better. It's time for a major operation. I hope the Government will take appropriate action at the right time. Some elected representatives of the people of Kashmir, including the

members of the Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha, are challenging the merger of Kashmir with India and are toeing the line of separatist forces. They forget that they had taken the Oath of Affirmation of loyalty to the Constitution of India when they became members, so why are they giving anti-India statements now? The membership of such members who call Kashmir a disputed territory should be immediately cancelled, and a case of treason should be filed against them.

I want to tell these members that Article 370 on Kashmir is a temporary provision, and it did not even get the approval of the Parliament of India. If the name of the Prime Minister in Kashmir can be changed to Chief Minister and Sadar-e-Riyasat can be changed to Governor like other states, then Article 370 can also be abolished. If necessary, the government should take immediate action to abolish Article 370 by amending the Constitution. My advice to the Prime Minister is that now the time has come that we should leave the PDP in Kashmir and impose President's rule in Kashmir.

Triple Talaq is proving to be a boon for Muslim women. I request the government to now take this bold step to implement the Uniform Civil Code.

India currently ranks third in the world in domestic flights. Every big city is connected by air service. To enable common citizens to travel by air easily and conveniently, the government has launched a scheme called 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Aadmi.'

Karnal is a historic and industrial city. I am fortunate that it's my constituency. An airstrip has been approved in Karnal. Now, whatever formalities the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Haryana Government have to complete, they should complete them immediately, and keeping in mind the demand of the public and traders, such steps should be taken so that the work of building the airstrip and starting air services in Karnal can be completed soon.

With these words, I thank the President.

[English

***DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR):** Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji has been pleased to deliver his address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the January 29, 2018 and the motion was moved by Hon. Shri Rakesh Singh and seconded by Hon. Shri Pralhad Joshi.

Our Hon'ble President is the 14th President of India. In his Address, the words of address 'Honourable Members' have been mentioned 28 times. This is exactly twice the Sl. No. of the Presidency i. e. 2X14=28. May be the Hon. President is contemplating for a second term of his office! It is too early for that.

The fundamental NDA Government Mantra -Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas vis-a-vis the issues of immediate concern: GST, demonetization, emerging trend of national intolerance, slowdown in economic growth, governance deficit, black money, corruption, terrorism, internal security and, of course, international relations have not found enough space in the President's Address.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

In one of the paragraphs of the Address, Hon. President has mentioned about North East India and its people vis-a-vis Act East Policy of the Government of India. I quote, "my Government is working with sensitivity towards achieving the hopes and aspirations of the people of North East. To accelerate the pace of development of this area, North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme has been sanctioned recently, with 100% central assistance. Under this scheme, projects relating to drinking water supply, energy, education and health will be completed". However, the mentions are very subjective. I am from this region -the North-eastern States and exactly Manipur.

Why I say so is because the then Imphal Silchar daily flight has not been restored for the last more than three years. The status of implementation of the Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal Rail line is still not satisfactory at all, except for the laying of foundation stones of some projects, that too, at the state capital, Imphal. Law and order situation has always been blamed for these inordinate delays. But, the Hon. President in his Address has stated; I quote “The North East has also witnessed an improvement in the security situation”**.** We demand a dedicated

Security Component in each and every North East Projects to facilitate timely completion of these projects.

Two National Highways No. 2 and 37, the only lifelines of Manipur, have not been made all-weather roads till now. There are still unauthorized tax collections on these NHs. Because of these undesirable environments, the transportation cost has increased double fold. Hence we are facing insurmountable hardships. The prices of essential commodities including petroleum products are almost more than double what you are paying here in Delhi. Life-saving drugs are always in acute shortage. The situation is still no better. This is why I have been demanding for the establishment of dedicated NHs Protection Security Forces to regulate 24x7 smooth flows of vehicles for passengers and goods on these NHs.

The state of Manipur and other NE States had been facing a serious insurgent movement from around the beginning of 60s, which in my opinion, requires a political solution. Government of India promulgated Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA). Under it, many lives were lost, many people disappeared, crimes against women including rape were rampant, and many women became widows. This AFSPA is really draconian and a black law. I am always for the

immediate repeal of this AFSPA. Time has come for this draconian Act to go. This law is a manifestation of the colonial law legislated way back in 1942. I once again urge the Union Government to immediately repeal this draconian law.

We are all for a peaceful settlement of vexed Naga issues. Unfortunately, in 2001, the Indo-NSCN (IM) cease fire agreement was extended 'beyond territorial limits'. Because of this, in 2002 June, there was a huge upsurge in the state of Manipur. 18 innocent people died and the State Assembly building and many other government offices including that of the Chief Minister of Manipur were burnt down. That was during NDA regime.

Again, on August 3, 2015, a framework agreement was signed between Government of India and NSCN (IM). What are there in the framework, it appears, nobody knows. Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh Governments are demanding the details of the framework agreement without much success. Is it not something really very serious? Because NSCN (IM) does speak among others including their demand for some sort of integration of Naga people of the neighbouring states by expanding their territory and also of shared sovereignty with the Government of India.

Lastly, I do sincerely wish that our relations with neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka would continue to grow from strength to strength. Our relations with Myanmar and Asian countries through our Look-East Policy (now Act East Policy) should improve enormously.

Finally, the claims made by this Government are on the contrary to the reality on the ground and needless to say that the commitments made are only in the vacuum. However, in the best established tradition of parliamentary democracy, I do support the motion.

***SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** I thank the Hon'ble President for his address delivered to both Houses in Joint Session held on 29th of February 2018, but I regret that the Address fails to mention certain developments and concerns which merit discussion. While speaking about construction of toilets under the 'Swacch Bharat Mission', various connected issues like ground water contamination due to diffuse source pollution and the inhuman practice of manual scavenging still plague this sanitation movement, and are not being addressed sufficiently. Various on-ground reports have showed that the haphazard diffuse waste management could potentially contaminate ground water sources, which once contaminated can spread mass disease, and create havoc in water supply in villages. Sanitation and water need to be looked at from a holistic perspective, where in the pursuit of the former, the health of latter cannot be ignored or sacrificed.

I would like to commend the inclusion of the issue of maternity leave in this Address by the Hon'ble President. However, the issue of paternity leave also needs to be raised along with the positive reform of maternity leave that this Government is planning. As this year's Economic Survey

* Speech was laid on the Table

revealed that there is a widespread preference of parents towards a male child, addressing issues of gender equality and parity while breaking out of the patriarchal system, becomes a necessity. India is also faring very badly on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index, where we are in the 108th position, behind countries like Bangladesh and China. Increasing share of women's participation in work force can only be guaranteed when our policies start looking at child-bearing as a 'family' responsibility, rather than only of the woman. An initiative like 'paternity leave' would have widespread social impact in conveying the message that the responsibility of the home and child is not that of a woman alone, but also that of a father.

On the health sector performance of this Government, including the expenditure by States, India spends 1. 4% of its GDP on health, which is not nearly sufficient for a nation with the highest population of stunted children at 48. 2 million. Households still contribute around 69% through out-of-pocket expenditure on health needs. Our expenditure on curative care in estimated to be 80. 4% while only 9% is spent on preventive care. As a policy objective, not only does our expenditure on

health need to increase, but focus must also be on preventive care.

Now, coming to the economy and credit availability, in spite of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, the problem of lack of credit is faced by MSME. Data on credit disbursed by banks shows that out of a total outstanding credit of Rs. 26,041 billion as in November 2017, 82. 6% of the amount was lent to large enterprises and MSMEs got only 17. 4% of total credit. MSMEs not only contribute the most to GDP but also create maximum employment, yet they have faced existential pressure from GST and demonetization. At such times, there has to be a policy focus on strengthening credit atmosphere for small and medium enterprises.

On the front of welfare of tribals, although it is a welcomes move to increase Minimum Support Price of Forest produce for tribals, the Government still neglects the impact that levy of GST is having on their livelihoods. Certain forest produces which is collected by Tribals from my state Odisha like Sal leaves, still fall under the purview of the Goods and Service Tax. Tribal economic activities involving collection of forest produce are subsistence occupations which give financial independence to many tribal women in my state. Such an

activity when taxed becomes wholly unviable for those poor folk who rely on this for subsistence. One of the core reforms this Government has pushed for is the spread and inclusion of Aadhar for delivery of services for welfare, and linking it to various other modes of identity and transactions. One cannot deny that Aadhar is now being used for eliminating middlemen but it has also brought with it a myriad of security and data protection concerns which were addressed. The misuse of data by private entities, lack of enough safeguards, information or redressal mechanisms are plaguing this biometric identity system introduced with much fanfare across the nation. Reports of denial of Government services and even private services due to lack of Aadhar are coming forth, and this need to be tackled at the earliest.

It is matter of pride that we were first responders to natural calamities in Nepal. However, my State Odisha's deathly relationship with lighting has not yet been acknowledged as a natural calamity by the Government. On an average, at least 2000 deaths take place every year in our country due to lighting which accounts for over 25% of the total accidental deaths caused by nature. Over 1600 people have lost their lives to lightening strikes in Odisha in the last five years alone. While

we, as a state, have taken several measure to mitigate and compensate those affected by this calamity. It needs to be recognized as a natural calamity by the Centre at the earliest.

*SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): I would like to thank the President for addressing the Joint Sitting of the Parliament on January 29. The Hon'ble President's address is expected to provide a brief overview of the Government's vision for the upcoming financial year and show the direction in which the Government is moving. However, unfortunately, it turned out to be just an administrative statement defending the programmes launched by the Government.

The message missed some of the critical parameters necessary for assessing the success of various schemes. It mentions that under the flagship scheme-Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), 5 crore 71 lakh farmers were provided protective insurance coverage. But how much amount has been paid as claims to the farmers and what proportion of the total premium collected has been pocketed by the insurance companies? Only these details can provide a better insight into the success of the scheme.

The Government had made ambitious claims of doubling the income of the farmers by the year 2022. But, over the last four years of the NDA Government, ill-conceived policies have

* Speech was laid on the Table

pushed the rural farming households into deep abyss of distress. The situation has been highlighted in the Economic Survey which points that in the last four years, the level of real agricultural GDP and real agricultural revenues have remained constant and farmer revenues have been declining for a number of crops. Moreover, it paints a very sad picture for the agri-sector in the light of climate change, stating that the farmers may lose 20-25 per cent of their revenues to the drastic changes in weather in the medium term. Under these conditions, it is important to insure the farmers against changing weather by dramatically extending efficient irrigation techniques. Even today, more than 52 per cent of the agricultural land, being un-irrigated and rain-fed, is vulnerable to the vagaries of the nature. The speech completely fails to outline the long term measures planned to secure higher incomes and remuneration for the small and marginal farmers.

I have been consistently raising the woes of large number of rubber farmers in the country in the House. The Government has continuously sidelined the interests of the domestic rubber growers; today their produce fetches barely half of what it used to in the year 2011. The Address does not voice the distress in the rubber plantation sector, most of which comprises of small

and marginal land holders from Kerala. Moreover, instead of providing relief to the distressed sector, the Government is wilting to the pressure by tyre manufacturers' lobby. There are reports that the Centre has constituted a committee to formulate standards for cup lump rubber, a step which will spell doom for the domestic plantation sector both commercially and environmentally.

There is a glaring omission of the derailments that happened in the country last year which caused the Minister to offer to resign on grounds of moral responsibility. As per the data provided the Railways, in the 2017-18, 52 train accidents occurred till 15. 12. 2017 killing a total of 53 people and injuring 188. Despite this, the Ministry still seems to focus more on modernization of the facilities in the coaches than on maintenance and repair of tracks.

The Address also fails to mention the rising income inequality in the nation. A report released by Oxfam highlights the widening wealth gap between haves and the have-nots with the richest 1% cornering 73% of the wealth generated in the country last year. This underscores the need for the government machinery to effectively reach out to be underprivileged population to help them meet their needs.

The year 2017 was conspicuous for ghastly incidents of violence against the minority groups and the Government has done little to safeguard the rights of these groups. Even before Christmas, various fringe groups had wrongfully charged missionaries of religious conversions. The Government has been in a state of denial and has dismissed these attacks and threats as isolated incidents. But, there is no denying that attacks on minority groups eventually polarize the society. The President should have addressed this critical issue in his speech.

***DR. P. K. BIJU (ALATHUR):** The maiden presidential address of Hon. President, contrary to my high expectations has gone astray. It has nothing new to offer and a mere continuation of the past three year's rhetoric of the NDA Government. It is presented as pro-poor, but in fact a facade to the crony capitalism initiated by the UPA and vigorously pursued by the NDA Government. Apart from highlighting and reiterating some of the flagship programmes, the speech was full of hollow promises. Sadly, even these programmes have become a mockery of what it had offered initially.

Take the case of Make in India, political sloganary mission and a type of Swadeshi movement covering 25 sectors of economy, launched in 2014 with much hype to encourage companies to manufacture their products in India. It is shameful to this emotional slogan that still, in case of medical and electronics, we depend on imports for 90 per cent of the country's needs. Japanese steel and engineering companies are the major supply contractors for a 17 billion dollar Indian bullet train project, undermining a key component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic policy- a push to 'Make in India'. It brings little cheer that the World Economic Forum (WEF)

* Speech was laid on the Table

ranked India among the top 30 on a global manufacturing index. The irony is that India is behind smaller countries like Czech Republic and Austria, both smaller than Gujarat in size, for example.

What is worth noting is the exclusion of key issues that are craving for the immediate intervention of the Government, such as Agricultural distrust, growing unemployment, inflation, malnutrition, rising atrocities against SC/ST, etc.

Hon. President categorically said that his Government is committed to double the farmers' income by 2022. But what is the real picture? The year 2017 was marked by several farmers' protests nationwide, with a few turning violent and many had been killed in police firing. The same year in New Delhi, 184 farmer groups came together from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Telangana to take part in a 'protest walk'. The protest once again highlighted the plight of farmers and the extent of agrarian distress.

He also pointed out that it is the result of the hard work of farmers that there has been a record production of more than 275 million tonnes food grains and over 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables. But, he maintains a studied silence on the plugging price of agricultural products and alarming rise in

number of farmers' suicides in India. The agriculture growth rates have been unsteady in the recent past. For many crops, the farmers are not even able to get the MSP announced by the Government, which should really be the floor price. In just the current season, the loss due to the gap between MSP and actual price is estimated to be about Rs. 36,000 crore for farmers across India. Thousands of farmers commit suicide due to the falling prices and shrinking subsidies. In January-October 2017 period itself, Maharashtra reports 2,414 farmer suicides. The Neo Liberal Reforms have taken a toll on our agricultural sector. Cutting of subsidies, poor access to formal rural credit system, ineffective compensation policies and above all, corporatisation of agriculture has broken our agrarian economy. The discontent from the various sections should be seen in this light of crumbled agrarian structure of our country.

Unemployment is also a major hurdle to our development. In India, around 1. 85 crore people enter into the labour market. When NDA came to power, their biggest promise to the youth in India was the creation of 2 crore employment opportunities every year. But what has happened? The *Tuglaqian* decisions of demonetization and GST has taken away around 2 crore

employment opportunities every year that would have been a breather for the struggling unemployed youth in our country.

Inflation is another challenge that the Government could not handle with. Consumer prices in India rose to a 15 month high in 2017 due to the ongoing seasonal surge in vegetable prices and an unfavourable base effect from last year, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's medium term target for inflation. The benefit of price slash of international crude oil price has not been transferred to the consumers and the economy. Instead, the Government is transferring the benefits to the corporate and augmenting the inflation. It is expected that, at this rate, in all likelihood, the inflation rate would cross double digits this year. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is at its all time high. While WPI in 2016 was 1. 3%, it has doubled in 2018 with 3. 6%. The price of food articles has been increased from 3% in 2016 to 4. 3% in 2017.

The World Bank estimates that India is one of the highest-ranking countries in the world for the number of children suffering from malnutrition. The prevalence of underweight children in India is among the highest in the world. While aggregate levels of under nutrition are shockingly high, the picture is further exacerbated by the significant inequalities

across states and socio-economic groups- girls, rural areas, the poorest and scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are the worst affected.

The 2017 Global Hunger Index Report ranked India 97th out of 118 countries with a serious hunger situation. But, allotment in ICDS scheme has been again reduced in this budget, which is highly condemnable.

In the Health front, The National Health Protection Scheme promises Rs. 5 lakhs per year per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization and aims to cover 10 crore families. The Mega Health Insurance Scheme announced in Budget 2018 is largely geared towards the corporate healthcare industry's interests. It is more an election gimmick than a real solution to India's health needs. If we compare it with last year's revised estimates, the increase in the budgetary outlay for the health sector is trivial, and in real terms probably stagnant. On some key components, especially the National Health Mission (NHM), there is a decline in allocations.

This Budget continues with the recent trend of tinkering at the edges of the problems that confront Indian education, which is plagued with many serious issues aside from the overall lack of funds. Increase of the 3% education tax to a 4% 'health and

education' levy would bring an additional Rs. 11,000 crore to Government coffers. This shows the Government is in no mood to prioritize education and has shifted that responsibility to the public. The end result is the complete corporatization of education and depriving the marginalised and weaker sections from it.

We had strong PSUs that helped us to withstand the perils of the latest Global economic crisis. Dismantling the public sector became a part of the Government agendas since 1991 with the official advent of neoliberal policies under the Congress Government. The concepts of self-reliant economy, economic sovereignty, balanced regional development, social justice, etc. were sought to be given a go by. The Modi Government has intensified these policies. It is determined to dismantle the entire public sector in the country, conceived to achieve 'commanding heights' of our economy. Public sector today is the respiratory of huge national assets including land and minerals, vital infrastructure and huge productive forces. It is the wealth of the nation. The decision of the BJP led Government to allow 100% Foreign Direct Investment in such strategic sectors of our economy like defence, railways,

telecom, civil aviation, satellites, power, petroleum, mining, coal, etc. is nothing but anti-national in character.

According to the Credit Suisse Research Institute's Global Wealth Report, 1% of rich holds the 73% of the wealth of our country and our country is not going in the right direction. This huge disparity among the people of our country shows the unhealthy situation of our economy. In 2014, it was 53%.

I conclude with a firm conviction that mere promises will not help in the upliftment of the poor in our country. There is a need of constructive intervention in the agriculture, employment, health and education sector and stop crass corporatization.

[*]**SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI):** The President's Address to the Joint Sitting of Parliament on 29th January, 2018 was "deeply disappointing" as it made claims contrary to ground realities. The speech has tried to give an impression that under the watch of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this Government, all the commitments made to the people of India had been honoured and fulfilled, whereas the truth was far different.

If the Government and the Prime Minister are serious about the cause of empowerment of women, he should help secure the passage of Women's Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha, where his party had a majority. The "hasty" imposition of "flawed" Goods and Service Tax (GST) had led to sharp decline in the GDP and jobs as promised had not been created but destroyed. This Government is in denial and, therefore, will not be in a position to improve the situation on all fronts including alleviation of agrarian distress.

The lacklustre and inefficient implementation of various announcement and schemes as mentioned in the Presidential Address 2017 is listed below.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

As on January 25, 2018, 31 crore accounts have been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana since its launch (including 5 crore accounts opened in 2017-2018). Of this 59% of accounts have been opened in rural areas.

	Jan 15	Jan16	Jan17	Jan18
No. of Accounts opened	11,31,37,733	8,88,04,329	6,48,76,175	4,24,96,818
Amount Deposited (Crore)	8899	21209	38,919	4231

Data as per records on Jan Dhan Yojana Website

Smart Cities have an outlay of Rs. 48,000 crore for the period 2015-2020.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
Funds released (crore)	1470	4492	3977	9950/48000

Source: Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 211, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, January 2, 2018

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin was launched in November, 2016. The following table shows number of houses constructed against the target. As on January 24, 2018, 11% of the houses to be built have been completed in 2017-18 as compared to 30% in 2016-17.

Period	2016-17	2017-18
Target	43,58,324	32,30,293
Achievement	13,14,066 (30%)	3,71,460 (11%)

Source: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin, Ministry of Rural Development Website.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) is currently being implemented in select 161 districts. In November, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the expansion of the scheme for PAN India coverage (all 640 districts) with a proposed outlay of Rs. 1,132 crore from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The scheme will be funded 100% by the Central Government. In 2017-18, the scheme was allocated Rs. 200 crore. Details of the financial progress of the scheme for the last four years are given below:

Period	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Allocated	34. 8	59. 3	43	200
Released	13. 3	39	2. 9	25. 3
Percentage	38%	66%	7%	13%

Source: "Year End Review, Ministry of Women and Child Development", December 29, 2017

As for One Rank One Pension, charging the NDA Government of failing to fulfil the promises on OROP made to the ex-servicemen at the Rewari rally in 2013, Gen Satbir Singh (Chairman of the body of ex-servicemen) said, 'Notification dated 7th November, 2015 denies benefit of OROP to nearly 30-40 per cent of service personnel of the three armed forces as it denies benefit of OROP to all 'premature retirees'. Clause 4 of the 7th November, 2015 notification states that, "4. Personnel who opt to get discharged henceforth on their own request under Rule 13(3)1(i)(b), 13(3)1(iv) or Rule 16B of the Army Rule 1954 or equivalent Navy or Air Force Rules will not be entitled to the benefits of OROP. "

The ex-servicemen said that they felt like "victims" as their post-retirement benefits had been "diluted and downgraded" in the past three years. The contributions of ex-servicemen including retired soldiers, junior commissioned officers and commissioned officers to the health scheme have been "doubled" posing problems for them.

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) aims to provide 77 crore LED bulbs to domestic consumers by March 2019. As on December 26, 2017, about 5. 5 crore LED bulbs have been distributed over a target of distribution of 20 crore LED bulbs for 2017-18. Since January 2015, a total of 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed (36% of the total target).

Source: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2838, Ministry of Power, January 4, 2018

Bharat Net project aims to provide broadband connectivity to all gram panchayats (approximately 2,50,00) by March 2019. As on December 12, 2017, 1,05,831 gram panchayats (42%) have been connected by optical fibre cables. The budget announcement in 2017 had claimed that by March 2018, 1. 55 lakh villages will be electrified.

Source: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 916, Ministry of Communications, December 20, 2017

Deen Dayal Upadhayay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) was launched in 2015 with an aim to electrify all villages, ensure sufficient power to farmers and regular supply to all consumers. Of the total number of unelectrified villages (18,452) in the country, 82% villages have been electrified. The Finance Minister has set a deadline of March, 2018.

Source: Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 89, Minstry of Power, December 21, 2017

The Presidential address has failed to mention the following issues:

1. The situation in Kashmir has deteriorated, with an increasing number of soldiers and civilians being killed in shelling from across the border.
2. 60% of toilets constructed under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan did not have water and were, therefore, unusable as per a UN Report.
3. Increase in the price of the LPG cylinder, which used to be Rs. 350 during UPA, is over Rs. 800. The price

of grains, pulses and vegetables has risen by 300 times under the BJP. "

4. The Presidential Speech started with mentioning about the Architect of Indian Constitution, BR Ambedkar. There was no mention about any specific provisions for the SCs formulated by the Modi Government.

5. There was no mention about distress in the agriculture sector and decrease in growth of agricultural sector. The Economic Survey, 2018, tabled soon thereafter, projected agriculture growth of 2. 1 percent for FY 2018.

6. PM Modi's main poll promise in 2014 and also as per BJP's election manifesto, was to implement Swaminathan Committee's recommendation and ensure that the crop prices were remunerative. But, immediately after coming to power they went back on it by giving an affidavit to the Supreme Court.

7. There is no mention in the Address about the urgent need to control the rising petrol and diesel prices and bring it under GST.

8. There is no mention in the Address about the need to keep a check on the rising instances of atrocities on people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the country.

9. There is no mention in the Address about the rise in the rate of unemployment and joblessness in the country.

10. There is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to ensure timely recovery and resolution of Non-Performing Assets.

11. There is no mention in the Address about the substantial measures through policy intervention to double the income of farmers in the country by 2022.

12. The President Address was silent on the need for a complete farm loan waiver and financial assistance to the State of Maharashtra.

13. The Address was silent on the issue of increasing farmers suicides in Marathwada.

14. The Address didn't address the issue of problems faced by Maharashtra farmers while depositing premium for Fasal Bima Yojana.

15. The Address failed to elaborate on the crucial issue of increase in railway accidents and particularly, the loss of lives in the Elphinstone station stampede.
16. The flagship program of the Government "Namami Gange" and its progress has also not been mentioned in the address.
17. The red-tapism and laxity in defence purchase and the corruption while acquisition of Rafale Jet.
18. The under representation of OBCs, SCs & STs in Government jobs, which is a cause of concern has no mention in the Budget.
19. The Address is silent on the undermining of institutions by Government and its repeated ways of passing Bills without consensus. The Triple Talaq Bill and Finance Act 2017 are glaring example.
20. The Address makes no mention about the deterioration of railway travel and malpractices in procurement of items in railways.

The Presidential Address was an opportunity for the Government to give an account of the measures it had taken for the progress of the country, but surely the President's Address

could not have given an account of non-performance and betrayal of the promises.

[Translation]

*__SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH (SAMBHAL):__ the President has given a clear direction to the country in his address by describing the important public welfare schemes of the government. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the President, and thank him for taking care of everyone and giving detailed direction to the country in the interest of the nation. On this occasion, I feel extremely happy that while the Government is further strengthening economic democracy, it has also redefined national life by strengthening social democracy. It is due to the tireless efforts of the Modi government to take the nation on the path of progress that on the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, we will pay our true tribute to him by making the country completely clean. According to the results of a recent survey by UNICEF, in the villages that have become open defecation free after the Swachh Bharat Mission, every family is saving Rs 50thousand annually. Otherwise, the family would be forced to spend this amount on treatment of illnesses, hospital, travelling, leaves from office etc. Other laudable schemes include,

* Speech was laid on the Table

There is the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which has given millions of poor women an opportunity to compete with rich women and has given them relief from the use of wooden stoves and suffocating breathing. This is a very laudable work; under this scheme, gas connections have been given to 75,000 poor women in my Lok Sabha constituency.

By starting the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme the government has shown its commitment to ending discrimination against girls, and by presenting the bill on triple talaq, it has paved the way for Muslim women to live a fear-free life with dignity and self-respect.

Jan Dhan Yojana has now become a milestone. Under this, bank accounts of 31 crore poor have been opened. The number of women's savings accounts has also increased from 28 percent to 40 percent. Emphasis was laid on providing loans without bank guarantees to the poor and middle-class people so that they can fulfil their dream of running their own enterprise, and the happy result of this is that the countrymen have got such a scheme.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, 10 crore loans have been sanctioned so far, loans worth Rs four lakh crore have been given, and there are about 3 crore people who have

started self-employment for the first time by taking advantage of this scheme. In my area also 3,600 youth have done their business by taking loans from this scheme. As it is well known that India is an agricultural country, hence the priority of the government is to make the farmers prosperous, raise their standard of living, and find solutions to their problems. The government also aims to double the income of farmers by the year 2022, and for this, the government has launched a portal in the interest of farmers. **(INAM)** portal has started the trading of agricultural commodities by connecting the mandis online, and till now agricultural commodities worth more than Rs 36 crore have been traded. The scheme has been started with the objective to ensure that farmers produce does not get damaged before reaching the market. Due to the policies of the government in the interest of farmers, the production of urea has increased, and due to neem coating, the black marketing of urea has also stopped. I once again congratulate the government for this work.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana,

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana,

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana,

Atal Pension Yojana

These are all such schemes under which the poor, rural people, women, etc., can get their insurance, crop insurance and pension for the elderly. Friends, the Government of the country, by following the path shown by Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, the pioneer of Integral Humanism, is displaying indomitable courage and developing such systems that benefit even the person standing in the last row of the society. Under the Bharat Net project, work is being done to connect two and a half lakh gram panchayats of the country with broadband connectivity. And in the first phase, more than one lakh panchayats have been connected. This scheme will play an important role in taking e-health, e-education, e-governance and e-commerce to every village of the country.

Saubhagya Yojana: Under this scheme, the government is providing free electricity connections to 4 crore poor people to bring brightness in their lives and enable them to continue on the path of development. In my Lok Sabha constituency also, till now 19,200 poor people have been given electricity connections.

The statistics show how all-round development is flowing-

* Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, the previous government had constructed 80 thousand km of roads in three years, whereas our government has constructed 1 lac 20 thousand km of roads in three years. It has increased four times in my own Lok Sabha constituency.

* The highways where 15 thousand kms were built earlier are now becoming 34 thousand kms. The speed at which the construction of National Highways is taking place has now become an example for which the Highways Minister Hon. Nitin Gadkari Sahib deserves praise.

* Railways built 1100 km of new line in the three years of the previous government, now it is 2100 km.

* Earlier 1300 km of railway lines were doubled, now it is 2600 km.

In the last three years, renewable energy was 12 thousand MW, which is now 22 thousand MW. This is the first time when the expansion of power capacity in the country has increased more than the target.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Jyoti Yojana the work of electrification in all the villages is going on at a rapid pace, due to which all the people in all the areas have started getting electricity in abundance. Under this scheme, the work of providing electricity to nearly 700 villages, mohallas and hamlets in my Lok Sabha constituency has been completed and seven new 33 KB powerhouses have been built, which has resolved the electricity crisis in the area. What had never happened before has happened in just three and a half years. These are some figures of all-round development.

Friends, if we talk about social classification, then for the upliftment and respect of every weaker section and deprived section of the society, my government has also introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill to give constitutional status to the National Backward Classes Commission.

The government, determined to make disability a boon and not a curse, has implemented the Disability Act 2016. Provision of reservation has been made in government jobs and higher education, and in the last three years, by setting up more than 6 thousand camps, more than 9 lakh essential equipment have also been provided. Around 1500 pieces of equipment have been distributed under my Lok Sabha constituency. With the

resolve of empowerment and not appeasement, our Government is working strongly towards the economic, social and educational empowerment of the minorities. The highest need for mankind is bread, cloth and houses. The work of providing food to every person has been done by completing the arrangement of roti under National Food Security, and the government is working towards the target of providing houses to every homeless poor family by 2022. Over 93 lakh houses have been constructed in urban and rural areas in the last three years.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- There is a provision to provide the amount at the rate of interest under urban. Under this scheme, 4200 houses are being constructed this year. After home, when it comes to diseases, the government has taken very effective steps for this also, such as:

Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra and 800 types of medicines are being given to the poor at cheaper rates. The number of these centres has crossed 3000. Many centres have opened in my area also, from where people are getting cheap medicines.

Under Deendayal Amrit Yojana, a discount of Rs 600 to Rs 900 is being given on more than 5200 lifesaving branded medicines and surgical implants through 11 outlets.

Along with medicines, the price of stents for heart patients has been reduced to 800 rupees. The price of knee surgery has also been controlled.

Through the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Program, more than 2.2 million sessions of dialysis have been conducted for 225,000 patients at subsidised rates in more than 500 districts.

To increase the availability of doctors, 13000 MBBS seats and more than 7000 postgraduate seats have been sanctioned.

As we all know, our country is the youngest country in the world. My government works towards ensuring that the youth of the country can fulfil their dreams and become self-employed

* Startup India
* Stand Up India
* Skill India

Khelo India Programme Scheme: To make the youth capable and world-class in sports, the government has launched an ambitious campaign called Khelo India Programme with an amount of Rs 1750 crore. The culture of every country is their heritage.

Through programmes like Swadesh Darshan and Amrit Yojana, the government is continuously making efforts to preserve and beautify the historical heritage. And as a result, Kumbh Mela has been included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. Last year, Ahmedabad was given the status of India's first heritage city by UNESCO. Simplification of processes to resolve problems of citizens is the priority of the government. In the last three years 1,428 unnecessary laws have been abolished.

For economic integration in the country under **GST**, the government has made the largest post-independence tax reform as the Goods and Services Tax. To ensure that the benefit of reduced prices reaches the consumers, the government has also constituted the National Anti-Profiteering Authority. This law made for the benefit of the country has freed people from many types of taxes, and now only one tax has to be paid.

Hon. Prime Minister, the mastermind behind many such welfare schemes, deserves praise, as his schemes are benefiting farmers, poor people, labourers, youth, students, the elderly, women and children. The country is continuously touching new heights under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi ji. Earlier, where the Prime Minister of our country used to follow in the footsteps of other heads of state, now the Prime Minister of our country is leaving such footsteps that many heads of state are being forced to follow.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to the President who has overwhelmed the countrymen with a wonderful speech in the interest of the country, creating the story of India's development in every field. We have to take a pledge that by the time our country celebrates its 75th Independence Day in 2022, we should achieve these goals. Let us pay true tribute to the countrymen on behalf of the government by fulfilling the dreams of the nation builders in the interest of the nation.

Thank you.

[English]

***DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY):** While thanking the President for his Address on 29th January, 2018 to both the Houses of Parliament, I would like to make a few pertinent points.

President's Address was deeply disappointing primarily because it is contrary to the ground realities. It is claimed by the Government that it is envisioning a New India. How can we ever dream of New India when our farmers are distressed (a farmer is committing suicide in every 40 minutes), a large scale unemployment, burden of demonetization and GST on the economy, etc? It is also stated in the Address that the Government is committed to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. In fact, this Government promised to double the farmers' income from 2014 onwards. We are in 2018, and yet there is no distant sign of it emanating from the shadows. Now, it is talking of 2022! For me, it looks like a joke on the people, and more so on farmers.

We find in the Address a spate of schemes. It is like rhetoric with no substance. Every section of the society is reeling under

* Speech was laid on the Table

a problem - be it ever growing price rise, petrol price rise, half-baked GST killing small entrepreneurs, *Babus* monitoring GST indulging in corruption, as is reported in the press, etc. Nothing seems to be moving in the right direction.

Finance Minister claimed that note ban led to wider taxpayers base, let him come with facts with how it affected the economy and not destroyed unorganised sector, etc.

The other disturbing trend brewing and taking the shape of dangerous proportion is Kashmir violence. Cross border infiltration is growing, and relationship with Pakistan has deteriorated since this Government took over. There is no clear Kashmir policy with the Government. It seems there is no stopping of disturbances in the Valley. The policies being followed by the Centre and the J&K Government are destroying the normal life of the people of the Valley. Their tourism, which is their only main occupation, is in jeopardy. Who is responsible for it? Is the Centre or State responsible or accountable?

There is also a talk of holding simultaneous elections. Is it at all feasible? Has any initiative been taken by the Government so far? Is there a consensus among political parties? Most of the parties, save the BJP, are not in favour of it. Almost every

six months or so, one or two State Assembly elections are held. Though Law Commission suggested way back in 1999, no concrete effort was made to evolve a consensus.

Crop burning has been an issue for more than a couple of years with 35 MT of paddy burnt in Haryana, Punjab and Western UP. Yet no policy framework has been evolved. Economic Survey has only come up with a suggestion of imposing stiff penalty for crop burning. While welcoming it, I would ask the Government to frame the rules for immediate and strict implementation.

Standard of education is poor. Roughly 40 to 50% of rural children in grade 3 to 8 cannot meet the basic learning standards. Economic Survey has warned that climate change could adversely affect farmers' income by up to 20-25% in the medium term.

When we listen to the Presidents' Address, which is nothing but a statement of activities of the Government, it seems that everything is okay. There is no farmers' distress, unemployment is not there, economy is booming, demonetization and ill-conceived GST has not affected any strata society. In fact, there is uncertainty in the economy. This

is nothing but fooling the people of the country. The situation is exactly to the contrary.

I would like to explain a bit here. Modiji, was talking of 'Acche Din'. Has anyone seen 'Acche Din' in the last $3^{1}/_{2}$ years? When industrial, agricultural, GDP and job growth, apart from other yardsticks, are down, common man, labourers, unorganised sector, agriculturists, farmers, small scale sector, name anyone, they have been undergoing a lot of trauma and anguish because of the wrong policies being pursued by the Government.

It is claimed that foreign investment has increased from $36 billion to $60 billion during the last year. How has it lessened the burden of the lowest strata of society? How has it converted into providing employment? It seems there is a big gap between what it states and what the ground reality is.

In the Address, it is stated, "the Government is committed to doubling farmers' income by 2022”. Is it not a rhetoric or jumla? What has this Government done to double farmers' income in the last 4 years, and which it has promised in its election manifesto in 2014?

Agriculture is the lifeline of the country. Has the Government taken care of it in the last 3 years or so? If yes, why should there be farmers' distress and farmers committing suicide in every 30 minutes? This is what The Hindu 2017 November news item says. Who is to be made responsible for this tragic state of affairs of farmers and agriculture in the country- the Government or the Opposition? Should not the Government hang its head in shame? Is it not a blot on the image of the country? What efforts have been made in the last $3^{1}/_{2}$ years to address farmers' distress?

Modiji has promised cost plus 50% of MSP; he has also promised 2 crore employment every year. He also promised Rs. 15 lakh to be deposited in each citizen's account. He and his Government have been indulging in rhetoric. The end is nearing for the Government. People have given an indication in the by- elections in West Bengal and Rajasthan.

In essence, the first part of Budget session is exactly 4 working days. Is it not a mockery inflicted in the Parliamentary form of Government? Is Government not shying away from legislative scrutiny? Is the Government thinking on the lines of minimum Parliament, maximum Governance? The

Government has not made its stand clear on long-pending Women's Reservation Bill.

I am disappointed with the President's Address and I am sure the people as well as Opposition parties and some of the alliance partners of NDA too are.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I really give you my thanks for giving me a chance to deliver my speech on the Motion of Thanks addressed by the President of India to the Parliament.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we know, under the constitutional scheme itself, the President of India has to deliver the speech on the basis of the written speech approved by the Cabinet. Therefore, this is a speech effectively of the Central Government consisting of the Council of Ministers. If we go through the speech, rosy pictures have been given which are far behind from the foundational fact itself. Only for the publicity, contents of the speech have been made.

Sir, I will go one by one point. First, the Hon. Prime Minister of India during his Independence Day address laid out his vision of a new India where the youth of our nation will become key stakeholders in building the India of the 21st Century. India's rate of employment has declined and job creation has not kept up with the growing working age population. Over 30 per cent of our youth aged between 18 and 29 years in India are not in employment, education or training. In 2012-13, the unemployment rate was 12. 09 per cent. As per the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development,

youth unemployment rate for five years average stands at 15. 50 per cent and in the last two years, the average is 18. 10 per cent, though it is ranked as the 25th world's lowest unemployment rate.

As per the World Bank Report, India's unemployment rate has increased to 3. 60 per cent in December, 2017 from the previously reported number of 3. 50 per cent in December, 2016. India's population will reach 1,360 million people in March, 2018. The country's labour force participation rate dropped to 53. 79 per cent in December, 2017. More significantly, the average unemployment rate in 2017 stands at 4.89 per cent where in urban, it is 5.47 per cent and in rural, it is 4.59 per cent. As on 28th January, 2018, it stood at 6. 02 per cent comparing with urban at 7.42 per cent and in rural at 5.29 per cent.

Sir, the employment, as promised by the Government since 2014 has not been created or the vacancies have not been filled up in different Public Sectors including Railways. Jobs have been destroyed because of the wrong decisions including that of the demonetization.

According to ILO's latest report, the number of jobless in the country will increase to 18.6 million in 2018 and 18.9 million in 2019 against 18.3 million in 2017.

17 00 hrs

It has been noticed that over 3.7 crore of 13 crore jobs in the informal sector of the economy have been lost due to demonetization. While the declared purpose of demonetization was to penalize those among the rich who evade taxes, in reality it hit the poor people in the informal sector, and almost 80 per cent of whom lost their source of livelihood. The slowdown in the GDP growth rate supports increasing rate of unemployment. But ill-prepared monetary measures cut the GDP growth rate down to a low of 5. 5 per cent from the predicted almost seven per cent. Economist Amartya Sen considered this act of demonetization as a deprivation of freedom of the Indian people. I quote Prof. Sen: "Demonetization is despotic action that has struck at the root of our economy based on trust. "

Sir, selling *Singara,* means, *pakoda* by educated unemployed youth is not the pride of the nation. On the contrary, it is disgraceful and shameful for the country. Because of non-providing employment to them, they have to sell *pakoda*

in our country itself. It is right that our Hon. Prime Minister is the son of a tea seller but tell us, during four years how many tea sellers' sons have got employment in the country itself. What provisions have been made by him? We want to know that because all the time he speaks that I am a son of a tea seller. Yes, we accept it. By dint of his labour he has come to this level. But how has he thought about the real troubles of those tea sellers' sons? How much employment has been created for them? Let him give this answer.

Now I am coming to Jan Dhan Yojana. … (*Interruptions*) You must have a degree of tolerance. You must learn the degree of tolerance. Georgetown University Professor Sumit Agarwal and his co-authors studied the account activity in 1. 5 million PMJDY accounts from August 2014 to May, 2015 and they stated that 81 per cent of the new consumers did not make any deposits in the first six months. A 2016 national survey by Microsave, a financial consultancy organisation, estimated that 33 per cent of PMJDY customers already had a bank account, and 28 per cent of all PMJDY accounts were inactive. According to a paper published in May, 2017 by Manuela Kristin Gunther from the Overseas Development Institute, 90 per cent of the Indian households have at least one bank account

which has also opposed to the Government's claim of over 99 per cent.

Where from these accounts came in Jan Dhan Yojana? What did the Reserve Bank of India say? The Reserve Bank of India also noted in one of its recent papers that Jan Dhan accounts saw "unusual cash deposits" during demonetization as they received additional deposits of Rs. 59,810 crore during the period from November 8 to December 31, 2016.

The idea of demonetization was aimed at eradicating the black money but the Government failed to do so. Whereas only 99 per cent of the scrapped currency notes came back to the banking system with one per cent loss which brought down India's GDP growth by almost one per cent. November 8, 2016 is and will always remain seared into the memory of every Indian citizen. The entire range of farming, construction and informal sector which run on a cash basis, and they affect the vast bulk of the population which particularly hit the poor and the vulnerable people

The Government had to receive a lesser dividend from the Central Bank as compared to what it received in previous Financial Year. RBI transferred a small amount of Rs. 30,659 crore as dividend to the Government for the year ended June

2017, which is less than half of what it gave the Government a year ago, that is, in 2016. The amount that was given by RBI a year ago was Rs. 65,880 crore to be precise.

Sir, Amartya Sen says Only an authoritarian government can calmly cause such misery to the people — with millions of innocent people being deprived of their money and being subjected to suffering, inconvenience and indignity in trying to get their own money back.

Now, I come to farm and farmers. India is an agrarian country with around 70 per cent of its people depending directly or indirectly on agriculture. In a Press Information Bureau report dated 9 May, 2017, it is clearly mentioned that as a result of very good rainfall during monsoon of 2016, the country witnessed record food grain production in the current year. The production of sugarcane was estimated at 36. 03 million tonnes, which is lowered by 42. 42 million tonne

This clearly indicates a dip in collection of indirect taxes. Now, there are three causes for that. The first is the twin shock of demonetisation and GST. The second one is the twin balance-sheet problem of massive non-performing assets of banks which have been weakening India’s banking system. The third one is the twin deficit problem of economic management

and performance due to which there is a deficit in the Government's Exchequer which damages the entire business climate of the country.

First, by demonetisation, the Government killed formal sector. Then, it came to small and medium enterprises with a premature GST launch without any home-work. That is why, small-scale industries have suffered a lot.

Sir, now I am coming to a very important aspect. In our constitutional scheme of things, the President of India acts on the basis of the advice of the Council of Ministers. Similarly, the Governor of a State has to act on the basis of the advice of the State Government. The Governor does not enjoy any other power except invoking the power under Article 356 when it is required. Otherwise, a Governor has to act only on the basis of the advice of the State Government; a Governor cannot act on his own. That is the basic structure of the Constitution. Let me read Article 163(1) of the Constitution:

> "There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is by or under this Constitution required to

> exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion."

I am saying this because today we see the . . . * of West Bengal writing a letter through the Additional Chief Secretary to the Governor to the Divisional Commissioner of Malda Division. The letter reads:

> "In continuation of my letter dated 29. 01. 18, this is to inform you that Hon'ble Governor desires that the Inspector General of Police, Murshidabad should also be present during the meeting at Circuit House.
>
> Agenda of the meeting will be:
>
> (a) Development schemes of State Government;
>
> (b) Development schemes of Central Government including Flagship Schemes;
>
> (c) Development activities by the NGOs in Rural Areas;
>
> (d) Law & Order in the District including Border areas. "

* Not recorded

What more extra-constitutional steps can be taken by the . . . * The . . . * of West Bengal is really destroying the Constitution. Has he become ... * of the State of West Bengal? My question is whether the Office of . . . * has become the office of the ruling party of the Central Government in the State of West Bengal. That is my question. I am laying this document itself.

Sir, this is the time to kindly see what we are saying, what the Opposition is saying. We are saying that democracy is at stake in our country. For long three years, we have been saying that democracy is at stake. It is not that we are saying it now. Now, very respectable post-holders of other constitutional House are also saying that democracy is at stake in the country itself. Of course, they are saying this.

This is an attempt on the part of the . . . * to erode the federal structure of the country. There must be a degree of tolerance.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, I want my dear friend, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, to yield for a moment. He is a learned

* Not recorded

advocate, lawyer representing in many cases in the Hon. Supreme Court also. He knows that the Governor's conduct cannot be discussed and debated in this House. Therefore, I would request you that whatever is objectionable, it should be removed from the record.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will go through the record.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: No, not at all.

I am producing the document. Where will I speak? I will speak here. If the . . . * function is extra-constitutional, I will point it out in the Parliament itself.

The entire nation must know as to how the Governor of West Bengal is functioning extra-Constitutional after committing a grave breach of the Constitutional provision. He is not above the rule of law. Neither the Governor nor the President of India, with great respect, is above the rule of law or the Constitution of India. No, they are not. Therefore, they should act accordingly. He should know about it as he is also a very good lawyer. I do not know why he is doing it after being aware about the law. Is it at the instance of someone that he is doing it? This is something that needs to be answered. It is there

* Not recorded

in the document, and I am talking on the basis of the document only.

Now, as regards expression of freedom of speech, we are losing our degree of tolerance. Article 19 (1) (A) of the Constitution of India gives the right to make our expression. I may not like Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister's contentions and he also may not like whatever is my contention, but both of us must know the degree of tolerance and this is our country. What is going on all over the country? For one movie '*Padmaavat*' the Supreme Court has passed an order. The Censor Board has cleared it and the Supreme Court has cleared it. Where all has this vandalism taken place? It is only in the BJP-run States where vandalism has taken place. This is really an attempt on the part of these persons to throttle the right protected under Article 19 (1) (A) of the Constitution of India.

A very popular slogan is being given of 'simultaneous election'. I see now everywhere that there is a talk about 'simultaneous election'. I do not know why this is being thrust upon us. I am sorry to say that when this subject is a subject-matter of discussion for a Standing Committee, then how the Hon. Prime Minister can go on saying everywhere about 'simultaneous election'? In our country, people cast vote, and

select their representative for a period of five years. Can anybody curtail that Constitutional right?

In our country, kindly see, in 1984, there was a Government where one single Party was in majority; in 1989, there was no majority; in 1991, there was no majority; in 1996, there was no majority; in 1998, there was no majority; in 1999, there was no majority; in 2004, there was no majority for a single-Party; in 2009, there was no majority for a single-Party; and in 2014, only a single-Party can run the country itself. There are different States, and we do not know when in one State there may be allies who may fall apart.

Let me give an example. Suppose, in 2019, all elections are held in every State and the Parliament. Now, if in 2019, a Government comes and the number one Party is not having the majority and in 2020 other allied Parties withdraw their support, then will there be election in 2020 in the Parliament and all the States? Can it be done? Can you take away this right? You are thrusting something, which really hits the basic structure of the Constitution. We are really debating about it.

I am sorry to say, but how this can be made a part of the speech of the Hon. President? I am really very sorry. When a

Standing Committee is examining a matter, then one should refrain from passing comments on the same.

Sir, I am going to tell you a very important point. Let us say that in 2019 the Parliament election is coming. Someone is saying that it is not in 2019, but get ready for elections in November-December 2018 itself.

It is very nice. Get ready in 2018. Let the Prime Minister show one example. Along with Parliament elections, let the BJP hold elections in all the States where the BJP is the ruling party, including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Assam. Let him show the example. We want to see the example set by the Prime Minister of this country. This lecture will not do. Let him do it. Let him show his spirit. Let the Prime Minister show his spirit and enthusiasm for holding elections for Parliament along with all the BJP ruled States including Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Assam. It is stated that charity begins at home. Let the charity begin from the Prime Minister's Party; let him hold simultaneous elections in all the BJP ruled States including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Assam along with the Parliament elections. Let us see. We want to see.

Now I come to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana under which the poor got LPG cylinders for free but they cannot

afford gas refills. Data shows year on year consumption increases of LPG from nine percent to 9. 8 percent, from 2015-16, and from 2016-17. While the increase in the LPG customers during the same period rose from 10.2 percent to 16.2 percent, and in almost in 95 percent cases, customers are not returning for a refill after receiving the connections and cylinders free of cost. This is probably attributable to the high cost of even a subsidised cylinder. That is the net result. You are giving the connections, we have given the connection, gas has reached everywhere, the gas is working. Where is the refill? After the gas got exhausted, the cylinder is lying there like useless. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has not found time to go and see that cylinder. The Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has not found time to see how many cylinders are lying useless. Now, the question is not about the targeted free distribution of LPG connection, but it need to be looked into as to whether this scheme has actually been successful or not.

Under the Swachh Bharat, what has happened? Nothing. Thousands and thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on the advertisements showing the Hon. Prime Minister; nothing more than that. Only one day he goes for the Swachh

Bharat campaign…One day he went to sweep, the press person took their photo there.

With the Minister, photograph will come. On the next day, Sir, you go there, you find garbage; nobody is there to clean; no one from his Party is there to clean. This is only for the purpose of publicity. All over India wherever you go, you find a photograph. How much money has been allocated for Swachh Bharat? Out of that money, how much has been spent on publicity? That is my question.

Finally, under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, all the loans are granted for the tune of Rs. 10 lakh. This amount has been sanctioned after 8th April, 2015, and for income generating activities other than farm, and also related under the Prime Minister Loan Scheme, under which each Bank has a different interest rate for providing mudra loans. It also depends on the person of business who applying for the loan. If you have a good loan history, then you will get loan, at better interest rates. If you are new, then you will have to struggle a little bit.

Under Mudra Shishu Yojana, banks are providing loan up to Rs. 50,000. It is a scheme under which banks are charging interest rates which is around 10 to 12 per cent. For whom? Is it going to benefit the poor people? You are charging 10-12 per

cent interest. The Central Government is not providing interest-free loans under PMMY. Let the Hon. Prime Minister deliver the speech. It is nice that the Hon. Home Minister is there. Through him, let him declare that all the loans would be free and no interest would be charged for any farmer. Let him declare and let us see his courage. Through publicity and big words, nothing can be done. Sir, I will be finishing my speech with one quote from the Martin Luther Kind Jr.

> "We need leaders not in love with money but in love with justice; not in love with publicity but in love with humanity."

But, in our country, today's leader is in love with publicity, not in love with humanity. Now, we need a leader in our country in the near future who will run the country with humanity keeping respect to the Constitution itself, not for his own advertisement.

***SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD):** Though we consider the Address as the President's speech, which should not be given any space for voting, it is really a declaration of the present government with regard to the various issues.

While I welcome the Address by our Hon'ble President, I would like to give my suggestions on various issues.

There are various serious issues which are not dealt with in the Speech made by our President. The Executive, Judiciary and Legislature are the main three pillars of our democratic system. These three institutions have to work in a better way to protect our democracy. In recent times, there are some serious issues concerned with judiciary where four judges of Supreme Court (Justice J. Chelameswar, Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justice Madan Lokur and Justice Kurien Joseph) had to come forward and address a press conference differing with the views of Supreme Court. They said they had given a letter to the Chief Justice two months back in connection with the functioning of Chief Justice of India. They even said that they would place these matters before the people i. e. to save the democracy of the country. The main issue is with regard to the death of Justice

* Speech was laid on the Table

Loya, a CBI Judge who was hearing a case of encounter killing and it was also connected with Shri Amit Shah, All India President of BJP. I don't want to go into the details here. Such a very serious case was transferred to a bench of junior Justice. This is one of the issues raised by these Justices. But in the speech made by our President, nothing is said about this very serious issue of judiciary.

The burning issue of common people in India is the price rise. This government has failed to control the price rise though they had promised it in their election manifesto and earlier in the budget speeches. The main reason for the price rise is the uncontrolled prices of the petroleum and diesel. In the international market, the price of crude oil has come down drastically.

The benefit of this price reduction is not transferred to the common people. The Government has increased excise duty 17 times. That is the main reason for the price rise of essential commodities. But, as a result, prices of almost all essential commodities have gone up. Since the excise duty was imposed, benefits has gone to the oil companies. But nothing is mentioned about this price rise which is the common man's issue in the speech delivered by our President.

When the NDA Government came to power they promised that 2 crores jobs would be given to the unemployed youth. Four years have passed, 8 crore jobs has to be given by the Government according to their promise. But only 8 lakhs employment opportunities have been created. So, the claim of the President that his Government is going to give more jobs to the youth is baseless.

The other major issue of the nation is the farmers' suicide and their problems. Hon. President said that in the year 2022 the income of the farmers would be doubled. It is surprised to note that the period of this Government is going to expire within one year. So, what is the right of this Government to speak about the year 2022? Government has to take immediate steps to give relief to the farmers and write off their loans, which is one of the reasons for the suicides of the farmers. Now, they promised 50% of the MSP of coast of production but in their election manifesto they had said they would be ready to give 150% of MSP but the same has not been implemented. So, the promise is made with regard to the farmer's welfare is not convincing.

Hon. President said much about the welfare of the women, but not a single word is used with regard to the Women

Reservation Bill which is pending. Government got the highest majority, then what is the reason for not bringing the promised Reservation Bill. It shows that baseless and hollowness promises to women. Every day we hear about attacks on women and children, but what concrete action Government has taken. Nirbhaya Fund is not spent and Nirbhaya Centres haven't opened in various parts of the country.

SCs/STs and other backward sections have been neglected for a long time. The allocation of SCs/STs is only 1. 6% of the GDP, but their population is 25%. This is another valid example of their attitude towards SCs and STs.

In recent times, our nation faced serious attacks against the secular ideas and organizations. The famous writer Shri Kalburgi, Vice Chancellor of Karnataka University, the progressive writer Shri Pansare and Shri Narendra Dabodkar, the journalists, Gauri Lankesh and many other scholars and writers were threatened and even killed. This is really a challenge before our nation. But, it is unfortunate that President is silent about these serious issues.

The figures quoted by our Hon'ble President with regard to the economic growth are unrealistic. The demonetization and GST have weakened our economy as pointed out by many of

the great economists and political leaders, but Government is not ready to recognize these mistakes. Growth rate has gone down, inflation is increasing. The gap between the poor and the rich is widening. Though Government say that we are going towards a new India and glittering India, but result is negative.

So, while I welcome the President's Speech, I reserve my criticisms.

[Translation]

[1*]**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH):** I would like to express my views in favour of the speech of the Honourable President.

He began his speech by stating the commitment of this Government to the Constitution. This government is giving practical shape to Baba Saheb's social and economic democracy.

Toilets in every house under Swachhta Abhiyan and LPG in every house under "Ujjwala Yojana" are symbols of women's empowerment and social democracy. The government is committed to women's self-reliance and all-round development of half the country's population.

For centuries our Muslim sisters in our country were being persecuted by "triple talaq." In the name of religious appeasement, many previous governments had maintained silence on this issue. This Government has brought a bill against "Triple Talaq," proving "Walk the Talk" right. What could be a bigger example of women's empowerment than this? This NDA government has not discriminated against the

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

upliftment and progress of women. "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has taken the form of a movement. Girls are studying in school with free bicycles, free dress and free books. The Maternity Benefit Act has been amended from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.

Honourable President has talked about this Government's responsibility towards farmers. Farmers are the core thinking of this government. Their progress, their help, and the solution of their problems are the main intentions of the government. The government is committed to doubling the farmers income. "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana," "Jan-Dhan Yojana," and "Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana" have proved to be milestones. Farmers used to run around for urea, but this government has never allowed any shortage of urea.

In the previous governments, the poor and the farmers were not able to pay the insurance premium. This government implemented a scheme of Rs. 1 per month - Prime Minister's "Suraksha Bima Yojana," "Jeevan Jyoti Yojana," and "Crop Insurance Scheme" have worked as a safety shield for farmers and the poor.

The President has reiterated this government's commitment to “Integral Humanism.” This government is

realising the vision of the memorable Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji for the upliftment of the poor and the backward classes. Electricity through "Saubhagya Yojana," expansion of the "Rural Road Scheme," and proper implementation of the "Food Security Scheme" show the top priority of the government towards the poor section.

The Government has given a thumbs down to the politics of appeasing minorities and using them intimidatingly for votes and has helped them move on the path of economic development, empowerment and self-reliance. Schemes like 'new light' and 'seekho aur kamao' are tremendously popular.

Hon. President has reiterated the commitment of this government to take everyone, the common people, the poor, the business class, the working people.

This Government is capable of hoisting the flag of “One India, Best India” in the world and is continuously making efforts. People from every section of society, people of every religion, and people from every state of India are with this government - the election victory chariot is proof of this.

Jai Hind.

[English]

***SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI):** To eradicate discrimination against daughters, my Government had introduced the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme. Seeing its positive results, the scheme has been extended from 161 districts to 640 districts. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme that addresses the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio, is yielding encouraging results. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) is currently being implemented in select 161 districts.

The Government has also taken a big step by amending the Maternity Benefit Act. It now provides for 26 weeks of paid leave in place of 12 weeks. Working women will now be able to devote more time towards their new born children during their crucial formative years.

Under the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, launched with an objective of ensuring a secure future to girls, over one crore accounts have been opened and an amount of over Rs. 11,000 crore has been deposited. As per the latest data, on July 21, 2017, 1. 1 crore accounts have been opened with deposits amounting to Rs. 15,849 crore.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

My Government has tabled a Bill on Triple Talaq in Parliament. I hope that the Parliament will soon pass it into a law. The law on Triple Talaq, once enacted, will also enable Muslim sisters and daughters to live a life of self-respect with courage.

Keeping in mind the objective of women's empowerment, for the first time since independence, the restriction on women above 45 years of age to perform Haj Pilgrimage unaccompanied by their male relatives has been removed. This year, more than 1300 women are going on Haj pilgrimage without Mehram.

Launched on May 1st in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme aims to provide clean cooking gas via free LPG connections to 50 million BPL women, with 15 million connections to be provided within the current financial year. "I am sure all of us remember seeing women burning wood to cook food. They and their children had to go through the pain of breathing polluted air. My Government has started the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) which has till date provided 3,30,00,000 free liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections to below poverty line (BPL) women."

The President has also talked about the Government working towards providing ample maternity leave to pregnant women.

Highlighting financial restructuring in favour of women, Hon. President said, "In 2012, there were only 28% women-held saving accounts which have increased to 40% now.

We need to uplift our women. The country has taken up schemes to promote the usage of toilets. My Government has formulated policies to help construct common as well as private toilets in the rural areas. This not only helps the country in being cleaner but provides a sense of social justice to a woman.

The Government has also set a target of providing of 2 crore toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2018-19 which directly impact the safety of women and girls.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I stand here today to participate in the discussion started on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address by my friend Shri Rakesh Singh. Those four lines of the Motion, the keyword is 'We are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver in both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on 29th January'. We have to express our deep gratefulness to the Hon. President. As the Address itself is the policy statement of this Government, therefore, we always delve into the policy that this Government has been propounding during the last so many years. But what has happened this year is that, on 29th January, the Hon. President delivered the speech addressing both the Houses and on 1st February, the Hon. Finance Minister has delivered the Budget. So, therefore, today, you must have encountered that the large number of Hon. Members, who have spoken before me, have intertwined the Address of the Hon. President along with the speech of the Hon. Finance Minister. I will try to confine myself only with the speech of the Hon. President because we will be discussing for about twelve hours hopefully on the Budget itself.

Before, I delve into the specific paragraphs, I have selected some points for my deliberation. But before I go into these paragraphs, one thing that struck me in the Central Hall is relating to what he mentioned about *'Adivasi Swatantrata Sangram Sanghrahalaya'*. We have seldom deliberated and discussed the fight that our tribal people have fought during the freedom struggle. Very rarely, we have put up memorials for them. But, at least, in this speech, something has been mentioned. How it is going to be developed is what we will see in the future course of action. But one thing is that Kevadia, Gujarat, on the banks of Narmada where the beginning will start, and the proposal of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur and other States are also under consideration.

I am reminded of the struggle in Odisha. In erstwhile Bonai State, today's Sundargarh District, the British soldiers wanted to recruit tribals for Second World War. The tribals who were forcefully being recruited resisted. There was a large-scale fight then and hundreds of tribals were butchered. It is called Amco-Simco agitation. The leader was Nirmal Munda. A group of people even today observe his martyrdom day. Very rarely the government machinery is involved in it. My question here is, is

it only confined to the Munda tribe? Odisha Government of course is doing something for that. But here is a fit case for the Union Government to step in, erect a memorial and support an annual festival over there.

There was also a tribal leader in his middle age who had never seen Gandhiji, never heard Gandhiji but was so committed to the ideals Gandhiji propagated that he took part in the struggle and led an agitation for Quit India Movement. He was hauled up by the police; a false case was registered against him and he was hanged to death in 1943. That tribal leader's name is Laxman Naik. We observe his martyrdom day but he seldom finds place in the national history of freedom struggle. We have to find out about such people and we have to commemorate their sacrifices. I would like to remind this House that Laxman Naik was the only freedom fighter who was hanged to death in 1943.

Hon. President has said, "Nation building is a continuous process in which each citizen of the country has a role to play." Wise words, no doubt! When Benjamin Franklin was asked a question, "What have we got - a Republic or a Monarchy?" he reportedly replied, "A Republic, if you can keep it." It was as much a comment on ability as it was on intent. Today I may

say a Republic was easy to form even in those turbulent years when this country attained freedom, but we are finding it difficult to sustain. A Republic has to be sustained in content. Our founding fathers gave us a republican Constitution but they hoped for a civic rule necessary for republicanism to strike roots. Did not Dr. Ambedkar warn that however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it are a bad lot? He did not refer to elected representatives alone but to the incomplete project of transforming people into citizens.

The concern Hon. President expressed while speaking to the nation on the eve of this year's Republic Day and subsequently while addressing the joint session of the two Houses the other day is, "It is our responsibility to exhibit exemplary conduct before the nation. Nation Building is our collective responsibility. " These are the words of the Hon. President. What we see today, what we hear today is majoritarianism, rise of vigilantism, institutional corrosion, etc. A democracy gets converted into a show of numerical strength! The capacity to negotiate and deliberate drowns under the noise of numbers. This gives way to anarchic articulation of vigilantism, rejecting the idea of rule of law. I need not explain

what has happened in between; some Members have already done that. Both a cause and an effect of this is the all-round corrosion of institutions.

Do we not find a competition – this is the sad part of it – among institutions to display their flair for failure?

The Hon. President in his Address has reminded the nation about working towards achieving robust and inclusive development. NITI – we call it Niti Aayog in Hindi – was formed by the present Government when it came to power in 2014 by dismantling the Planning Commission. The idea was that it would facilitate the State Government and the Union Government to formulate their own plans and programmes and that it would act as a think tank but I would not comment what tank it has become today. Now it is behaving in an arbitrary way. They are insulting the States. A glaring example is that they are identifying 115 districts as most backward districts and asking the States to sign MoUs with NITI. Odisha, Kerala and West Bengal have protested to this.

As per the Constitution, distribution of power, development is not in the domain of the Union Government. Why would this Government unilaterally declare some districts as most backward and send *prabharis*? From where does this word

come? We have heard '*prabhari'* in some organisations. We have heard about *prabharis* being deputed by some political parties. But now we have *prabharis* from NITI and from the Union Government going to the States. Who has coined this word? You are sending *prabharis* to monitor the development works in the said districts thereby bypassing the Chief Secretary and Secretaries of other related Departments? What is happening in this country?

These 115 districts include 30 districts which are focussed by NITI; 50 backward districts selected by an Inter-Ministerial Committee of Officers; and another 35 districts which have been shortlisted by the Ministry of Home Affairs which are affected by left wing extremism. Where are the States? Neither have they been consulted; nor any inputs were sought from the States. So much about the so-called 'co-operative federalism'. Shri Kalyan Banerjee has just left. I am sure my friend Shri Jithender Reddy will talk about it. Odisha has not participated in this adventure; so also, Kerala and West Bengal have not participated.

Take the case of Bundelkhand where only one district of that region has been included in this programme, in this idea, in U. P. It is a State ruled by BJP. This demonstrates the

lackadaisical manner in which these districts have been selected. Now, it finds place in the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance. No BJP Chief Minister or Government has the spine to raise objection to this *hara-kiri* of the Constitution.

What we believe in the Biju Janata Dal is that when you keep the people first it is good politics. My Chief Minister, the leader of the Biju Janata Dal, Shri Naveen Patnaik, says, 'When you keep people first, there is no anti-incumbency. ' Half a century ago, one of the greatest visionary leaders, Martin Luther King Jr. had said, 'You cannot lead people unless you love them. ' This, to him, is the guiding philosophy. According to him, 'If you love your people, you would not see the post you hold as a post but as a means to serve the people; you would not see power as power but as a means to transform the lives of people. ' 'All the negative associates of politics' – these are the words which my Chief Minister has said – 'power, wealth, and position, dissolve into nothingness if you love the people. ' If you work for the people, even in the worst natural disaster, you aim for zero casualty and you end up setting global standards.

If you love your people, you do not want anyone without a roof over their head and you end up leading the country in rural housing. If you love your people, you will walk an extra mile

to include the most vulnerable sections in your growth story and you end up with the path breaking initiative of setting up Tribal Development Council. If you love your people, you do not want hungry stomachs staring into the night and you end up with the highest poverty reduction in the country. If you love your people, you do not fight for elections, you fight for change and transformation. If you love your people with every intent, every step, every action, every signature and with every breath you will work for them. That is the reason why Odisha stands apart from many of the States, especially those that are ruled by the Treasury Benches.

Many leaders go to Odisha saying that seventeen years have passed, eighteen years have passed, what happened? I will just give some instances. With regard to rural housing, 14 lakh pucca houses have been constructed in rural Odisha since 2014. The source of this information is the Rural Development Ministry of the Government of India. Odisha is the pioneering State in India which has distributed 6,11,000 acres of land to 4,11,000 individuals rights, title holders and 3,28,000 acres of land to 5,964 community rights, title holders under the landmark legislation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers as on 31st October, 2017. The

source of this information is the Report of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs of the Government of India.

We started Mamata Programme to support the pregnant women. Subsequently, year before last, the Janani Programme was initiated by the Union Government. It is a flagship programme of Odisha Government which was launched in 2011 and has benefited more then 30,57,000 women in the State. About 5,63,000 Self Help Groups with more than 67 lakh women have been formed under Mission Shakti. Based on NSSO Situation Assessment survey for 2012-13 and 2002-03, farmers' income doubled in real income terms. Radha Mohan Singh ji, listen carefully, we have doubled the income of the farmers. Odisha is the top performer with a CAGR of 8. 3 percent. The source is NSSO Situation Assessment Survey of 2012-13. More remains to be done.

[Translation]

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): Explain it to those who do not believe it.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: In terms of PDS contribution, Odisha is the third highest contributor for food grain procurement in the country in the year 2015-16. It contributes 10. 28 per cent of the total procurement in the country. It contributes 26 lakh metric tonne in the year 2015-16. This contribution was only 2. 07 per cent in 2002-03. The source of this information is a Lok Sabha Starred Question of 26th April, 2016.

Poverty has declined. As declined. As per household consumer expenditure data of NSS up to 2011-12, poverty in rural Odisha has declined by 24. 6 percent. If we go into different parameters one by one like this, we will get a lot of information about what people say as a political stunt what happened in 17 years. Naveen Patnaik ji did it, Biju Janata Dal did it. Therefore, incumbency is not a factor. We do our work because we love our people.

Odisha's GDP growth rate was 7. 94 percent in 2016-17 in comparison to India's GDP growth rate of 7. 1 percent in the same year. But there are other issues which need to be flagged and one major issue is Mahanadi. In the last session, we repeatedly said, requested, pleaded and argued that a tribunal should be formed. I have full respect for the Water

Resources Minister, he will be able to do it, but I do not know why was he advised in such a way but at least he committed himself in this House that he will make the Tribunal in three months. The matter was pending in the Supreme Court. You had given an affidavit in which you have gone back on your words and said that you will form a Tribunal. But again you gave an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying that it is not feasible. Here again you said that it will be made in three months. What the Supreme Court said, the Supreme Court said that make a tribunal in a month.

What progress has been made? Mahanadi River water dispute is a dispute on which the apex court has already pronounced its decision and had admonished this Government for going back on its words to form the Tribunal. It had asked the Union Government to do it within one month's time. This was pronounced on 23rd January, 2018 and today is 6th February, 2018. How many days have passed? Today is the 15th day to be precise. Has any step been taken? Does this not show the brazenness in which the Government treats the pronouncement of the Supreme Court of India? Does this not demonstrate the partisan attitude of this Government towards Odisha?

We will wait for the decision of the Tribunal. We are sure it will give a decision in our favour because of the illegality of the construction of the upstream of Mahanadi by Chhattisgarh. But the Union Government which was expected to function in a neutral way is becoming partisan. Why do you not form a Tribunal? Why do you wait for the single unitary tribunal which is still in the womb? Whom are you befooling? The Chief Minister of Odisha on 2nd February, 2018 has again written a letter to the Prime Minister but there is no response. I can only plead in this House for the wisdom of all Members and ask is this the way the Union Government should function? How partisan have you become just because you are going to face elections in some months' time in Chhattisgarh.

The dams are being constructed illegally. Water has been stopped illegally and Odisha is being bereft. What are we asking for? We are asking for a tribunal. At least, tribunal will give a judgment. It will hear both the sides. We have pleaded before the Union Government not to be partisan and you take a decision. The previous Minister said that he has no power. At least, now the

Supreme Court has given you instructions and said as per the constitutional provision a tribunal has to be formed. But I am sorry to mention that the Government is yet to proceed.

We have heard about triple talaq in the Address of the Hon. President. He expressed hope that the Bill will be passed. He will act as per the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Triple Talaq Bill has already been passed by this House and it goes against the verdict of the Supreme Court. Talaq-e-Biddat is unconstitutional. There is a need to have a law pronouncing Talaq-e-Biddat as unlawful. We are not against that but the Bill which is pending in the Rajya Sabha needs thorough correction. That Bill to do away with instant talaq is on the way of instant law. A law made in a hurry is bound to be faulty. Can you not incorporate in nikahnama that the Talaq-e-Biddat is not allowed. Can a separation/divorce be on record? If marriages fail, should Governments jail husbands? Marriages are social contracts. There should always be attempt for reconciliation. If the husband is put behind bars on the complaint alone, will there be any scope of reconciliation? The Bill is meant to protect the interest of Muslim women. Have they been consulted in any form before the preparation of this Bill which is a must as per the provision before law making?

Any law, before it is made, has to be consulted with the respective stakeholders. That is the practice and provision of the Constitution. The Government has prepared a Bill which is half-baked. This will bring more disaster to the womenfolk of Muslim community than empowering them. I fail to understand as to why the Government is doing it. Congress Government committed a mistake in 1986 and now this Government is committing another mistake. The Government may correct it and bring another amendment removing the penal provision. Let the Government not become adamant.

My friend Shri A. P. Jithender Reddy has come out openly about holding simultaneous elections about which the Hon. President has spoken and the Hon. Prime Minister also has expressed his views positively. The other young `Prasad', Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad from Bihar, our Hon. Law Minister, is going around the country saying that we should debate this. I may remind Shri Reddy, my friend, that all these talks of holding simultaneous elections started from the dinner table that both of us shared once with the Hon. Prime Minister. It has rolled on since 2014, where Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, was also present, in different forums. The Election Commission also has come out with an opinion. What is the opinion of the

Election Commission? Article 83, article 85, article 172, article 174 and article 356 of the Indian Constitution need to be amended for fixing Lok Sabha and Assembly terms. If today it has found place in the Address of the Hon. President, should we not be told about the Government's view? Why does the Government not prepare a draft and circulate it? Today is the time of the social media, but what is the view of the Government? What is the opinion of the Government. The Government is asking others to debate and discuss the matter. Why does the Government not come out with a draft on this? Let that be the basis on which discussions will take place. The Standing Committee earlier had given a report. If you want further discussion on this issue, let us understand as to what the Government intends to do. Why does the Government not prepare a draft and circulate it basing on which debates and discussions will take place? What is the point of this wishful thinking?

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Hon. President mentioned about the presence of Heads of States of ASEAN countries during this year's Republic Day celebrations. It is indeed a special dimension to our world vision. But does it end here? What I have understood is that the principal gain of the

ASEAN-Indian Commemorative Summit is to provide for an ample clarity on what our partnerships have achieved and where it should move in the future. As the celebrations and the colourful spectacles have ended, is it not time to begin the hard work? When you stand at the peak of a mountain, you get full view of the path travelled and the road ahead that will take you to the next peak. It is now time to draw up a to-do list? Have the Government prepared it? You have a huge responsibility to shoulder.

Republics crumble when Statesmanship stops at showmanship; politics breed fear and institutions fail to strengthen norms and procedures. Recently we celebrated our 68th Republic Day, seven decades of enjoying the Republic, the fortresses of communities have become more impenetrable. In today's India nobody can criticise, comment or censure the practices of another community of which she or he is not part of.

Communities are beyond debate and criticism. Relations among communities are also marked by mutual suspicion. Caste-community based separation, suspicion and violence ensure that the idea of citizenship become a chimera. Then how can we conceive the idea of public good that would emerge and

sustain in a republic? That is the fundamental question before us today.

Given the fragmentation of the public and impossibility of common good, all politics and policy making is taking the form of a cynical exercise of balancing competing expectations. Serious casualty in this process is the loss of the idea of common good which is at the core of a republic. Does this Government has any roadmap to build in citizenship, collective responsibility and strive for common cause and public good? The answer is there for everyone to see. How social justice and economic democracy has been strengthened is pouring out in the newspapers daily.

The last suggestion that I would like to make today is, our Constitution is instructive. Cannot we make reading of this text compulsory in the classrooms across the country? This is the Gospel. Constitution is the gospel. Constitution is the Gita and Constitution is the Quran of modern Bharat, Sashakt Bharat and Samudha Bharat.

Vande Utkal Janani, Jai Hind, Jai Jagannath.

*SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPUR): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the long-pending Railway demands of the people of my Tirupur Parliamentary Constituency. The Government should consider and take appropriate steps for speedy execution of the pending demands.

1- Train No. 22476 Coimbatore-Bikaner express can be operated from Erode or Tirupur instead of Coimbatore. Further this weekly train needs to be converted to a bi-weekly train.

2- Train No. 16614 Coimbatore- Rajkot weekly train to be converted into weekly-twice train.

3- Mettupalayam-Coimbatore passenger train can be extended up to Tirupur.

4- Manglaore-Coimbatore fast passenger train can be extended to Tirupur.

5- Katpadi-Salem MEMU passenger train can be extended up to Tirupur.

There is an urgent need for introduction of Shuttle Train services between Tirupur and Salem via Erode as well as

* Speech was laid on the Table

between Tirupur - Palakkad and Tirupur to Tirucharapalli via Karur.

It is a long pending demand of the people of my Tirupur constituency that a New Railway line through Mettupalayam to Chennai via Sathyamangalam, Gobichettipalayam and Erode be initiated soon. I take this opportunity to urge the Government to fulfil the Railway demands of the people of Tirupur constituency.

The much needed Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 1862 crores may be sanctioned on a priority basis. This would help the people of the Kongu region to get adequate water for both irrigation and drinking purposes.

Gunderipallam reservoir is situated across jungle stream near Kongarpalayam village of Gobichettipalayam Taluk in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. The splendid and the spectacular view of the reservoir and surrounding area attract tourists and film shoots often takes place here. I urge the Government to release adequate funds for this purpose so that Gunderipallam Reservoir could become a significant tourist centre.

In Tirupur, the Postal Department is having a site measuring 1. 04 acres and 298sq ft. at Kallampalayam Road. This land is lying vacant for the last several years. Sixteen post offices are located in and around Tirupur within 10 kilometers radius. Rent is being paid for 13 post offices. Though Tirupur head post office is functioning in its own building, it is functioning in a very cramped space. As the building is very old and situated near the railway station, it is not possible to expand Tirupur head post office building either horizontally or vertically. If a new building is constructed, Passport Kendra can also function which will be more convenient to the members of public in and around Tirupur.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to allot sufficient funds for construction of an integrated building for the purposes of Department of Posts and Passport Kendra at the vacant site at Kallampalayam Road, Tirupur.

The Keeripallam Odai and Modachur Pallam Odai rehabilitation works for the benefit of the people of Gobichettipalayam and its surroundings need to be executed under the Flood Management Scheme. Moreover, a Water Treatment Plant also to be provided at the tail end of this Odai so that the treated water could be utilized for agricultural

purpose as a recycling process. I urge the Union Government to allocate Rs. 55 crores to expedite this very important Keeripallam Odai and Modachur Pallam Odai rehabilitation works in Tamil Nadu.

***SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):** Hon'ble President in his Address has stated that the Government is committed to doubling of farmer's income by 2022. But in reality, the situation is different. Majority of the farmers in the country are living in debt trap. They are not getting timely credit, quality seeds and subsidy. Most often, they are living at the mercy of money lenders and not protected. In Tamil Nadu, as per the 2011 census, nearly 8. 67 lakh farmers have quit agriculture and shifted to other sectors during the last 10 years due to various reasons including huge loss. Moreover, the farmers sell their land to real estate and prefer to work on daily wage. The reason attributed for the plight of the farmers is wrong import policy of the Centre, un-remunerative prices for their produce, industrialization and urbanization, coupled with failure to divert the rain and other waters going to sea to the farmers' fields by linking rivers. In addition, the Government should assist the farmers in educating and promoting the cultivation of organic farming.

I am glad to learn that the present Government is committed to empower people belonging to backward classes by providing constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward

* Speech was laid on the Table

Classes. I am sure that the Commission set up to examine the sub-categorization of backward classes would submit its report shortly so that the benefits of higher education and jobs can be availed by the most backward sections among the backward classes. It is pertinent to mention here that the Government should consider extension of the benefits of higher education and jobs to the economically weaker section from the general category also without disturbing the existing set up.

As regards 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' Scheme, out of 640 districts in the country, the scheme is extended only to 161 districts and more number of districts are yet to be covered. The scheme faces challenges due to lack of support from civic bodies, constantly changing administration, obsession with marriage, etc. and these issues are to be addressed to achieve to desired results.

The 'Jan dhan Yojana' of the Government helps the poor to open a bank account on their own. However, on the flipside, privacy and security issues have cropped up, and new light is shed on the scheme's susceptibility to frauds i. e. whether the bank accounts opened are actually being used. Additionally, several features of the schemes remain ambiguous. For instance, the promising overdraft facility is left to the discretion

of banks, which creates prejudices as banks will avoid such situations that could potentially lead to NPAs. These issues are to be addressed by the Government and then only fruits of the scheme reach the intended beneficiaries.

I am sorry to state that the Union Government has recently scrapped the Haj subsidy which was first introduced by the British Government in 1932 for pilgrims as the fund will instead be used for empowerment of minorities for this year. In this connection, I would like to submit that around 1. 75 lakh people prefer to go to Haj this year and this decision of the Government will adversely affect their long cherished lifetime dream. At this juncture, I urge upon the Union Government to refrain from the abrupt withdrawal of the subsidy scheme and it can be extended by considering their economic status.

As regards power sector, I would like to mention about the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP). Quite often, the two reactors are shut down citing 'Under Maintenance' which has raised safety issues of the project. This has raised concern among the activists that the project was set up with substandard components and needs to put a thorough overhaul. Besides, there is also no clarity of time schedule of the commissioning of Units 3 and 4.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is deeply concerned with the plight of our fishermen who are continuously attacked and detained by the Sri Lankan Navy. It is a regular occurrence throughout the year. Their boats, nets and other fishing vessels are capsized by the Sri Lankan authorities and are damaged.

Government is also aware that 163 fishing boats and gear, which are essential for fishermen to earn their humble livelihood, have not yet been released by Sri Lanka. Long periods of disuse and the monsoons have condemned the boats and equipment to ruin and the poor fishermen are being subjected to a huge permanent loss. Government of Tamil Nadu is consistently requesting that the only means of livelihood of our fishermen is returned in a refurbished condition by the Centre at the earliest. Besides, immediate action may be taken through the highest diplomatic channels to secure the release of 108 fishermen and 165 fishing boats, including 8 fishermen and 2 mechanised fishing boats which were apprehended on 25. 01. 2016. Recently, in the early hours of 25-01-2018, it has been reported that 8 fishermen along with their 2 mechanised fishing boats set out for fishing from Jegathapattinam fishing base of Pudukkottai District have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken to Sri Lanka.

Besides, there are implications of a new Bill introduced in the Sri Lankan Parliament on 24th January, 2018 with provisions to impose huge penalties on Indian fishermen, who engage in legitimate fishing in their traditional fishing grounds of Palk Bay. New amendments made in the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, 1960 of Sri Lanka during the year 2017 has banned and declared bottom trawling as a punishable offence. In addition, a new Bill named the Foreign Fishing Vessels Bill, has also been approved by the Sri Lankan Cabinet which provides for stringent penalties against fishing in the sovereign territory of Sri Lanka. It is widely reported in the media, that the Bill has been introduced in the Sri Lankan Parliament on 24. 01. 018 and its provisions were aimed at Indian Fishing Trawlers from Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu fishermen, as well as their fishing gear, while they are peacefully fishing in their traditional fishing waters of Palk Bay. This new Bill has provisions to incarcerate our fishermen for longer periods of time and impose huge penalties, which run up to few crores of Indian rupees. The life and livelihood of our fishermen, who fish in the traditional waters of Palk Bay, will then be left at the mercy of the Sri Lankan Government. This move has created widespread resentment and panic amongst

the fishermen of Tamil Nadu, especially amongst the fishermen fishing in the Palk Bay. It is an extremely unfortunate development, at the time when the Ministers of India and Sri Lanka met twice and the Joint Working Group on Fisheries met thrice, to work out a permanent solution to resolve this long pending sensitive livelihood issue. In addition, the Government of Tamil Nadu with the support of Government of India has initiated various proactive measures to decongest the Palk Bay and diversify the 2 trawling fishing effort form Palk Bay into deep sea fishing. This unilateral move by the Government of Sri Lanka has far reaching implications on the livelihood propositions of fishermen from Tamil Nadu and will definitely hamper proactive efforts taken by the State Government and the diplomatic efforts taken by the Government of India.

Palk Bay is the historic and traditional fishing area of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu. Their historical rights were simply signed away, as part of the ill-advised Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976, which also unilaterally ceded Katchateevu to Sri Lanka, without having any foresight or concern for the plight of our innocent fishermen.

The stand of our revered Leader Puratchi Thalavi Amma and the Government of Tamil Nadu to abrogate the 1974 Indo

Sri Lankan agreement that created an imaginary International Maritime Boundary Line and ceded the Katchatheevu islet along with the potential traditional fishing grounds of our fishermen to Sri Lanka, is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court of India. Thus, it would be fitting for the Government of India to register its strong disapproval of such a move, affecting the livelihood of our fishermen in the Palk Bay, at the highest diplomatic level.

I also wish to bring to the kind notice of the Government regarding the pathetic plight of fifteen fishermen from Kannyakumari, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts of Tamil Nadu, who were arrested and detained by the Iranian Coast Guard. These fishermen were engaged in fishing from the Emirate of Dubai fishing base. They ventured into sea for fishing on 22. 10. 2017 in two mechanized fishing boats and were apprehended by the Iranian Coast Guard on 24. 10. 2017, when they inadvertently strayed into Iranian waters. The apprehended fishermen are reportedly detained in their fishing boats in KISH Island, Iran for the past two months. It is ascertained that the Iranian Court imposed fine on these fishermen and the same has to be paid by the fishermen with the financial support their local sponsors from Dubai, UAE. It

has been further reported that some of the fisherman needs medical intervention. The prolonged incarceration of these poor fishermen who went abroad for earning their humble livelihood, would severely affect their families and dependants in India. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to intervene and instruct the Ambassadors of India in Tehran and United Arab Emirates to provide necessary medical attention and to take effective legal steps to secure the immediate release of these poor innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu. I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take serious efforts to solve this vexed issue.

As regards Swachchh Bharat Mission (SBM), despite wide awareness, the resistance to toilets in villages is considerable. Lack of adequate water/monitoring, unavailability of space, behavioural change are some of the reasons cited for creating hurdles in the success of the SBM. If these are issued, positive results will be looked up.

As regards Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the Government's target to provide road connectivity to every village by 2019 seems to be a distant dream. Lot of efforts are needed to expedite the process and to attain the desired objectives. Coming to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

(PMAY), as of January 2, 2018, only 9% of the sanctioned houses had been completed under PMAY-Urban and under PMAY-Gramin, only 22% of the target of 10 million houses has been completed. As the PMAY projects are progressing at a very slow pace, Government should focus to expedite the project in a speedy manner and by allocating adequate funds.

As regards Chennai Metro Rail, Phase I of the CMRP covers a total length of 45 kms. Its extension from Washermenpet to Tiruvotriyur/Wimco Nagar covers further 9. 51 kms. There is a need to substantially expand the CMRP like Delhi Metro. A detailed feasibility report for its expansion along three corridors has been approved by the State Government and included in the rolling plan of Japan International Cooperation Agency for funding. Our late leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had requested the GOI to support the proposed Phase II of the CMRP so that the project is given early approval for commencement. I urge upon the Union Government to consider the State's request on top priority as the Chennai Metro is fast expanding and will ease the burden on road usage.

*SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): I would like to urge upon the Government to release of Rs 6,655 crores for the various centrally aided schemes due to Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Education Department has not received Rs 4,474 crore from the Centre under various schemes in the last few years. Many education schemes, including post-metric scholarship for SC/ST students had suffered as the State was denied central funds on the ground of exhausting the budgetary allocations. A sum of Rs 1,547 crore has been pending towards the post-matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Castes and Rs 27 crore for Scheduled Tribes for over a year. The Union Government has to pay arrears of Rs 1,312 crore for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the **'Education for All'** scheme to Tamil Nadu. Under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), an amount of Rs 1,588-crore is due to be given to the State. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to expedite the release of all the funds due for Tamil Nadu without any delay.

In my Krishnagiri Constituency, Hosur SIPCOT is located. It is hardly 16 kilometres from Electronic City, Bengaluru. People from all walks of life, from IT professionals to workers

* Speech was laid on the Tabe

of garment industry, more particularly women and contract workers, had to travel to and from daily through the 15 kilometres stretch between Mookandapalli (Hosur SIPCOT area) and Bommasandra Industrial area via Attepalli further to reach Electronics City. The road traffic is very badly affected by heavy vehicular congestion. It often takes an hour or more to pass this 15-20 kilometres stretch because of frequent traffic jams. If the Metro Rail is extended up to Mookandapalli, Hosur, it will be a boon for the people living in borders of both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, as it will solve their daily traffic hurdles and facilitate them to reach their destinations easily. Commercially this will be very profitable too.

I urge the Government to extend the Metro rail services up to Mookandapalli, Hosur to facilitate thousands of people of all walks of life to have hassle free travel and to reach their working destinations quick and safe, cost effectively too.

In our country, 300 people are killed annually in human-elephant conflicts and hundreds are injured. The loss to elephants also is equally high and is on the rise. Hundreds of elephants get killed when they breach their territory. The invading elephants fall victim to humans and man-mad dangers like firing, attacking with spears and electrocution or killed in

accidents by falling, speeding trains and trucks. Elephant-Human conflict occurs primarily due to encroachments of elephant passages and water bodies by human settlements. Elephants can cause heavy damages to standing crops amounting to a huge loss. This provokes a lethal retaliation against elephants. As a result, elephants are often killed.

In Krishnagiri District, Elephant-Human conflicts occur frequently. Elephants are naturally scared of honeybees. Elephants would quickly move away if they hear so much as the sound of a buzzing hive. Beehive fencing is a natural way to stop elephants invading the crops and habitation areas. It is easy to make and it costs very less compared to concrete barriers and electrified fences. People can benefit through the harvest and sale of honey. Bees can also increase biodiversity through pollination and even increase the yield of the crop that they protect.

Therefore, I urge the Government to promote and provide fund for beehive fences to keep elephants away from crops and human habitats and to save elephants from being victims in the Human-Elephant conflicts.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Hon. Deputy Speaker, as per the Constitution and tradition, the President addresses both the Houses. Carrying forward that tradition, today the President addressed both houses simultaneously on 29th January. It has also been a tradition that a motion of thanks to him is passed in both the houses. I would like to thank the President on my behalf and on behalf of our party, Shiv Sena, for participating in this discussion. I would also like to congratulate the Honourable Prime Minister because he was invited to the Finance Council held in Davos after 21 years. It was even inaugurated with his lotus hands. We felt great respect towards our country. Also, all the heads of ASEAN countries were present on 26th January. This is the pride of our country. The Hon. Prime Minister has definitely done the work of taking the country's prestige to the top of the world. Therefore, he deserves congratulations. Before going into some of the points in the president's speech, I would like to go into one more point. When the Parliament's campaign for 2014 was on, our Prime Minister had given a slogan—Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. Then we were with the NDA constituent parties. We contested the elections together, and after many years, a change came in the

country. At that time, we believed that the NDA government had been established.

18 00 hrs

As we moved forward, it started to be felt that there is an NDA government only in name, but it is a BJP-free government, the reason for which is that if we give the slogan of "Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas," then it is important to take everyone into confidence. We didn’t experience it. The 23rd of January, 2018, was the birth anniversary of our Shiv Sena chief, Balasaheb. That day, our party leader, the respected Uddhav ji, announced that we will fight the upcoming elections alone.

[English]

HON. DEPUYY-SPEAKER: Now, the time is 6 o'clock.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request that the timing of the House be extended till the debate is over.

I want to inform, through you, that dinner has been arranged for all the Hon. Members of Parliament in first floor Room no. 70, for media persons and officers at Room no. 73,

and for staff at Room no. 74 from 8. 30 onwards. Please continue the proceedings till the debate is over.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The timing of the House has been extended.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: We have seen that he has been standing in the well ever since the discussion started. This is also the reason why perhaps he too was not taken into confidence. I want to put one thing very clearly before the Government that trust is such a thing, and two speakers have said this before, that first our love should be towards our people and politics comes later. The second thing is that the person who has been taken along should also be taken into confidence. Our tenure is going ahead; we have seen the election of Gujarat, and we do not want to go into more details. We have seen the by-election in Rajasthan; these are lessons to teach. Our dedication, from respected Atal and Advani ji to the Bharatiya Janata Party, is definitely on one principle, and that is Hindutva. Our Shiv Sena chief believed that Hindutva is nationalism. Unfortunately sometimes one thing hurts our feelings; whenever Pakistan refers to our country, it does not refer to 'Hindustan'; they refer to Bharat (India). This is also

unfortunate. The place that is for Hindus is called Hindustan. If we Hindus live here in the majority, then what is the need to feel ashamed and embarrassed about it? Why don't we come out clearly? We have given this slogan for years: "We will build the Ram temple there but will never tell the date." What are your shortcomings today? Earlier, when our respected Atal ji had a government of 25 parties, it was difficult. Today, after many years, our government has come; you yourself are in the majority in the Lok Sabha, and we are also with you.

If you have any good ideas, we are with you. You have done a daring thing by bringing the Triple Talaq Bill. This Bill has been passed in the Lok Sabha and would definitely be passed in the Rajya Sabha. Kharge said he will help in this. The same is the case with Ram Janmabhoomi.

Today we are discussing the motion of thanks on the speech of the President. It has also been a tradition that his speech is written on behalf of the government, and it is a mirror of the work of the government. We saw that many schemes were announced by the Prime Minister like Stand-up India, Start-up India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jan-Dhan Yojana, Jan-Aushdhi Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Atal Bima Yojana, Beti Padhao Beti Bachao, etc. Our

colleague Mehtab Ji has presented facts with figures, but I want to say that when we all go to our area and see any scheme at the ground level, there seems to be no coordination between these figures. For example, I want to talk about the Mudra Yojana. This scheme is very good for the unemployed to get themselves employed. For that, there is a provision of giving loans ranging from fifty thousand rupees to ten lakh rupees without collateral security. There is a provision of ten lakh crore rupees in this scheme, but to date only four lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned. There is also a doubt as to whether Rs 4 lac crore has actually been distributed or not and whether those unemployed have started employment or not. I am mentioning this because when we go to our area, we should see two to four such examples where these unemployed people have gotten the loan and have gotten this employment. We do not see such examples in our area. There are other such plans. Our President mentioned that the economy slowed down in the year 2016-17. According to statistics, in the year 2015-16 our GDP growth rate was 8.2 percent, and in the year 2016-17 our GDP growth rate came down to 6.2 percent.

What is the reason for it coming down? No one wants to go into it. When demonetisation, or the currency ban, was

announced, as far as I know, in February 2016, the RBI governor discussed demonetisation and was asked to announce it, but he refused. On November 8, 2016, demonetisation was announced suddenly at 8 PM. How many notes of five hundred and one thousand rupees went out of circulation? They were 86 percent out. When 86 percent of five hundred- and one-thousand-rupee notes are out of circulation, then so many percent of currency cannot suddenly come back into circulation, and they did not come back. The result was that it had an adverse effect on the business of all the people, be they small businessmen, industrialists, farmers or labourers. Even as of date, Rs 16 thousand crore of five hundred- and one-thousand-rupee currency has not yet been deposited with the Government or the Reserve Bank. The government spent Rs 30 crore on printing new currency. Therefore, it is quite possible that there would be a negative impact on the economy, and that has happened. We have to accept that too. So what do you really want to do? If the Governor and the cabinet had been taken into confidence, perhaps this would not have been the outcome. What is still happening today? GST is good for the future. The UPA government had also brought it, but they could not progress on it. This is good for the future, but what were the

consequences in the beginning? Every month, small and big traders have to file returns. Even if an hour of filing of the return was delayed, the fine was imposed. This had very adverse effects on the economic situation. Suddenly when this government realised it, the GST Council, which was formed, took the decision. How was the decision made suddenly? When the Gujarat elections came, the rates of 214 commodities were brought down. The various slabs that were created were reduced, with many commodities being placed in the five percent slab. It’s not a game. It’s a very thoughtful thing. We make big announcements and proclamations, give slogans and bring plans. Then why do you commit fraud? I want to say this because we have gained a lot of popularity, and we have progressed. The standards in the world have gone very high. If we do not take anyone in our family into confidence, what actually happens, Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir? I would like to tell you one more thing in this regard.

Our Prime Minister gave the slogan of 'Less Government and More Governance.' No matter how good the plans are, implementing them depends on the bureaucracy. This is the experience of all of us; even our BJP members will agree that

if we go to any officer, the right work is not done at the right time. This has to be accepted.

By giving them more rights and reducing our own rights. So, no matter how good the scheme is, it is implemented only when the bureaucracy actually supports it. But that doesn't happen. Under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, all of us were asked to adopt one village each in the first year, and we did so. And what did we experience? Two years have passed, and we have adopted another village. This year I have taken the third one also. We have experienced this. Do officers of every department support it? How many people sitting here will say that the work of Adarsh Gram Yojana has been completed? somewhere up to 50, 60 and 70 percent. That is our experience. But why is it so? We also know that this scheme is good. We have to make the village better. But the bureaucracy does not support it. Has the government ever gone there to see whether the work is being done as per what we had announced or not?

A slogan of skill development was given, and a separate ministry was also created for this. Our Rudy ji was made a minister. He was very talented; we appreciated him. I don't have to go into other things. But one thing came out. There is a meeting of DPDC, which takes place at the district level. MPs

also sit in that meeting. We asked how many centres of skill development are in our district. He said 150. We asked, where are all these? He named some of them. We said we want to go and see it. “Nobody will be there yet,” he said. Later it was revealed that the work of skill development was given to NGOs. These NGOs make a register, find an unemployed person, take his signature, get Rs. 1500 per month, give him Rs. 500, and put Rs. 1000 in their pocket. In this way they get his signature for all thirty days. I am telling you this reality. I am not accusing anyone. Is it important to tell the government what is happening to our plan? To how many people have we given placements? How many people have been trained? There are many tribal areas in my locality. I wanted to bring a cluster there where honey and mawa would be made. Because in tribal areas they don't get proper rates. If it is packaged and sold properly, it has great demand in Japan. Therefore, we presented the proposal to the Minister for starting the scheme there, to which he said yes. We have come up with a project. We contacted about a hundred unemployed people from the tribal areas. We told them that we want to give you training for honey production, give you a dress for it, and give you permanent employment. He said that we used to get five hundred earlier

too. If you also give us five hundred, then we will think about whether we want to come to your program or not. Why did this get habitual? Why did they treat us like this? Their experience was that for signing the register, one gets five hundred rupees, and one has to sign for thirty days. This is a wrong habit that they have developed. We want to do something good, something different, which had not come to anybody's mind. The name of the scheme is very attractive. The particulars of the scheme are also very good, but we do not have any monitoring on whether the scheme is implemented or not. This is our misfortune. So perhaps our fellow people might wonder why those who always strongly support the government and oppose the opposition are saying such things today?

I am speaking impartially. I am talking from both sides. What is wrong is wrong, and what is right is right; this was told by our Shiv Sena chief, Bala Saheb.

Sir, I have such a short time. What is this? People here have spoken for an hour. I also know, sometimes fortunately, I sit here with you.

We definitely appreciate the good things that happen. Through the Aadhar card, the money for four schemes has reached the right people, and 54 thousand crore rupees have

been saved. Such things should be appreciated, and we appreciate it a lot. Whatever is good should be appreciated. Through Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, one gets insurance of two lakh rupees for one rupee per month. If a member of a family dies, the family gets two lakh rupees. Its premium is one rupee per month. Today 31 crore families have opened their accounts in the bank. They have simply written that if you deduct my 12 rupees as one rupee for one year, then that insurance will be applicable to them. There is the Atal Insurance Scheme; it is for our elders. It's a good scheme. In the end I would like to tell you that you have rung the bell; I do not want to hear the second bell. Having good schemes does not mean anything. If the schemes are implemented well, then people's faith in the Government increases. If these schemes are made for the welfare of the people and implemented with love, then the people stay with them forever. Everyone's support will be received only when there will be development for everyone. This will have to be reversed for that development for all; hence, support for all. Saying this, I conclude my speech.

*DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (ALWAR): Madam, I feel fortunate and proud to have won the by-election once again in this great House.

I have to express regret that the Government has once again tried to get the Hon. President to make fake promises and announcements that can never be fulfilled.

Today every section of the country is frustrated and worried. The poor are becoming poorer, and the few people in the country, whose number is only in hundreds, are becoming more prosperous and wealthy day by day. Every class, be it businessman, farmer, labourer, youth, minority or Dalit, feels cheated. Under this BJP-led government, farmers are committing suicide across the country. While in the speech there is talk of increasing the income of farmers by one and a half times or double, the reality is that the farmers are heading towards poverty. Farmers are not getting proper prices for their produce. The government does announce the support price, but government procurement or purchase centres are not being opened anywhere. The support price of mustard has been declared as Rs. 3700 per quintal, but due to non-purchase by

* Speech was laid on the Table.

government agencies, farmers have to sell their crops at very low prices in the mandis. Rs. 3700 support price mustard is sold at Rs. 3300-3400 per quintal. In Rajasthan, farmers have to sell millet with a support price of Rs. 1400 at Rs. 1000-1100 per quintal.

Electricity rates increase every year. The price of diesel is continuously increasing. Prices of seeds and fertilisers have increased. The result is that the farmer remains indebted. This time there was a good harvest of garlic in the Kota division of Rajasthan, but due to the negligence of the Government, the farmers are forced to commit suicide after selling the crop at very low prices.

The number of young and educated unemployed is increasing day by day. The government's promise of providing 1-2 crore jobs has turned out to be false. Due to the impact of GST during demonetisation, industrial units have started closing down. The factories that used to run in three shifts have now started operating in two shifts, and those that used to run in two shifts have now started operating in one shift. Unemployed youths are committing criminal activities.

The medical system in the country has collapsed. The condition of government hospitals is pathetic. Some

governments, like the Rajasthan government, are handing over government dispensaries and primary health centres to private players.

A living example of government apathy is that the ESIC hospital built at a cost of Rs 800 crore in Alwar has been lying vacant for the last four years. During UPA-I and UPA-II, a medical college was to be run in this big hospital of ESIC. As soon as the BJP government came, it broke its ties with this hospital and medical. The 500-bed hospital worth Rs 800 crore has been locked for the last four years. Eight to ten watchmen take care, and bats reside in the hospital building. This is the accountability of the government towards medical care.

The country, especially Rajasthan, is suffering from drinking and irrigation water. The Central Government and the State Government have put on hold the previous government's plan to provide drinking water from Chambal in Alwar.

It is clear that in 2019 people will teach a lesson. The promise of up to 2022 in everything is a mess with the sentiments of the people.

*__DR RAGHU SHARMA (AJMER):__ The so-called achievements of the BJP government mentioned in the speech given by His Excellency the President of India in the Parliament are nothing but a mirage for crores of people of this country. The government is formed through fake promises and runs on fake promises. The common man of the country is feeling cheated by their breach of promise. The BJP Government, which came to power by promising to provide two crore jobs per year to the unemployed, has disappointed crores of unemployed youth of this country. The government has proved to be a failure in providing employment. The BJP government, which came to power by promising to reduce inflation, has disappointed the people of the country. Ever since the BJP government has been formed in this country, inflation has increased three to four times. The poor man's life has become difficult. The BJP government has snatched the bread from the mouth of the poor by unofficially shutting down many welfare schemes, including MNREGA, run by the UPA government. Farmers in the country are continuously committing suicide, and the insensitive BJP government is not doing anything to save the farmers of this country. The BJP

* Speech was laid on the Table

government has proved to be anti-youth, anti-common man, anti-poor and anti-farmer. This Government has given nothing to every section of the country except disappointment. In my constituency, Ajmer, the gift of Kishangarh Airport was given by the UPA government, but even today the people there are not able to avail the benefits of the said services. Despite the Government of India spending Rs 161 crore, the public did not get its benefits. This is the fault of the BJP government. Similarly, the steps taken by the UPA government to connect Ajmer to Kota and Ajmer to Sawai Madhopur with railway service have been stopped there. This is the injustice done by the BJP government to the people of my area. I would urge the Government to rise above rhetoric and do some work on the ground so that the disappointment that is prevalent among the people of this region against the BJP Government can be dispelled to some extent.

The BJP government has proved to be a failure on every front. This is a government that is completely drenched in arrogance and has never been concerned with public interest.

I would like to tell the government that it should stop showing rosy dreams to the people of this country and should do some work on the ground level; otherwise, the people of this

country will give a befitting reply to BJP in 2019. On every matter and every issue, this government is again misleading the country by citing 2022 and 2024. Thank you.

[English]

***SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU):** I wholeheartedly congratulate His Excellency, President of India, Dr. Ramanath Kovind on his first Address to the Joint session of the Parliament. I thank the Hon'ble President for starting his speech with an emphasis on inclusiveness, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbham' and the vision of New India and remembering the words of our Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, "Political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy".

The Hon'ble President has mentioned in detail different issues pertaining to the policies and priorities of the Union Government like economy and finance, defence and security, governance and legal reforms, education, health, social justice and empowerment, women and child development, labour, industry and manufacturing, transport and connectivity, energy, urban and rural development, agriculture and water resources, science and technology and development of the North East areas.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy and the farmers of the country are subject to hardships and are ending their lives as they are unable to bear the losses. It is the responsibility of the Government to immediately frame an action plan to rescue the farmers from hardships. The Government has provided them with various schemes to double the income as the Government has decided to achieve this ambitious target by 2022.

Unemployment is a major aspect which is a biggest challenge before the Government. Unemployment is the greatest economic challenge facing India. Virtually, all major economic policy issues derive this central challenge. The population of our country is ever-rising. The abnormal rise in population has intensified the problem of unemployment in India. That is why the problem of employment has been getting more and more acute every year.

United Nations' International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its 2017 World Employment and Social Outlook report, which says "Unemployment in India is projected to increase from 17. 7 million last year to 17. 8 million in 2017 and 18 million next year. In percentage terms, unemployment rate will remain at 3. 4 percent in the year 2017-18" which is

very alarming and needs immediate attention of the Government to evolve a platform to resolve this situation.

Working for the upliftment and dignity of all weaker sections is a very important task of the Government. I appreciate the Government's initiative in forming a National Commission for the Backward Classes. The initiatives taken to support the tribal communities are also commendable. Providing of Minimum Support Price to the several forest produce will also empower the tribal population who are dependent for their living on the forest produce.

Though the Government has been implementing the schemes for strengthening the economic democracy, the schemes are actually suffering and lag in the implementation stages. The MUDRA scheme, Prime Ministers flagship program, which is aimed to support poor and middle class to establish small business and create self-employment opportunities and to create self-sustainability is also not reachable to the vulnerable classes.

I sincerely appreciate the Government in the stand taken in providing security and dignity to the Muslim women by tabling the Triple Talaq Bill. I request the Union Government to move a step forward in extending this attitude to promote women

literacy and extend the program of 'Beti Bachao, Beto Padhao' extensively across the country.

In the said spirit, I also request the Union Government to introduce the Women reservation Bill in the Parliament which has been long pending to encourage the women into the legislative bodies and provide equal opportunity.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the Government in creating economic security to the poor and senior citizens. It is also the responsibility of the Union Governments to ensure to end pint delivery mechanism. Due to the federal structure of the country, implementation of the policies depends on the commitment both from the State and the Central Government. The Union Government has to ensure that all the schemes and policies announced are being carried out in true spirit.

The effort of the Government in making India ‘Swatch Bharat’ is highly commendable and has also created a sensitisation across the masses in the country. Providing electricity under the 'Saubhagya Scheme' will light many lives. Regarding road connectivity, I thank the Union Government for their emphasis on providing connectivity to every village and this step will have far-reaching consequences in the implementation of the welfare programs as well as in the areas

of education and health. Particularly in tribal areas like my constituency Araku, wherein people have been suffering from decades due to connectivity issues, this initiative is a boon. But the implementation is very slow and the State Governments are not as keen as the Central Government and there is a huge delay due to the lethargic attitude of the officers.

To simplify the procedures, we appreciate the Government's initiative in repealing the obsolete laws. I feel that the Government should also come up and amend the reservations and make the reservations available only to the vulnerable removing the advantage to the creamy layer, who are only enjoying the benefit of reservations.

I firmly feel that the Government should frame stringent laws against the corrupt practices and raise the whip on the corrupt officials. Though many cases have been filed by the ACB of the States, the punishment given is not even for one percent and the rest are escaping the legal process and are getting reinstated without any punishment. Such tendency of the Government will create unrest among the people of the nation and also make them lose faith in the Government.

At this juncture, I would also like to quote the situation of my State of Andhra Pradesh, wherein the people are subjected

to so much of hardships due to the reorganization of the State which happened arbitrarily. The demand for the railway zone is pending since the past 3 years and the industrial corridor that has been announced from Visakhapatnam to Chennai is yet to start off. The issue of Tribal University has also been long pending and I request that steps to be taken to complete this at the earliest.

Finally, I would like to close by quoting our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modiji's words "Good Governance is treating development as a mass movement in order to see the fruits of development reach the poor and the downtrodden". With these words I would like convey my thanks to His Excellency, the President of India for his kind address to the joint houses of Parliament.

[Translation]

[1*]**SHRI BIRENDRA KUMAR CHOUDHARY (JHANJHARPUR):** I thank the President for describing the work done by the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the all-round development of the country.

My Government is sensitive and active in bringing the feeling of economic reform to the lives of the poor, farmers and senior officials.

The upliftment and respect of every weak and deprived section of the society is the priority of my government. The government has constituted a commission for the subcategories of backward classes in order to facilitate the most backward classes among the backward classes in higher education and appointments. For which I thank the government a lot.

My government, with the same thought of taking development to every section of the society, is rapidly advancing the work of "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana." In 2014 only 56 percent of the villages were connected with road connectivity.

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Now, more than 82 percent of the villages have been connected by roads, most of which are in remote and inaccessible areas. Our aim is to connect every village in the country with road connectivity.

My government has provided employment opportunities to youth from Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain communities through programs like "Learn and Earn," "Ustad," "Garib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme," "Nai Roshni," etc.

Hon. Prime Minister Ji, everyone should have a roof over their head and get water, electricity and toilet facilities. With this sensitive thought, my government is working towards the goal of providing a house to every homeless poor family in the country by the year 2022.

The cultural traditions of our country are our identity and give a basis to the spirit of “Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat.”

For the first time in the country, the expansion of power capacity in the country has increased beyond the target. Now India has become the net exporter of electricity.

Thank you.

[English]

***SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** The President's Speech is normally treated as the agenda of the Union Government for the year for which the Hon. President makes his speech. The Union Government sets the nation on its path for the current year. At least in the President's Address, the programmes of the Union Government are made known. A plain reading of the Speech should create confidence among the people of this country. But, unfortunately, we could not see the probable action plan of the Union Government that would create a right path for the welfare of the people of this country.

In the President's Address, we can see only theoretical mentioning of some of the programmes of the Union Government. We are not able to find the way that the Government can take for implementation of the programmes.

Farmers are in distress in the country. What is required is the way by which the farmers can be saved from the present crisis. The present programmes available in the Union Government are insufficient to save the farmers from the present situation. Consistent suicides being committed by the

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farmers in the whole country is an insulting factor be it for the Union Government or the respective States.

The Union Government talks about the welfare of farmers. They should first try to understand the reasons for the suicides of the farmers. The major reasons that could be seen all over the country are (i) failure of the crops frequently, (ii) insufficient price they get on the agricultural products they grow, (iii) insufficient minimum support price during the period of crises, (iv) failure to provide good marketing facilities, and (v) bank loans which cannot be repaid due to the above reasons resulting in accumulation of debt.

Farmers in the State of Karnataka were also facing the above said problems. They were not in a position to repay the loans they raised through the co-operative institutions. Hence the State Government waived the farmers' loan taken from the co-operative institutions. But, they are not a in a position to get the farmers' loan waived which were taken from Commercial Banks. Once, the Union Government in UPA-II took the decision to waive the farmers' loan taken from the commercial banks to the tune of Rs. 72,000 crores.

People of the country, particularly the farmers, were anticipating that the Union Government will show some path,

that too a welfare path, for the farmers to come out of the prevailing situation and stop the farmers' suicides. That is to say, the President should have mentioned about the present crises in the farming sector and the remedial measures being taken for the welfare of the farmers.

Hon'ble President has mentioned about holding simultaneous elections for both Parliament and State Assemblies. Some concrete decision is to be taken in this regard by taking not only the political parties but also the States into confidence.

Since the intention of the Union Government with regard to holding simultaneous elections is clear, now they have to come out and make the country know about the status of those States where elections to assemblies were held very recently. Because of this, people are under utter confusion. Hence the Union Government should come out with the actual action plan in this regard.

Viewing from any angle, the vision of the Union Government is not clear about the action plan for the current year, which could have been seen in the President's Address.

***SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST):** I express my views on the 'Motion of Thanks on the speech of His Excellency, President of India delivered in the Joint Session of the Parliament on 29th January, 2018 on behalf of my party and very particularly the people of North East and Tripura. It is always considered that the speech of the President is the reflection of the attitude of the Government towards the people of India, its policy, programs and vision. If it was so, the speech was the diary of failure of last 44 months of Modi Government, saga of treachery with the people and a vision document to lease out the country to the hands of crony capital and multi-nationals.

The nation is totally disappointed for not hearing any clarification or a single mention on the following burning issues from the first citizen of the country.

The speech has no mention about the prolonged and severe crisis in the agrarian sector, which is affecting more than 2/3rd of our total population. One farmer is being compelled to commit suicide in every 32 minutes, which is 42 percent higher than the previous regime. Modi Government is not fulfilling its

* Speech was laid on the Table

poll promise to ensure MSP as per Cost plus 50 percent formula and waiving the crop loans.

The speech does not have any mention about the spiralling hike of the essential commodities. Rather, the Government is very tactically phasing out the Public Distribution System. Reducing the quantity of food grains, introducing Aadhar Card in PDS and withdrawing levy sugar and kerosene, etc. is a big blow to the common people's life and food security of the country.

The Address does not have any mention about the systematic dilution of the MGNREGA which is total disregard to the constitutional right of the people and war against the livelihood of the masses of the rural India.

It does not have any mention about the failure of the Government to create jobs, though this Government promised to provide 2 crores jobs every year. According to all sources of the Government, during last 44 months, hardly 15 lakhs job has been created, whereas more than 90 lakhs people lost their job. More than 25 crores unemployed youth of the country are today reeling under sheer uncertainly.

There is no mention about the disaster set in the economy of the country due to demonetisation and faulty implementation of GST. Also, about realizing black money, booking to the offenders and paying Rs. 15. 00 lakhs each to every Indian family within 100 days of this Government are missing. This Government is indulging into corruption rather fighting against it. They are scooting free to IPL boss Lalit Modi and Liquor baron Vijay Malia.

The speech does not have any mention about the attack on our democratic polity. The formation of Governments in Manipur and Goa by trading the MLAs is sheer disrespect to our Constitution. The similar incident has happened in Arunachal Pradesh by toppling the Government by abusing the power of Governor and play of black money.

That, the speech does not have any mention about depriving and denying the rights of the ST and SC population of the country by dismantling the Tribal sub-Plan and SCCP, OBCs and Religious Minorities are also similarly deprived. Nobody knows about the exact policies or points with which Naga accord has been signed between the Government and the NSCN. After the agreement, the entire North East is burning.

There are severe implications in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

That, the Address does not have any mention about the status of the implementation of much hyped 'Act East Policy'. Dismantling of Planning Commission and creation of 'NITI AYOG' has not only destroyed a democratic institution, but deprived the Small and Special Category States. Tripura State alone has been deprived to the tune of Rs. 4,000 crore per annum. Is it the objective of Act East Policy to discriminate the North East Region?

There is no mention about what objective the Prime Minister's Office has been indulging into encouraging the disruptive elements of Tripura, who are denying popular demands of empowerment of TTA-ADC, over all socio-economic development of the State and inclusion of Kok-Borok in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution. Also, these forces are openly demanding to divide the State of Tripura by ignoring its history of harmony for centuries.

In totality, this Address is found to be prepared and orchestrated for the benefit of the crony capitalists and handful corporate of this country. I do disapprove the motion and request the Government to address the above issues that the

nation can breathe in fresh air, our democracy is saved and economy is revived.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Thank you, Sir. I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Mr. Rakesh Singh. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the new President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji on delivering his first President's Address to the Joint Session of the Parliament. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri B. Vinod Kumar ji, just a minute.

I request the Hon. Members present in the Well to go back to their seats because already the Finance Minister has announced certain programmes.

(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are a lot of opportunities. You can raise it. In the debate, you can discuss it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, the President covered several aspects of development in the country and highlighted key schemes and policies that aim to strengthen social justice and economic democracy and to make 'ease of living' for the common man. … (*Interruptions*)

The President in his Address has raised many issues with regard to the programmes initiated by this Government. A Few among them are Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme; Jan Dhan Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana; doubling of farmers' income by 2022; and about the irrigation projects; and with regard to the Dairy Processing Infrastructure Development Fund; Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana; Bharat Net Project; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; with regard to the Constitution Amendment Bill to provide Constitutional Status to the National Commission for Backward Classes; with regard to the North East region; Divyang jan; empowerment to the minority women; Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana; National Health Policy; modernising School and Higher Education system; Skill India Mission; Khelo India Programme; space programme; Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharata Abhiyan; and with regard to the Railways.

All these schemes and programmes are mentioned in the address by the President. While I welcome all these decisions, I would like to mention the ground realities to better understand the problems of the common man and the policy implementation.

Coming to the issue of agriculture, the Bhartiya Janata Party, in its election manifesto had also mentioned about the doubling income of the farmers. Sir, the President had mentioned that the farmers income will be doubled by 2022. What are the concrete measures? It is nowhere mentioned in this address. To achieve this aim, what steps are going to be initiated by this Government? They are not mentioned. It is an ambitious programme. We welcome it. But what are the steps? I expect that at least while replying, the Hon. Prime Minister should mention as to what are the steps going to be taken to double the income of the farmers.

Sir, my State Telangana is a new born State. We have initiated many programmes. In the first year, we have taken a programme called Mission Kakatiya to restore all the waterbodies which were neglected in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State. We are spending about Rs. 35,000 crore to facelift all the waterbodies in the villages. This is one step where we are seeing the results in the second and third year. The water table has come up and the farmer is happy now. As the water table has come up, the charges of the power have come down. Of course, the power is free to the farmers. So, this is an initiative taken by a new State.

With regard to the projects, we are constructing massive projects on both the rivers – river Godavari and river Krishna - Kaleshwaram project on river Godavari and Palamuru lift irrigation project on river Krishna. These are not perennial rivers. Though the water in the upstream areas that is in Karnataka and in Maharashtra, they have constructed many projects for the last many years. In spite of it, whatever water which flows in these two rivers in the State of Telangana, we are in the process of constructing these projects. We expected that the Government of India will support us but nothing is mentioned. Many a times, we are approaching the different ministries in the Government of India. These are the steps to be initiated. Apart from the projects that are in my State, what are the other irrigation projects? They have mentioned about 99 irrigation projects. In the Budget 2015, they have mentioned that they are going to support through a new scheme in addition to the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. But even in the Budget, I have not seen any allocation for the irrigation projects. So, these are the steps which I expect from the Government when they think of doubling the income of the farmer by 2022.

The other programmes are also there which we have taken. I will give a new example. I think all my colleague Members of Parliament will appreciate this programme. Normally, all the political parties in our country whether they are in power in the Centre or in the States, we have given a call for waiver of loans. When the farmer had incurred debt, right from 1977, the Janata Party rule, when I was a school going student, I learnt they had waived all the loans. Even Manmohan Singh Ji in UPA Government also waived the loan. My State Government has also announced this. During our elections, in our election manifesto, we have mentioned and we have waived it that loan.

But our Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, came out of the box, and now from this agriculture season, we are going to give Rs. 8,000 per acre, Rs. 4,000 in Kharif and Rs. 4,000 in Rabi. This is grant. This is not subsidy. This is not a loan component. We are going to give Rs. 4,000 in Kharif and Rs. 4,000 in Rabi, totalling Rs. 8,000 per acre to a farmer so that the farmer will not incur debt. Even if it is a bad season, he may not be going to lose anything. So, that is the concept of our new Government in the State of Telangana. This is the way how we have to help the farmer and increase his income.

What are the other steps taken? We should see that the input cost of raising a crop should be reduced. So the Government ought to have mentioned this, at least, if not in the President's Address, in the Budget speech. The Hon. Finance Minister has not mentioned anything as to how they are going to come to the rescue of the farmers in this country in order to see they double the income by 2022.

At the same time, in the rural areas with regard to dairy development, the Government has announced an ambitious programme and I appreciate it. That is, with regard to the Dairy Processing Infrastructure Fund, they have allocated around Rs. 11,000 crore and we have to see how it is going to be implemented. Anyhow, we appreciate this programme. At the same time, in the rural areas, after migration, the majority of the population in the rural areas belongs to the Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. To uplift these sections of society, we had passed a Bill with regard to reservation and a law was enacted in the State of Telangana increasing the reservation up to 62 per cent. Telangana is a new State. Its demography has changed. Because of bifurcation, the population of Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and also Scheduled Castes has increased in the region of Telangana, in

the undivided State of Andhra Pradesh. In the present State of Telangana, there is a demographic change. So, keeping in view the change in the demographic condition, our State Government had constituted two Commissions and they submitted their reports whereby the State Legislature, the Telangana State Assembly had passed a Bill and an Act was enacted to increase the reservation up to 62 per cent. The Act was sent to the Government of India. We expected that the President will give his assent and we will make entry in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

The President, in the first page itself, has mentioned about Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's vision. I read it.

> "The architect of our Constitution, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar used to say that political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy. Guided by this fundamental spirit of the Constitution and committed to the welfare of weaker sections, my Government is working towards strengthening social justice and economic democracy and to usher ease of living for the common man. "

Here I want to ask the Government. What is their idea about the Act of our Government? The State Legislature has passed

an Act and it is sent to the Central Government to make a Constitutional Amendment and to make an entry in the Ninth Schedule as was done, Sir, by your Government. In the year 1993, the then Chief Minister, Madam Jayalalithaa Ji had passed an Act and it was sent to the Government of India, and in spite of the judgement of the Supreme Court, that is, Indira Sawhney case of 1992, because of the initiative taken, Sir, by your political Party and your Government, the then Government of India had made an entry in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, this is what we are expecting from the Government of India. You have mentioned about the vision of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar about social justice. Sir, we the new State of Telangana have come before you with a prayer to include this Act in the 9th Schedule. We expect that the Government while replying to the Presidential Address would come forward and make a statement that they are going to include this Act in the 9th Schedule.

Sir, now I come to infrastructure, particularly Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. This initiative was taken by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his tenure as the Prime Minister of this country. Later on, for about ten years, unfortunately, there

were not much allocations made for this programme. But we expect that at least this Government will take an initiative in this regard. Though the Hon. Finance Minister has mentioned that they are going to initiate a programme called as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III, not much allocations have been made as yet. We hope that in the coming days they will make certain allocations under this scheme to the new State of Telangana and also other backward States in the country.

Sir, so far as railway infrastructure is concerned, not much has been said about it in the Railway Budget. As a new State, we expect new railway lines to be laid in our State. We hope that the Government will consider our request in this regard.

With regard to health, the Hon. President has mentioned about the National Health Protection Scheme. The next day, the Hon. Finance Minister mentioned about his ambitious programme which has been coined as Modicare. Till today we are unable to understand the new national health policy which would cover 10 crore families, that is, around 50 crore people of this country. We expect that the Finance Minister would initially speak about it while initiating the debate on the Finance Bill.

Then, Sir, with regard to Jan Aushadhi clinics, the number of these clinics was mentioned in the President's Address. But, frankly speaking, these Jan Aushadhi outlets are not functioning to the extent we are expecting because the doctors are not prescribing medicines which are available there. I hope that the Government will take an initiative with Indian Medical Association and their Council to issue a direction in this regard so that the doctors may prescribe these medicines. Though Jan Aushadhi stalls are there in hospitals, the prescriptions do not allow them to purchase those medicines from these stores. We expect that these corrective measures will be taken by the Government.

Coming to education, I would appreciate the initiative taken by the Finance Minister in his address in respect of higher education. At the same time, I would also like to bring an important issue to the notice of the Government with regard to Navodya Vidyalaya teachers. These schools are number one schools in the Government sector. But, unfortunately, for the last two-three recruitments, the youngsters are not opting teaching positions in these schools because of various problems faced by the existing teachers in these schools. The HRD Minister should take an initiative to resolve these issues.

Otherwise, in coming days, these schools may not survive. This is my apprehension. So, I request the Government, particularly the HRD Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar to take steps to resolve all the issues which are being faced by the teachers in Navodya Vidyalaya across the country.

Sir, while concluding my speech, I expect that the Government, while replying to this debate on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, will spell out some corrective measures on the problems which were brought to the notice of the Government by all the Hon. Members.

Thank you.

[Translation]

*__SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH):__ I welcome and support the address of the Hon. President. The President's speech not only mentions the plans and achievements of the government but also presents a picture of future India. I want to say with pride, and everybody knows and believes, that the country is on the path of progress. I see a picture of a better and brighter India in this speech.

The present government is dedicated to the weaker sections and is working to strengthen social justice and economic democracy in the country and to make the life of the citizens easier by following the basic spirit of the Constitution. Today, the construction of toilets is also helping in enhancing the spirit of social justice. Construction of toilets not only gives women dignity but also makes them feel a sense of social justice. This movement of social justice is increasing day by day. The government has given poor women an opportunity to compete with well-off women through the “Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana,” and till now more than 3 crore 30 lac gas connections have been given under this scheme.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

The honour of Muslim women remained hostage to political gains and losses for many decades. Now the country has got an opportunity to liberate them from this situation. The government has presented a bill regarding triple talaq in the Parliament. After the law on triple talaq is enacted, Muslim sisters and daughters will be able to live a fear-free life with self-respect. To end discrimination against daughters, the government had started the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" scheme. Seeing the positive results of this scheme, its scope has now been increased from 161 districts to 640 districts. The government has taken a major step by amending the Maternity Benefit Act. Provision has been made to give 26 weeks leave, including salary for 12 weeks, to women. Now working women will get more time to take care of their newborns in the most delicate early days of their lives.

The schemes of the present Modi Government who feels the pain of poverty, are further strengthening the economic democracy in the country. Now the country is moving towards completely eliminating the gap between the banking system and the poor. Under the "Jan Dhan Yojana," till now bank accounts of about 31 crore poor people have been opened. The government has emphasised that providing loans without bank

guarantees to the poor and middle class, especially to promote self-employment. Now people are able to easily take loans to fulfil their dream of running their own enterprise. Under the "Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana," around 10 crore loans have been sanctioned so far, and loans worth more than Rs. 4 lakh crore have been given. There are about three crore people who have taken advantage of this scheme for the first time and have been successful in starting self-employment.

Solving the problems of farmers and raising their standard of living is the top priority of the government. The government's schemes are not only reducing the worries of the farmers but are also reducing their expenditure on farming. It is the result of the policies of the government and the hard work of the farmers that there has been a record production of more than 275 million tonnes of food grains and about 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables in the country. The Government is committed to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. Work is underway to connect the country’s agricultural markets online so that farmers can get a fair price for their produce. So far, agricultural commodities worth more than Rs 36 thousand crore have been traded on the e-NAM portal. The government is also protecting the interests of farmers through production

bonuses in the pulses and oilseeds sector. Due to the new policy made for pulses, the production of pulses has increased by more than 38 percent compared to last year, which is a record. "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana" has been launched with the objective of ensuring that farmers produce is not damaged before reaching the market and there is no wastage of agricultural produce in the country. Under this, the supply chain and infrastructure in the agriculture sector are being modernised. On one hand, due to the policies of the government, the production of urea has increased, whereas, on the other hand, the black marketing of urea has also stopped after 100 percent neem coating. Work is being done at a fast pace towards restarting the fertiliser factories in Gorakhpur, Barauni, Sidri, Talcher and Ramagundam. Affordable and simple insurance service is being provided to farmers under the "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana." During the year 2017, for Rabi and Kharif crops, 5 crore 71 lakh farmers have been provided security cover under this scheme.

Around 270 thousand Common Service Centres have been created across the country, which are providing digital delivery of various services at affordable rates even in the remote areas of the country. Under the "Bharat Net Project," work is being

done to connect two and a half lakh gram panchayats of the country with broadband connectivity. More than one lakh panchayats have been connected in the first phase. The scheme will play an important role in taking e-health, e-education, e-governance and e-commerce to every village in the country. To brighten the lives of the poor and enable them to move on the path of development, the government is providing electricity connections to 4 crore poor people under the 'Saubhagya' scheme. With this vision of taking development to every section of the society, the government is rapidly advancing the work of “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.” In 2014 only 56 percent of the villages were connected with road connectivity. Now more than 82 percent of the villages have been connected by roads, most of which are in remote and inaccessible areas.

There are more than two and a half crore differently abled persons in our country. The Government is continuously working with utmost sensitivity towards their empowerment and economic inclusion. The Government has enacted the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016." A provision of 4 percent reservation in government jobs and 5 percent reservation in higher education has been made for the disabled.

In the last three years, by organising more than 6 thousand camps, more than 9 lakh rupees worth of essential equipment has also been provided to them.

Keeping in mind the objective of women's empowerment, for the first time since independence, the restriction on women above 45 years of age to go on Haj without male relatives has been lifted. This year more than 1300 women are going on Haj without a Mehram. In the last three and a half years, more than 93 lakh houses have been constructed in urban and rural areas. Under the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban," 6 percent relief in interest rate is being given to the poor for building houses. For the first time, two new schemes have also been launched, keeping in mind the middle class.

The Government has formulated a new "National Health Policy" for better and more affordable healthcare facilities for the poor and middle-class people. Along with this, traditional medical practices like Yoga-Ayurveda are being promoted by the "National Ayush Mission." Through "Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi" centres, 800 types of medicines are being given to the poor at cheaper rates. The number of these centres has crossed 3 thousand. Under "Deendayal Amrit Yojana," a concession of 60 percent to 90 percent is being given on more

than 5,200 life-saving branded drugs and surgical implants through 111 outlets. Along with medicines, the price of a "stent" for heart patients has been reduced by 80 percent. The price of knee surgery has also been controlled. Through the “Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme,” more than 22 lakh dialysis sessions have been conducted for 225,000patients at subsidised rates in more than 500 districts. To increase the availability of doctors, 13 thousand MBBS seats and more than 7 thousand postgraduate seats have been sanctioned. The growth rate of vaccination that used to be just one percent per annum in the country has now increased to 6.7 percent per annum. This has also greatly benefited the children living in remote, especially tribal, areas of the country. Recently, the government has also launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush.

Education is the foundation of the nation’s future. The Government is committed to strengthening and modernising the school education and higher education system in the country. The Government has approved the formation of an autonomous examination organisation, the National Testing Agency, to conduct all examinations of higher educational institutions in the country. For a bright future for the youth, the

government is working on creating 20 "Institutes of Eminence" in the country. Under this mission, financial assistance of Rs 10 thousand crore will be given to the selected educational institutions. A law has also been made to give autonomy to all "Indian Institutes of Management" to improve them.

Our country is the youngest country in the world. To enable the youth of the country to fulfil their dreams and become self-employed, the government is running programs like Start Up India, Stand Up India, Skill India Mission, and Mudra Yojana. Recently, the government has approved two schemes named Sankalp and Strive to develop skills among the youth as per today's industrial requirements. About 5 lakh youth have benefitted from the "National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme." Our labour brothers play a central role in nation building. The process of reforming labour laws is continuously going on by the government with sensitivity towards workers. The Government has increased the minimum wage of workers by more than 40 percent. The number of registers for compliance of labour laws has been reduced from 56 to 5. Now, the returns are filled online on the Shram Suvidha Portal also.

Excellence in sports is viewed as a benchmark of development across the world. The government, which is

conscious about the all-round development of the youth, is also working to ensure that the country has an effective presence on the world stage in the field of sports. International events like the FIFA U-17 World Cup and Asian Athletic Championship were held in the last few months in the country. The government has launched an ambitious campaign called the "Khela India Programme" with an amount of more than Rs 1750 crore. "Sports Talent Search Portal" has also been launched for the selection of talented players with transparency. A scheme has been started by the government to give an Rs 6 lakh per annum stipend to one thousand talented sportspersons.

For the first time in the world, ISRO successfully launched 104 satellites at a time. In June 2017, the first development flight of India's GSLV MK-2 was successful, marking a significant step in advancing the country's launch capabilities. The South Asian Satellite was launched by ISRO on 5th May last year. With this launch, India has demonstrated its commitment to share the benefits of its technological capabilities with neighbouring countries. On 12th January this year, ISRO increased the value of the country by successfully

launching PSLV-C40. On this day, ISRO launched the 100th satellite.

In the modern era of digital connectivity, the Government is continuously making efforts so that our countrymen and our future generations can utilise the power of digital technology. The Digital India Mission is proving to be a milestone in providing the poor and the deprived their rights with dignity. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharata Abhiyan,' the Government is running the world's largest digital literacy program. Under this program, so far one crore people have been made literate in digital form. The "Bhima App" is playing a big role in promoting digital transactions. More than a hundred public facilities have been made available on mobile by the recently launched "Umang App." Through Aadhaar, the facilities available to poor beneficiaries are reaching them directly, without any middlemen. Digital payments are being made in more than 400 schemes of the present government. Due to this, it has become possible for the government benefits to reach the right person, and till now an amount of more than Rs 57 thousand crore has been saved from going into the wrong hands.

Both digital and physical connectivity play a big role in the balanced development of the country. The Government is working on preparing the country's transport sector to suit the needs of the 21st century and enhancing connectivity. Modern transport systems are being developed in such a way that all transport facilities are connected to each other.

Railways continue to be the primary mode of transport in the country, and hence investments are being continuously increased for capacity development and modernisation of railways. The government is committed to world-class rail services. The work on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed bullet train has also started. The Government has also formulated a new policy for metro projects. The new policy emphasises"Last Mile Connectivity." In the country, work on metro projects is currently underway in 11 cities. Recently the Government has approved a new macro program for the highway sector, "Bharatmala." A provision of Rs 535 thousand crore has been made for this. Under this project, about 53 thousand kilometres in length of national highways have been identified to increase the national corridor efficiency. Under the "Waterways Development Project," construction work of major projects at Varanasi, Sahibganj, Farakka and Haldia on

the river Ganga has started. In order to connect small cities of the country by air and to enable the lower middle class, middle class and youth to easily avail the benefit of air travel at low cost, the scheme “Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik,” i.e., “UDAN,” has been started. After independence, there were only 76 airports in the country connected with commercial flights. The "Udaan" scheme has been started. While after independence only 76 airports in the country were connected with commercial flights, in just 15 months of the "UDAN" scheme, work has been started to connect 56 airports and 31 helipads. Until now, 16 such airports have started flights. Along with increasing connectivity, these schemes are also creating new employment opportunities in the country.

For the first time, there has been an occasion when the expansion of power capacity in the country has increased beyond the target. Now India has become the net exporter of electricity. The Government has ensured availability of electricity to the states at affordable rates by completing the task of “One Nation, One Grid.” Schemes worth approximately one and a half lakh crore rupees have been implemented to strengthen the power distribution system in every village and town of the country. The work of providing electricity to 18

thousand villages is also progressing towards completion. So far more than 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed in the country under "Ujala Yojana." In addition, more than 50 crore LED bulbs have been sold by the private sector. Due to this, the poor and middle class are saving more than Rs 40 thousand crore annually in their electricity bills. Along with the campaign to save power, the work of increasing power generation in the country is also going on. The generation of solar energy has increased 7 times in the last three years. Due to India's efforts, the International Solar Alliance has become a legislative body. Its headquarters has been established in India itself.

The Government has fulfilled its promise of “One Rank One Pension” and paid arrears of over Rs 10 crore to more than 20 lakh retired servicemen.

Service to humanity has been an integral part of India's cultural heritage. Be it the earthquake in Nepal, the flood disaster in Sri Lanka, or the drinking water crisis in the Maldives, due to these values, India has always been present as the first responder. Today all Indians living in any corner of the world have confidence that if they face any trouble anywhere, their government will rescue them safely and bring them back

to the country. Since 2014, more than 90 thousand Indians stranded abroad in crisis have been brought back. Due to the successful diplomatic efforts of the Government, India has received a new recognition in the world. As a result, India has got representation in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organisation, and the Economic and Social Council. The election of the International Court of Justice was quite interesting, in which India ultimately achieved success. After joining the Missile Technology Control Regime last year, India has also been included as a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group this year.

The commencement of Chabahar Port is a historical event. Through this port, the first consignment of wheat has been sent to Afghanistan. This year, an air corridor has also been launched between India and Afghanistan, through which cargo transportation has begun. To provide a more solid base to the country's development, the government has made strengthening economic institutions a priority. As a result, despite the slow global economic growth rate, India's growth rate has been impressive. In the economy, from the first quarter of 2016-17, there was a temporary slowdown in GDP growth. This decline has changed in the second quarter of 2017-18. The

inflation rate, current account deficit and fiscal deficit have declined on average over the last three and a half years. In the year 2017, foreign exchange reserves crossed the level of 410 billion USD. Due to effective policies of the Government, foreign direct investment has also increased from 36 billion USD to 60 billion USD during the last three years. Simplification of processes to resolve problems of citizens is the priority of the government. In the last three years 1,428 unnecessary laws have been abolished. For the economic integration of the country, the government has carried out the biggest tax reform since independence in the form of the Goods and Services Tax. To ensure that the benefit of reduced prices reaches consumers, the Government has constituted a National Anti-Profiteering Authority. The Government is also committed to strengthening the banking system and bringing transparency to it. For this, it has also been decided to recapitalise the public sector banks with a capital investment of over Rs 2 lac crore. The fight against corruption continues. In this connection, registration of about 3 and a half lakh suspicious companies has been cancelled in the last year. To bring transparency to the government procurement process and to provide opportunities to maximum entrepreneurs, the

government has established a new system called Government e-Market Plus, i.e., GEM. With the help of the GEM portal, even the smallest entrepreneur in the country has become able to sell his product to the government. Due to these efforts of the government, in three years, India has moved from 142nd rank to 100th rank in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking. This has increased the reputation of the country in the world market. In view of all the above steps, I support and wholeheartedly welcome the speech of the Hon. President.

*__SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL):__ Like every year, this year also the Budget Session has started with the speech by the President. This tradition has been going on since the beginning, in which the President mentions the work done by the government in his speech and also mentions in his speech what work the government is going to do in the future.

Addressing the budget session, the President said that the government is working to strengthen the social and economic condition of the country. There is no doubt that the government is working, but whether its benefits are reaching the general public or not is something to be seen.

Addressing the Parliament, the President has talked about the divorce bill and empowerment of women, like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, in the country. But incidents like triple talaq are still coming to light, and schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao have not yet been started in all the districts of the country. If the government will pay attention to this, then this work will definitely be successful.

It has been said in the speech that the government's focus is on doubling the income of farmers, but still farmers are

* Speech was laid on the Table

committing suicide across the country. Incidents of farmer suicides are being reported in many states across the country like Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka. The government will have to make efforts to stop these incidents and pay the farmers their costs and profits. Along with this, it is also necessary to ban the Sahukari system so that we can provide a happy life to the farmers across the country.

The government says that this year there has been a record increase of 38 percent in the production of pulses. The government's goal is to complete 99 irrigation projects, but despite all this, the farmers are not getting any profit, and neither has there been any decline in the prices of pulses across the country. The government should think about the reason behind such contradictions and how to resolve them.

Around 31 crore bank accounts have been opened under the Jan Dhan Yojana across the country. This is true, but what benefit has the common poor man received from this Jan Dhan Yojana, or has the purpose for which these accounts were opened been achieved? This is a serious topic. Currently, the bank is charging the customers for every facility. How far is this justified? If the government thinks about this, then perhaps

the poor people of the country will be able to get some benefit from it.

In his speech, the President said that 80 lakh senior citizens are being served under the Atal Pension Scheme, but it is a fact that senior citizens in remote villages of the country are not getting the benefits of this scheme. In some places, pension has not been given to date. Whereas such people have applied for Atal Pension. The Government aims to connect every village by road by 2019, but there is also a need for maintenance and upgrading of roads constructed under central schemes across the country.

The speech mentions the construction of more than 93 lakh houses in urban and rural areas. And under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, interest rates are being given a relief of 6 percent for the poor to build houses, but the Government has to accept the fact that even today the bank is not giving loans easily for the purchase of houses, and such people are facing many problems. Therefore, the government needs to relax the lending rules as well as give strict instructions to the banks.

The government has made a new "National Health Policy" to provide better and cheaper health facilities to the poor and middle-class people. 800 types of medicines are being provided

to the poor at cheap rates through "Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi" centres, but the government needs to make a policy for cheap treatment of fatal diseases. In today's time, the treatment of many diseases like cancer, heart transplant, kidney treatment etc. is very expensive and the middle class or poor people are not able to afford these diseases. Therefore, the Government needs to work on how these diseases can be treated cheaper.

Under the "Deendayal Amrit Yojana," discounts ranging from 60 percent to 90 percent are being given on more than 5,200 life-saving branded medicines and surgical implants through 111 outlets, but most of the time the medicines are not available at these outlets, due to which poor labourers have to buy the medicines at high prices. The government has approved a new comprehensive program for the highway sector, "Bharatmala." A provision of Rs 535,000 crore has been made for this. To increase the National Corridor Efficiency, about 53,000 km of National Highways have been identified, and certainly the Government is doing commendable work in this area. But the work on many National Highways across the country has been incomplete for a long time. It should be completed soon.

The President in his speech said that the policy related to strategic partnership in the defence manufacturing sector has also been finalised. This will promote greater private sector participation and employment generation in the manufacturing of major defence platforms and equipment. How can a public-private partnership be successful on a sensitive issue like defence? It is a matter of concern. I believe that the government needs to reconsider the extent to which it is appropriate to take help from any outside company in the defence sector.

*__SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU):__ I support the speech of the Hon. President. The President's speech reflects that the Central Government, in keeping with the promise of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas," is taking the country on a new path of rapid economic development. The poor, the Dalits, the exploited, the deprived, the farmers, the workers and the youth of the country are at the centre of this inclusive economic development of the government. In his speech, the President has mentioned the changing picture of the country's development through government schemes ranging from Jan Dhan to Jan Suraksha and from Ujjwala Yojana to Digital India.

In his speech, the President has talked about having positive discussions with the countrymen on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies and government funding of the elections. Every year, the election battle puts a heavy burden on human resources, and it has been said that there should be positive discussions with the countrymen on development. Every year, the election battle puts a heavy burden on human resources and also hampers development work. He said that political parties

* Speech was laid on the Table.

will have to sit together and find a solution to this issue, which concerns crores of people of the country. The Hon. President also praised the excellent efforts being made by the Government to improve the quality of life of the poor through access to housing, affordable health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, and clean energy. In which important programs like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Indradhanush, and Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Yojana have been highlighted. Considering the welfare of farmers as the basic mantra of the nation's prosperity, the Hon. President appreciated the steps taken by the Government towards making farmers self-reliant. The Hon. President has prominently highlighted the government's schemes like the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, Kisan Credit Card, More Crop for Every Drop and Water for Every Farm, the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme, etc., which is welcome.

Describing the women's power of the country as an integral part of the country's development journey, Hon. President has prominently mentioned the programs of the government, ranging from the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" scheme to

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana as well as Prime Minister Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, etc.

Today, 65 percent of the population in the country is below the age of 35 years, and the youth is our biggest power, and the effective use of youth energy is necessary for the development of the country. For this, apart from 'Skill to Every Hand,' the government has also mentioned the Prime Minister Skill Development Scheme, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, and Prime Minister Youth Scheme. Shramev Jayate is the main guiding principle of the Central Government and hence the Government has taken several measures for the welfare of workers, due to which even the workers in the unorganised sector are getting the benefit of social security through health benefits under the Employees State Insurance Corporation and Provident Fund.

The Hon. President also expressed happiness over the efforts of the Government to simplify the processes to bring about changes in the governance culture as well as to eliminate old and redundant laws. In this regard, the Hon. President expressed satisfaction with the government's schemes like Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile, Digidhan Abhiyaan and the BHIM app, besides Co-Government and E-Market Place. Special mention

has been made of the transparency and social justice-orientated programs of the government in the areas of women, disabled people, labour trainees, factories, benami transactions, Aadhar, residential properties, etc. Today, when the whole country is looking towards the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with hope and is appreciating the important steps taken by his government, on this historic occasion, the mention of all the public welfare schemes of the government in his speech by the Hon. President has infused a new energy in the minds of the people of the entire country, and a widespread self-confidence is visible among the countrymen. Our government is trying to move forward from time to time by taking inspiration from the thoughts of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and other nation builders. The Hon. Prime Minister believes that our national tradition of dialogue, coordination and empathy will continue to guide our nation.

In the end, I welcome and strongly support the various schemes and programs brought by the Hon. Prime Minister in his speech to realise the dream of a golden India.

*SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Budget Session 2018 started with the speech of the President. Like every year, this year also the government has described its previous work. There was no description in the speech of the government's future planning.

To end discrimination against girls, the government had started the “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” scheme. Seeing the positive results of this scheme, its scope has now been increased from 161 districts to 640 districts. This is a commendable step. But even today domestic violence is happening against women, women are still not safe, and the government is not concerned about how women will be protected. Only fake promises are spoken, but in reality, no work is being done across the country.

So far, the government has opened bank accounts for about 31 crore poor people under the "Jan Dhan Yojana." Before the launch of this scheme, the number of women's savings accounts in the country was around 28 percent, which has now increased to more than 40 percent.

* Speech was laid on the Table

The government has presented a bill regarding triple talaq in the Parliament, which is an important step of the government. After the law on triple talaq is made, Muslim sisters and daughters will also be able to live a fear-free life with self-respect. This is a commendable step.

The government has emphasised that providing loans without bank guarantees to the poor and middle class, especially to promote self-employment. But regulation is not happening on it. The bank is reluctant to give the loan. Even today, young people have to go from one bank to another to get a loan for self-employment, but they are not getting any loan.

Affordable and simple insurance service is being provided to farmers under the "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana." During the year 2017, for Rabi and Kharif crops, 5 crore 71 lakh farmers have been provided security cover under this scheme. The Government is committed to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. Solving the problems of farmers and raising their standard of living is the top priority of the government. But the worries of the farmers are not reducing; they are committing suicide every day. The government has not taken any measures to stop the suicides of farmers; it only talks about increasing the income of farmers, but there is no solution

in the speech as to how the middlemen between the farmers and the market will be separated.

There are more than two and a half crore differently abled persons in our country. The Government has enacted the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016." A provision of 4 percent reservation in government jobs and 5 percent reservation in higher education has been made for the disabled, but till now the government has not provided any employment opportunities. The youth are still roaming around unemployed. The youth had hope that this Government would provide employment opportunities, but employment did not increase, and instead, the youth became unemployed due to demonetisation. Today unemployment has increased in the country; educated youth are forced to work as labourers. Despite being a postgraduate, they work as a labourer. The government needs to think about this issue and provide employment opportunities for the youth.

The government has a sensitive mindset that everyone should have a roof over their head and should get facilities of water, toilet and electricity. With this sensitive thinking, my government is working towards the goal of providing houses to every homeless poor family in the country by the year 2022,

but no one knows what happened to this. There was no mention in this speech about how many people have been given houses so far and what strategy is being made to make houses available to the poor in the country in the future.

The Government has also formulated a new policy for metro projects. The new policy emphasises “last mile connectivity.” Currently, metro projects are underway in 11 cities in the country.

With these words, I conclude my thoughts.

SHRI MOHD. SALIM (RAIGANJ): When we thank the speech of the President, it is a very important matter. In which direction is the government moving, and in which direction is the country going? The first speech of the new President to the Parliament took place on 29th January. When Rakesh Singh ji was moving the Motion of Thanks, he claimed to deliver Gandhi ji's spectacles to every home in the name of the cleanliness drive. Gandhiji was assassinated on 30th January; an attempt was made to murder his philosophy, and that should have been shown in this. Next year 125 years would be completed; Rakesh was discussing that while giving a speech. No one has any control over birth. How we live our lives and how we die is a function of our own efforts. I believe that Gandhiji's assassination is linked with the condition and direction of the entire country. Therefore, his assassination has been a topic of discussion for the last 70 years; it would have been better if it had been included in the president's speech.

I thank the President for referring to Bhimrao Ambedkar ji; he has said about both political and economic democracy. We have been saying from the beginning that democracy is not just about taking part in elections and casting your vote. There should be economic and political freedom; for this we need to

strengthen the democratic institutions even more. We saw on a certain date in the month of January that those of our Scheduled Castes, Dalits, you all are aware of the Koregaon incident. They organise it; they have their own glorious story. How did casteist elements attack them that day? When we say with great pride that our President is from the Dalit community, and he is giving a speech in the month of January, then it should have been condemned too, so that a message goes out that the government has not condemned it, but if the President had done this, then it is not just a matter of welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes; their rights in this country would also have been clearly seen. I believe that the scheme of things of our country is being targeted too much. We talk of a new India. We have learnt from the legacy of 200 years of the freedom struggle and have incorporated it in our Constitution and institutions. It has four pillars, just like a chair has four wheels and a stool has four wheels; one of them is our parliamentary democracy. Today the tradition of parliamentary democracy is being attacked. This session is of nine days. Three days passed uselessly due to various reasons; one of our companions passed away. We listened to the president's speech, then we listened to the Minister of finance's speech, and yesterday we listened to the

proxy Prime Minister's speech in that House. There is discussion about it all over the country. Our rule is that of other business; I am talking about the rule book. After the President's speech, our first job is to give a memorandum of thanks. But the government called such a session that we could not have that discussion, and after that the budget was presented. Just now Mehtab Ji was saying that when the discussion took place, the budget and this both came together because by then the budget had also come. The budget is discussed separately. Rudy ji, you are old in the parliament, and so am I. First this has to be dealt with, and then this happens. This is the tradition of the rule book. But now it is not happening as per the rule book, so it becomes intertwined. When colleagues say something about the budget, then they will say, But I will not tell the budget figure. I think, as has been pointed out, Parliament is one pillar of democracy, the other being the federal structure. Amidst this discussion, friends from Andhra Pradesh came to the House with their demands, and such an atmosphere was created. Friends from Odisha said that the Supreme Court's direction is to form a tribunal; the government is not neutral, it is on the side of Chhattisgarh. You say that one has to rise above politics and work. Whenever an interstate

question arises, the Central Government should become the umpire, not a party. The same is the case in other states.

You see, regarding Nagaland, the Hon. Prime Minister has announced that we have reached an agreement. Where did it happen? What happened? You talk about transparency. The Home Minister is sitting in the House. What happened with Nagaland? This is not a party issue; he is busy deciding with whom he will compromise and with whom he will fight the elections. It's not just an election. There are elections going on in Tripura right now. Taking advice from the National Security Advisor on how to win elections puts a serious question mark on our reputation. IPFT is talking about a separate state there, which is doing separatist work while living on foreign soil. You made an agreement with it to gain an advantage in the elections. Regarding the challenge in Northeast India, you went to give a speech, and from there you are advising or challenging Pakistan. Our soldiers are being killed every day on the Pakistan border. Just now Kundu young icer and captain, wa was killed along with other comrades. After that, one more person died the next day. You had said after the surgical strike that we have taught a lesson, and today incursions are happening regularly. Never before have so many of our soldiers

been killed on the border. Earlier we used to say that proxy war was fought through terrorists, but now proxy war is not taking place, but firing is taking place. He came showing his 56-inch chest; we thought that it was his 56-inch tongue and not his chest, but in the market strategy he sold the tongue as a chest, and people bought it. You say every day that you will give a strong reply.

Those who are in government in West Bengal right now were earlier with the NDA. Just now you were saying that there was an NDA of 25 parties; your friends from Shiv Sena in Maharashtra were telling you this. TDP was your partner; they were at that time also. Now Shiv Sena is your partner. There is partnership in the government. Those who are in the government in West Bengal were also with you in NDA earlier. This matter is somewhat old; I am not going into it. Where did 25 friends go? You talk about NDA. It was often the tradition that in the memorandum of thanks, you were the second-largest political party of the ruling coalition. At that time, it used to be the case that the largest party in power would move the motion first and the second party would second it. Even now there is a coalition government; there is an NDA government, but a new tradition has been started that you are not able to trust your

other partner, and both of them have to speak on behalf of the BJP. Thank you. This used to happen earlier even while seconding. I have also been in Parliament for 27 years. It is a question of trust deficit. Your own constituent parties are saying that they are not able to trust you completely. In the morning, Rajnath Singh ji, Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, told Andhra Pradesh that he will look into your demand. They sit quietly, but the trust deficit is that many such promises have been made. There have been so many such promises that now people are not able to believe that this is going to happen. This is the biggest challenge. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Saleem ji, you please address the Chair. Today, we have to complete it. Please, be very brief.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: I am not doing anything for Congress or BJP. I am showing you there, where sometimes you sit and sometimes he sits. I am showing a mirror to the ruling party. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, be very brief.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: Sir, I just gave the introduction. Now, I am coming to the main point.

[Translation]

Sir, regarding education, you just said that we will create 20 Institutions of Eminence. Rajnath ji, you would remember, you and I have come to Parliament together. Earlier in the 1980s, there was talk of setting up a Centre of Excellence. Even at that time we had protested that our primary education, primary schools, secondary schools and school education would be in a deplorable state and people would be sent to private schools in boxes or containers. ... (*Interruptions*) Now we are talking about creating 20 Institutions of Eminence. The name has changed; they said Centre of Excellence, and you are saying Institutions of Eminence. An attempt is being made to put old wine in a new bottle. Bring something new. ... (*Interruptions*) The first thing you had to do to implement the Right to Education was to look at the percentage of GDP allocated for education and health, but look at the allocation of GDP for health and education. People need treatment for their diseases, beds in hospitals, doctors, nurses and technical staff. These things are necessary. You are saying that 'if Baba dies, the bulls will be distributed.' If you fall sick, the government is

making a scheme under which you will get five lakh rupees. I did not want to talk about the budget, but by keeping Rs 2000 crore, you are showing dreams to people. The question is that when we fall ill, we should not have to mortgage our land to make arrangements for our treatment. There was no need to run from the hospital to the hospital for one bed... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, it is a matter of minimum wages. You have talked about labour. After demonetisation, GST and economic slowdown, migrant workers from outside the country and within the country are facing a lot of problems. The Government has not said a word about the migrant labourers. Our Bengal's migrant labourer Afrazul was murdered in Rajasthan; Madhu Sarkar's case happened in Gujarat. Today such a situation is developing in the country; there will be internal migration, but there is a lack of sense of security in it. Hate crimes are happening. The Ankit Saxena incident came to light. The question is not of Hindu or Muslim; it is about marrying as per one's choice, be it Hadiya from Kerala or Ankit Saxena from Delhi, but today such an environment is being created in the country that instead of his personal choice, he is being killed. ... (*Interruptions*) I am not blaming anyone, but such an atmosphere is being created in the country today, and the government should show

some direction and give some instructions against hate crimes. Similarly, it is a matter of senior citizens. You and we all will be senior citizens after a few days. Regarding senior citizens, the Supreme Court is saying that there is a need to guarantee minimum pension and social security. Even today, there are such employees of the Government and of the Government undertakings, who are not getting the minimum pension, and in this era of inflation, their life is becoming difficult. Similarly, this is the condition of our tea garden workers. They are not getting minimum wages in Duars and Darjeeling. Their annual agreement ended in March last year, and to date, that agreement has not been finalised. You were speaking about Bengal; your MP from Darjeeling is silent. I am saying that the minimum wages are not being paid there, and the minimum wage, which is the government's arrangement, which is what the Supreme Court has said, is even less than that—the wages being fixed for the tea garden workers. ... (*Interruptions*) Who will say this? When the elections came, this government and that government, both together, were giving speeches on the tea garden workers, but now that there are no elections there, no one is thinking about the tea garden workers. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, you are as impressed with the schemes of the Central

Government as I am. (*Interruptions*) The government here had announced the direction for that. I come from North Dinajpur. Ahluwalia ji is the chairman. To date that committee has not been formed, and to date no meeting of that committee has been held. ... (*Interruptions*) I am speaking about Bengal. We cannot say anything about the corruption that is happening in your schemes, because you have collusion, and because of that, whether it is a housing scheme or any other development work for which you are giving money, there is no monitoring on your part about whether it is being used properly or not. You should see it. ... (*Interruptions*) The flood-affected people of North Bengal and Northeast India have not received any relief to date. Before that there was snowfall; when you were the Agriculture Minister, I had met you, but to date they have not gotten any relief. ... (*Interruptions*)

What are you doing for that? What are you doing for unemployed youth? For * 16000 percent income will increase, and for the rest of the youth, only dumpling will be at hand. What is this development? Which of you BJP leaders here is telling his son to go and set up a pakora shop? You are telling India that two lakh jobs a year will be given. That's why I

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

understand that today you are not listening to the problems of the Dalits, victims, deprived people of our country, and the farmers and labourers. You are only listening to the corporate sector. Now you will also read what is written on the wall. But you have failed in reading the poster being installed in the House. That's why I say to you, please try to read the writing on the wall.

[English]

[*]**SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** I express my gratitude and indebtedness to our beloved immortal Leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA, before I express my views on the Motion of thanks on the President's Address.

River Bhavani is one of the main tributaries of the river Cauvery. The people of Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Districts of the Nilgirs, Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode depend on the waters of river Bhavani for irrigation and drinking water supply. It was reported that the Government of Kerala is trying to construct 6 check dams across the river Bhavani. Even the earth work for laying the foundation of 2 check dams at Thekkuvattai and Manjikandi and the work of levelling the land at Padavayal has commenced and materials for laying the foundation have also been stocked. These reports have caused serious concern and anxiety among the people of Tamil Nadu. Since the entire matter is *sub-judice* before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, any attempt to construct check dams across the river Bhavani without disclosing the details of schemes and obtaining the prior concurrence of the Government of Tamil

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

Nadu, would be violating the order of the Cauvery River Water Tribunal. This will affect the natural flow of the river Bhavani and consequently diminish the flows to Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu had already conveyed its strong objection to the construction of check dams by Kerala across the river Bhavani, without obtaining the prior concurrence of Tamil Nadu and in violation of the Final Order of the Tribunal.

In these circumstances, I urge the Union Government to intervene immediately into this serious issue and advise the Government of Kerala to immediately stop the construction of check dams across river Bhavani. The Government of Kerala may also be advised strictly not to take up any such project or works without obtaining the prior concurrence of the Government of Tamil Nadu and until the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee come into force and judicial references are finally settled.

On the Mullai Periyar Dam issue, I urge the Union Government to expedite necessary clearances and facilitate strengthening of Baby Dam and other related works so that water level can be restored to the FRL of 152 feet to benefit millions of farmers to Tamil Nadu.

The Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme envisages diversion of flood surplus of 2,000 cusecs from Bhavani River at Pillur to 31 Water Resources Department Tanks, 40 Panchayat Union Tanks and 538 Ponds in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode districts. Tamil Nadu Government has sought financial assistance from the Government of India for the implementation of Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme. I urge upon the Centre to provide the required financial assistance without any delay.

Extremely heavy rains during the North East Monsoon in December 2015 have caused enormous devastation to standing crops, property and public infrastructure, besides loss of livelihood, loss of life and cattle. The Tamil Nadu Government demanded Rs. 25,912 crores for relief measures. But, even a year after the central team had inspected and given its report the Union Government, so far adequate funds have not been provided to Tamil Nadu for relief and restoration efforts. In December 2016, Cyclone Vardah had caused severe damages to the coastal regions of Northern Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu met the Hon'ble Prime Minister and submitted a 142-page memorandum seeking an assistance of Rs 22,573 crores from the Central Government to undertake

reconstruction works in areas affected by Cyclone Vardha. Recently, the Ockhi Cyclone has devastated the Southern parts of Tamil Nadu. A special package for drought affected farmers of Tamil Nadu and cyclone ravaged fishermen and farmers would have been a welcome move.

Government of India should provide a legally binding assurance on the issue of price of food grains for additional assured quantity provided for States at Rs. 3 per kg. The guarantee of supply of subsidized food grains with an assured level of subsidy from the Government of India under Schedule I of the Act should be extended to a period of at least 10 years.

A provision to obligate the Central Government to import food in times of scarcity is very crucial to make this legislation truly a Food Security Act. The provision in the Act empowering the Central Government to introduce cash transfer must be implemented with the concurrence and participation of State Government to introduce cash transfer must be amended with a clear indication that any cash transfer scheme can be implemented with concurrence and participation of State Government. The lacunae in NFSA are yet to be addressed. The level of allocation of food grains for Tamil Nadu should be

maintained unchanged at the present level and at the present issue prices.

[Translation]

*__SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR):__ I am heartily grateful for giving me the opportunity to speak on the motion of thanks on the speech of the President. In the last three and a half years, under the leadership of the illustrious Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the NDA government has paved the way for the creation of "**Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat**" by following the policy of "**Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas**." Shri Modiji has pledged to construct **New India** in 2022, when our country will celebrate 75 years of independence. A **New India** in which poor farmers, labourers, youth and women can realise their dreams. The president in his speech has called for building a New India of the dreams of 130 crore Indians.

The great scholar Acharya Kautilya has said in "Economics-

"Prajasukhe Sukhm Ragyah Prajanaam Tu Priyam Hitam.

Natampriya Hitam Ragyah Prajanaam Tu Priyam Hitam. ।"

that is

* Speech was laid on the Table.

The happiness of the king lies in the happiness of his people, and the interest of the king lies in the interest of his subjects. The resolution of **New India** by our Hon. Prime Minister, who is loved by all and an idol for the youth, is in the interest of 130 crore Indians. This is the reason why the whole country has joined hands with Modi to achieve this resolution.

UPA created FEW India; Modi Ji is creating New India. For the Congress-led UPA government, the country meant FEW India. FEW India meant family, elites, and wealthy. Congress's Future India was just for one family, the elite and the rich. Modiji's New India is for everyone, in which the interests of the poor, farmers, labourers, youth and women are paramount.

- In Congress's New India, precious natural resources like spectrum and coal were given away to a few rich people at throwaway prices. In Modi's New India, due to transparency and good governance, the government's treasury was filled by auctioning off natural resources and work was done to bring happiness in the lives of crores of Dalits, backwards and tribals.
- In Congress's New India, the doors of banks used to open for a few rich people; in Modi Ji's New India,

banks are today standing at the doors of the poor, ready to serve them. Bank accounts of about 31 crore poor have been opened so far under "Jan Dhan Yojana." Before the launch of this scheme, the number of women's savings accounts in the country was around 28 percent, which has now increased to more than 40 percent.

- In Congress FEW India, there was only one farmer's interest in India. From Haryana to Rajasthan, he only used to worry for his land. In the New India of the Modi Government, the farms and barns of every farmer in the country are taken care of. Under the "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana," cheap and simple insurance services are being provided to the farmers. During the year 2017, for Rabi and Kharif crops, 5 crore 71 lakh farmers have been provided security cover under this scheme.
- In the FEW India of the Congress, only the rich got electricity. Under the Modi government's New India "Saubhagya" scheme, 4 crore poor people are being provided electricity connections.

- In Congress's New India, LPG connections were limited to the kitchens of the rich. In Modi's New India, 8 crore families are being given LPG connections under the "Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana."
- In Congress's New India, some people were busy filling their own house. In Modi ji's New India, housing and toilets are being built for every poor family in the form of "Izzat Ghar." By 2022, each person will have a roof over his head.

For some parties, family is first; for us, Farmer is first. Farmers are at the top of our priority. Food producers are the backbone of the country’s progress. They deserve prosperity. Therefore, first of all, I will discuss the condition of my farmers.

In Plato's classic work The Republic, when the great philosophers Socrates and Glaucon discuss a republic, Socrates says that to start a state, "there must be first a husbandman. Secondly, a builder. Thirdly, a weaver. To which may be added a cobbler."

But as a result of the misrule of the party that believed in Few India, the condition of the farmers went from bad to worse.

Maithilisharan Gupt, the famous Hindi poet, while describing the condition of farmers, had said, "Even if the crop is good, where will the farmers get the benefit. . . "

This was the condition of the farmers for seven decades after independence. Agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan submitted a report to the then UPA government in 2006 and recommended fixing MSP 50 percent more than the cost of production, but the Congress government shelved this report, which could change the fate of farmers. BJP pleaded to provide one and a half times the MSP of the cost to the farmer. The Modi government has been sensitive towards this resolution. The minimum support price of most of the declared Rabi crops has been fixed at least one and a half times the cost. Now we have decided to implement this resolution as a principle for the remaining notified crops also. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley has announced in the Union Budget 2018-19 that from the upcoming Kharif season, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of all notified crops will be made at least one and a half times the cost of production. This historic decision will prove to be a milestone in the direction of realising the Prime

Minister's dream of doubling the income of our farmer brothers. I congratulate and thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance for this announcement.

Hon. Members of the opposition said a few things regarding employment. I just want to read a paragraph. Twelfth Five-Year Plan: Volume 3, Chapter 22nd, "Employment and Skill Development," Paragraph no. 22.11

"The manufacturing sector witnessed an absolute increase in employment in the first half of the decade from 44.05 million to nearly 55.77 million in 2004-05. However, the second half of the decade witnessed a decline by about 5 million to reach the employment level of 50.74 million."

What was this 'first half of the decade'? What was this period? It was the legacy of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA government that created one crore 17 lakh jobs in the manufacturing sector. Whereas 'the second half of the decade' belonged to the Congress' UPA government, in which, from 2004-05 to 2009-10, jobs were taken away from 50 lac educated youth in the manufacturing sector. This was Congress's New India.

I want to quote a paragraph. . .

"An independent study conducted recently has shown that 70 lakh formal jobs will be created this year."

Paragraph number 78 of the budget speech of Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley presenting the Union Budget 2018-19.

This is an example of the New India of the Modi government, in which 70 lakh jobs are being given to the educated youth of the poor and middle class in just one year.

In Congress's Future India, jobs were being snatched away from educated youth; in the Modi government's New India, lakhs of youth are choosing jobs of their choice.

So in the end, I support the address of the President and present a motion of thanks.

[English]

[1*]**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** The economy today is far healthier than during the last year of UPA II. Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is down to 5% and that measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has just returned to the (barely) positive territory after declining for 17 consecutive months. The current account deficit is hovering between 1 to 2%. Foreign exchange reserves have climbed up $360 billion. While the global economy has gone into tailspin, growth rate in India has steadily risen from 6. 95% as per the new GDP series in 2013-14 to 7. 2% in 2014-15 and 7. 6% (Advance Estimate) in 2015-16. For the 4th quarter of 2017-18, the Advance Estimate of growth rate is 7. 8%, a hair's breadth away from the magical 8% mark. Foreign investors, who were fleeing India during the last years of UPA II rule, causing the massive depreciation of the rupee noted above, have returned. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rose 24% in 2014-15 over that in 2013-14 and 40% during April-December 2017 over the corresponding period in 2014.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

There has been visible turnaround in the area of infrastructure. The allocation of expenditures to roads and railways at Rs. 2. 18 lakh crore in 2016-17 is by far the highest ever. In terms of outcomes, there has been a major breakthrough in unblocking previously stuck projects and initiating new ones. When the Government came to power, Rs. 3. 8 lakh crore worth of these projects had been cleared. As a result, road construction has risen from 11. 7 kilometres per day during the last year of UPA II to 12. 1 kilometres in 2014-15 and 16. 5 km in 2015-16. National highway projects awarded rose from 3500 kilometres in 2013-14 to 8,000 kilometres in 2014-15 and, as per target, 10,000 kilometres in 2015-16. Critics need to contemplate what would have happened had the rate of clearance of projects remained where it was during the last year of UPA II.

In Railways, the average rate of expansion of tracks has risen to 7 kilometres per day during 2015-16 from 4. 3 kilometres per day during the preceding six years. Investment in railways during 2015-16 has been double the average during the preceding five years. The Government has approved the construction of the first high-speed rail between Ahmadabad and Mumbai, modernization of 400 major railway stations,

construction of dedicated eastern and western freight corridors with lengths of 1305 and 1499 kilometres, respectively, and laying down of additional new 1,875 kilometres long railway lines. Connectivity of the north-eastern region with the rest of India has been considerably improved. In civil aviation, we have seen a major jump in the passengers carried. Domestically, the total number of passengers carried has jumped from 66. 4 million in 2014 to 80. 8 million in 2015. Internationally, the figure has risen from 16. 9 million in 2014 to 247,415 tonnes in 2015. The latter decline most likely reflects a slowdown in international trade. Finally, major initiatives have also been taken in the area of waterway transportation, a much neglected means of transportation over the last several decades. Efficiency at major ports has improved with operating profits rising 43% in 2014-15 over 2013-14 and 16. 2% in 2015-16 over those in 2014-15. In 2015-16, addition to port capacity at 93 million tonnes was the highest ever. The Prime Minister has given port-led development a high priority and launched the Sagarmala project that proposes to modernize existing ports, improve port connectivity to roads, railways and inland waterways and develop new water ways. It also proposes to launch a number of Coastal Economic Zones that can

potentially transform the country by bringing China-style large-scale manufacturing to India. A new Special Purpose Vehicle named Indian Port Rail Corporation Ltd has been launched to improve rail evacuation from ports. Under National Waterways Bill 2015, cleared by the Cabinet, 106 waterways will be declared National Waterways compared with just five National Waterways during the last 30 years.

Energy is another major sector in which the Government plays a crucial role and progress in it has accelerated as well. When the Government came to office, there was near crisis in the availability of coal with serious negative implications for power, steel and cement production. The Government quickly passed an ordinance (later replaced by legislation) and auctioned coal blocks to alleviate the shortages. It also transferred Rs. 3. 44 lakh crore of revenues over the lifetime of the blocks to the states where the respective blocks were located. Rs. 1396 crore has already been transferred to the states. Coal production has now acquired momentum with the output increasing by 32 million tonnes in 2014-15 against the increase of 31 million tonnes in the preceding four years taken together. Growth during 2016-17 is reported at 9%. The Government is also making steady progress towards

underground coal gasification with three lignite blocks identified as candidates. In power, the Government gave the highest priority to brining electricity to the 18,452 villages that remained without electricity. Of these, 7,654 villages have already been electrified. The corresponding figure for the preceding three years was just 5,189 villages. The Prime Minister has now announced his intention to electrify the remaining villages by 1 May 2018. The Government had inherited a major problem in the form of discom debt, which stood at Rs. 4. 3 lakh crore on March 15, 2016. The debt meant that discoms were not seen as credible buyers of electricity, which undermined electricity generation and, therefore, availability of electricity to customers. The Government has now launched the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) to transfer 75% of the debt to the state budgets while the rest is to be converted by banks into loans or bonds at interest rate not exceeding their base rate plus 0. 1%. By March 2016, 18 States had given in principle consent and 9 had signed MoUs with the central Government. Alongside, the Integrated Power Development Scheme has been launched to arrest distribution losses. Under it, underground cabling, end-to-end metering and IT enabled energy accounting are envisaged. An amendment to

the Electricity Act 2003, approved by the Cabinet, would give consumers the option to choose among multiple suppliers of electricity. Expansion of transmission lines has been accelerated with 30% greater expansion in 2014-15 than in 2013-14. Efforts are also under way to strengthen intra-state transmission and distribution systems with the view to facilitate 24x7 electricity to Sikkim and six North-Eastern states.

Solar power has received a major boost under the present Government. Installed capacity until the end of March 2015 was 3. 7 GW. During 2015-16, 1. 5 GW was added. The process has gained much greater momentum recently with 32 solar parks with 20 GW capacity approved in 20 States. Land has been identified in all cases and the projects are predicted to be complete by 2019-20. After more than one and a half decades of slow progress in oil and gas, there are signs of a revival in this sector as well. Recently adopted Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy introduce a uniform and open acreage licensing policy. It provides for marketing and pricing freedom for gas from deep, high pressure and high temperature fields. Strict price ceiling, marketing and exploration restrictions in the past had discouraged oil and gas majors from entering into exploration of these fields.

In parallel, the Central Government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna (insurance against accidental death) and Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (insurance against death). The former provides cover for Rs. 2 lakh in case of death and Rs. 1 lakh in case of partial disability to individuals between 18 to 70 years of age for a premium of Rs. 12 per annum. The latter covers individuals between 18 to 70 years of age for a premium of Rs. 12 per annum. The latter covers individuals between 18 and 50 years for Rs. 2 lakh at a premium of Rs. 330 per year. By 9 May 2016, 9. 4 crore beneficiaries had enrolled under the Suraksha Bima Yojana and 3 crore under the Jeevan Jyoti Scheme. Enrolment in Atal Pension Yojna at 20 lakh was significantly lower. The Budget 2016-17 announced three major initiatives related to health: insurance, Jan Aushadhi Scheme and dialysis programme. Under the health insurance scheme, coverage for Rs. 1 lakh is provided against hospitalization expenditure. For senior citizens, there is additional coverage of Rs. 30,000. The Government will cover eight crore families from economically weaker sections free of charge through an Aadhaar-linked programme. Under Jan Aushadhi programme, the Government will open 3,000 stores nationwide to provide low-cost generic drugs. With 2. 2 lakh

end stage renal disease patients added each year, the Government has also announced a programme to provide dialysis services in all district hospitals. The Government has also decided to make a contribution of 8. 33 per cent of the salary of an employee earning less than Rs. 15,000 towards provident fund for first three years of employment. This would lighten the burden of the employer and may help boost employment in the organized sector.

The Government has introduced several measures towards improved implementation of MGNREGA. It has given priority to low-hanging fruits such as water pounds and de-silting of water puns in asset creation. It has also taken a more liberal approach towards building of private assets such as houses, wells and toilets for the poor. This has created ownership of assets by respective beneficiaries and led to better supervision of work. Finally, the Government has improved the convergence between MGNREGA works and schemes such as skill development, Prime Minister's Krishi Sinchayi Yojana, Housing for All and Swachh Bharat Mission.

In the area of higher education, regulations have been liberalized to give greater flexibility to women to complete their M. Phil and Ph. D. degrees. Upon fulfilling certain

conditions, women Ph. D. scholars relocating to other towns can now transfer to a university in the destination town rather than having to begin afresh. Rules have also been liberalized to give autonomy to colleges that receive the highest accreditation grade for three consecutive cycles from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council. Furthermore, the Government has committed to turning 10 private and 10 public institutions into world-class teaching and research institutions. Steps towards achieving this objective can lead to far-reaching reform of higher education system in India. Separately, the Government has made the reform of medical education in India a higher priority, assigning the task to a high-level committee.

The discussion of social sector reform and programmes will be incomplete without a brief reference to the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). The mission is not only critical for a healthy India but is also essential to creating a modern India. Among other things, it proposes to make India open defecation free by 2 October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Toilets built have risen from 5 million in 2013-14 to 5. 88 million in 2014-15 and 12. 7 million in 2015-16.

Past policy mistakes have left much that needs to be changed. The Government has made substantial progress in

removing counter-productive regulations but the task remains incomplete. The assessment of the Government must be based not on what continues to be wrong with the system but on the progress it has made during the last two years. The documentation in this article shows that the Government does well on this score. In concluding, it needs to be underlined that unlike the predecessor Government, the present one has introduced no measures such as the Land Acquisition Act of 2013 or retrospective taxation that would require a reversal by a future Government. Broadly speaking, all major actions by the Government move the economy forward rather than dragging it backwards. Indeed, after a decade long pause, the Government has returned the economy to the path of reforms. As these reforms accumulate, infrastructure bottlenecks are removed and various programs and mission progress, growth will both sustain and accelerate. No doubt, challenges such as restoration of the health of banks and accelerated growth in manufacturing as envisaged by the ‘Make in India’ programme to deliver accelerated job growth remain but the direction of progress is right. As the experience with the Rao-Vajpayee reforms forcefully reminds us, there are significant lags between policy actions and outcomes. Therefore, over a period

of time, we will see growth accelerate and sustain and poverty decline.

[Translation]

*__SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI):__ The President has added a special dimension to our vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in his speech to the Joint Session of Parliament on January 29th. Hon. Members, the year 2018 is very important for realising the dream of a new India. Our Constitution maker, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, used to say that political democracy cannot be permanent without social and economic democracy. Our government is working towards making these dreams come true.

Construction of toilets not only saves the dignity of women but also gives them a sense of social justice. We all have a responsibility that by the time the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated in 2019, we express our true faith in the revered Bapu by making the country completely clean.

The poor women of our country had to collect wood and cook food on the clay stove. Women and their children had no choice but to breathe in the smoke. Because of this, they suffered many diseases and hardships. "Pradhan Mantri

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Ujjwala Yojana" has removed the sufferings of such poor women and has addressed an overlooked aspect of social justice. Till now, under this scheme, more than 3 crore 30 lac gas connections have been given.

To save the honour of Muslim women, my government has presented a bill regarding Triple Talaq in the Parliament.

I hope Parliament will make it legal soon. Due to which Muslim sisters and daughters will also be able to live a fear-free life with self-respect.

To end discrimination against daughters, my government had launched the "Beti Bachao, Padhao scheme." Also, my government has taken a big step by making a big change in the Maternity Benefit Act. Provision has been made to give 26 weeks leave, including salary, for women in place of 12 weeks. Now working women will get more time to take care of their newborns.

Now we are moving towards completely eliminating the gap between the country's banking system and the poor. Bank accounts of about 31 crore poor have been opened so far under "Jan Dhan Yojana."

Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, around 10 crore loans have been sanctioned so far, and loans worth more than Rs 4 lakh crore have been given to those who have been successful in starting self-employment. Which is strengthening economic and social democracy.

- It is a result of the policies of the Government and the hard work of the farmers that there has been a record production of more than 275 million tonnes of food grains and about 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables in the country. To ensure that farmers produce is not damaged before reaching the market, the poor have received claim amounts of approximately 2 thousand crore rupees under the "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana," "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana," and "Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana."

Around 80 lakh senior citizens are benefiting under the Atal Pension Scheme.

- Around 2 lakh 70 thousand Common Service Centres have been established across the country, which are providing digital delivery of various services at affordable rates, even in the remote areas of the country.

Under the “Saubhagya” scheme, electricity connections are being given to 4 crore poor people.

The work of "Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana" is progressing rapidly. In 2014 only 56 percent of the villages were connected with road connectivity. Now more than 82 percent of the villages have been connected to roads.

Under the National Food Security Act, the system of providing food grains at cheap rates in all the states of the country is being made transparent and leakage-proof.

Sensitive to the aspirations of every section of the society, my Government has introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill to give constitutional status to the “National Commission for Backward Classes.” The minimum support price of many forest products that are collected by the tribals has been increased.

Our Government has implemented the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016." For the disabled, the government has made a provision of 4 percent reservation in jobs and 5 percent reservation in higher education.

Employment opportunities have been provided to youth of Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Persian and Jain communities through programs such as "Learn and Earn,"

"Ustad," "Garib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme," "Nai Roshni," etc.

Our government is working towards the goal of providing a house to every homeless poor family in the country by the year 2022.

My Government has formulated a new “National Health Policy” to provide better and more affordable health facilities to the poor and middle-class people.

Our country is the youngest country in the world. To enable the youth of the country to fulfil their dreams and become self-employed, my government is running programs like Start Up India, Stand Up India, Skill India Mission, and Mudra Yojana.

The dream of a new India is not that of any one political party or organisation. It reflects the hopes and aspirations of 130 crore people of the country. To fulfil this dream, we all have to work together with full dedication.

[English]

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me opportunity to put on record my Party's views on the Motion of Thanks to Hon. President of India for his Address.

Sir, from morning 11 o'clock onwards today, because of slogans my throat is affected.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that neither this year's budget nor the President's Address mentioned the implementation of provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 which are long pending. The united State of Andhra Pradesh was divided unscientifically by the Central Government in 2014. The residual State of Andhra Pradesh was left high and dry without adequate infrastructure. The residual State did not even have a capital city of its own. Adding to this, nearly all the industrialised regions and business hubs went to Telangana. As such, the residual State of Andhra Pradesh required large amounts of funds to raise capital infrastructure.

At the time of division, both UPA Government and BJP leaders assured the people of Andhra Pradesh in both the Houses of Parliament that they would be provided special

assistance in order to build a self-sufficient State in future. This was based on the promises made in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. These promises included among others: providing financial support to overcome fiscal deficit, establishment of new railway zone in the State, providing funds to build a new capital city, providing funds to complete the construction of Polavaram project, etc.

The then Prime Minister of India announced on the floor of the House that he would be giving a five-year special status to the State of Andhra Pradesh. Instead, quoting some technical reasons, some special package to Andhra Pradesh was announced by the Finance Minister in 2016.

Due to inadequate infrastructure and lack of a capital, the State of Andhra Pradesh is the only State among the southern States to have a revenue deficit. During the last few years, revenue deficit has been growing without sufficient support from the Central Government despite repeated assurances. The revenue deficit is already more than Rs. 16,000 crore, which is hampering the progress of works. In spite of the hard work and untiring efforts put in by our Hon. Chief Minister Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu garu, the Central Government has not reflected our concerns in this year’s budget. This leaves the

people of Andhra Pradesh highly dissatisfied and helpless before the Centre asking for funds that we already deserved.

Establishment of a new railway zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam has been repeatedly promised by the representatives of the ruling party. A majority of the population which is poor depends on railways for travelling and transportation of goods. The State Andhra Pradesh is neglected when it comes to development of railway infrastructure. This situation was perceived during the time of unscientific division itself. This is why a new railway zone was promised to Andhra Pradesh in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. We have repeatedly been pressing on the need for immediate creation of a new railway zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

We also presented a Private Member's Bill in Lok Sabha for creation of a new railway zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam. Seeing the urgency of the matter, we were expecting that the Central Government will take up this issue on top priority in this year's budget. It is highly dejecting that the Central Government chose to overlook this demand. This is an injustice to the people of Andhra Pradesh and we have been made to bear the brunt.

19 00 hrs

The State Government is operating from a new capital city that requires at least Rs. 30,000 crores of financial assistance from the Central Government. Only around Rs. 2500 crores have been so far released for the development of infrastructure in the capital city over the last four years. This is highly unfortunate. The capital city needed to run such a large State needs much more focus of the central Government. The Government was expected to release the whole amount to ensure building of the capital city as promised by Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

The Polavaram Project is one of the main irrigation projects for growth of agriculture in the State. Agriculture being the main employer in the state needs a boost to ensure adequate income to poor farmers. Polavaram was envisioned as the harbinger of agricultural prosperity in the division. This promise too doesn't find any mention in the priorities set by the Finance Minister in the Budget.

Due to the non-implementation of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014, the people of Andhra Pradesh are unhappy about the proposed Budget as it offers them no hope of assistance from the Government. It is highlighted again that

both BJP and Congress Party had promised the implementation of the Act at the time of its passing. The breach of these promises hurts the people of Andhra Pradesh directly as it has implication on their lives and livelihood.

Initially the State was promised a special status. However, the Central Government stated that due to the recommendation of 14th Finance Commission, special status would no longer be given to States. In place of that, we were promised a Special Economic Package. But this Special Economic Package is only in promises; nothing has been given to the State under it. At the same time States like Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and others continue to have such status.

The State has already suffered a lot due to inadequate funds. These sacrifices made by the State should not be taken for granted. We vehemently oppose the Budget presented by the Union Finance Minister as an insult to the State of Andhra Pradesh and its people. We will not accept the Budget in any

manner until implementation of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act is made a top priority.

In the President's Speech, the vision of Dr. Ambedkar's redefined political democracy with emphasis on social and

economic democracy has been highlighted. This redefined political democracy involves equality in all spheres of life. This notion was embodied in almost all parts of the Constitution. Unfortunately, equality is missing while framing policies. As far as our State is concerned, I can say that this equality is missing.

Where there is a will, there is a way. If the Union Government wants to extend a helping hand to the people of Andhra Pradesh, nothing can stop it. For announcing Visakhapatnam as a railway zone, Budget proposals are not needed. The Government can give priority for Visakhapatnam railway zone in the State of Andhra Pradesh and provide funds under the supplementary budget estimates. What is needed is political will.

I once again request the Union Government to extend a helping hand to the people of Andhra Pradesh and fulfil all the promises made on the floor of Parliament.

SHRI P. V. MIDHUN REDDY (RAJAMPET): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. As we all know, Parliament is the temple of democracy. The promises made to the people are paramount in this democracy.

I am feeling very sad, agitated and depressed because a lot of promises were made to us in the AP Reorganisation Act. The Prime Minister himself, before the elections, had committed that AP will be given Special Category Status. He even said that the Government would extend the Special Category Status for more than ten years. Venkaiah ji went on record in the House saying that the Government will give Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh.

We should understand that when AP was divided we did not have the Capital. We did not have enough resources. I would like to quote what is happening in AP. The share of whatever debt we have incurred from Independence is Rs. 90,000 crore. In these three-and-a-half years we have taken up an additional debt of Rs. 1,30,000 crore. If it is going to continue like this, our State will not be able to give salaries also. This is the sorry state of affairs in our State. This is a very serious concern of our people.

The only solution to all these things is the Special Category Status, otherwise why will people come to our State. We do not have a Capital. We do not have proper infrastructure. Unless some benefits are there for the industry, people will not come to our State. This is a grave concern and we are expressing our displeasure in this House. We have been protesting and we will continue our protest till we achieve Special Category Status for the State.

There have been a lot of promises given in the AP Reorganisation Act, most notably the Polavaram Project. Polavaram Project is the lifeline of our State. We do not have enough water for irrigation. We do not have enough water for drinking. The whole Rayalsesma region is under severe drought. Andhra Pradesh has been under continuous drought. A series of droughts have hit our State very badly. There is no clarity on the Polavaram Project. It was promised in the AP Reorganisation Act that the cost of Polavaram Project will be completely borne by the Centre. The cost of the project has escalated from Rs. 16,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore. There is a lot of ambiguity as to who is going to bear the cost of escalation, the cost of land acquisition and what works are going to be taken up. No deadline has been given for this. We were

listening all these days that by 2018 Polavaram project will be completed. Now, we are in 2018 and they say that it will be completed by 2019. We do not know when things are going to happen because everyday we hear contradictory statements. The latest information is that NABARD is going to fund it but there is no clarity on what NABARD is going to do or what is the role of the Polavaram Authority. This is one of our most important projects and till date nothing has happened.

Notably, the other very important thing given in the AP Reorganisation Act is the railway zone. Visakhapatnam is the place from where Railways is getting a lot of revenues. There is no problem in giving a railway zone to Visakhapatnam. It is a promise made to our State and it has to be done. This is our demand.

Another important thing is the steel factory in Kadapa. We have heard that the Government has constituted a Committee. In the Reorganisation Act it is clearly stated that we are going to get a steel factory in Kadapa. Nowhere it is said that you will constitute a Committee or do a study. It has been four years now. How many years do we have to wait? How many years do we have to suffer like this? People are terribly agitated. There is a lot of discontent in the people. If the same thing is

going to happen, I am sure the NDA will also face the fate of the Congress. Congress was ruling in our State. If you are going to treat Andhra Pradesh like this, India is going to suffer the same fate. We are baffled.

I am the first-time Member in the House. I am not able to understand the politics in the House. A part of the ruling NDA is coming into the well and agitating. What should we do? This is the fourth year and the last Budget has also been placed. The Finance Minister goes on record saying that he is considerate and he will do it.

When is it going to happen? It has been four years since then and the last budget has also been presented. When are we going to get our demands fulfilled? We want a clear answer. We are not going to budge. We are dissatisfied with whatever the Finance Minister has spoken today. We want a clear-cut explanation from the Government. We want the Government to talk on the AP Reorganisation Act. Whatever was promised, we want that to happen. If it is not going to happen now, when is it going to happen? This is our question.

Now I come to Dugarajapatnam Port. It has been promised in the AP Reorganisation Act but till now nothing has happened. Nothing has even been mentioned about this or it is

going to go forward or not. Even Petro Corridor for Vizag has also not been mentioned.

In the AP Reorganisation Act, a Metro has been promised both for Vizag and Vijayawada but till date nothing has happened apart from setting up some Authority. We are happy that Karnataka is getting Metro line and Rs. 16000 crore has been sanctioned. But what wrong has Andhra Pradesh done? NDA is ruling in Andhra Pradesh. Why do you not treat Andhra Pradesh in the same way? This is not fair. We have been treated very unfairly. Both BJP and Congress has split our State. Now both of them should take responsibility. They should come forward and satisfy whatever has been promised. Otherwise, there is no value.

We have seen Modi Ji prostrating before the Parliament before coming in. We want that in true letter and faith. We want it to be implemented. Then only people will trust us and then only there is a meaning in our being in Parliament.

As a first time MP, I would like to understand one thing. What is this Anti-Defection Law? We are not able to understand this. In the Rajya Sabha, when two MPs went and attended a rally, they were disqualified. An action was taken swiftly. We appreciate Venkaiah Ji for taking such an action.

But an MP who had won on the symbol of our Party, on the first day even before he could swear in as MP, he defected. He openly went on record saying that he has joined the ruling Telugu Desam Party. After that, two other people have joined. All our complaints have been pending for three and a half years. We are unable to understand why is this double standard. Or you please pass a law saying that Anti-Defection Law is for Opposition only. We all will support it. At least, we will sleep peacefully that it is only for the Opposition. People winning on our symbol have joined other parties. It has gone a step further now. In our State, people who have won on our symbol have even joined the Cabinet. People who have defected to the ruling party have joined the Cabinet. They have not resigned. Such is the fate of democracy.

I would conclude with a big protest. On behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress Party is demanding that all the promises given in AP Reorganisation Act should be fulfilled in a proper time frame. We want a responsible statement from the Government saying when and how all these things are going to happen.

Sir, we are walking out in protest.

19 13 hrs

(At this stage, Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy and some other Hon. Members left the House.)

***SHRI RAMEN DEKA (MANGALDAI):** I congratulate the Hon'ble President as his Speech reflects the achievements of the N. D. A. Government in its totality.

The people of India noticed the fruits of various Government schemes which percolate to the ground. It is possible due to zero tolerance for corruption. Hon'ble Prime Minister always emphasized 'Sab ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas'. Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala, Mudra, P. M. A. Y. yield positive results. The poorest of the poor are getting benefit of these schemes. The construction of roads under P. M. G. S. Y. and C. R. F are going on in full swing throughout the country. The good roads will give a new pace of development. The good roads will lead our village economy to new heights. UDAN will connect the remote corners of the country, particularly the North East. Now, common man can think of travelling by Air. The whole transportation system is revitalised under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji. Shri Nitin Gadkari ji, Hon'ble Minister of Transport introduced new innovative schemes which revolutionise the whole

* Speech was laid on the Table

transport system. His emphasis on waterways for transportation will give cheap, pollution free transportation.

A new revolution occurred in rural electrification. No village will remain untouched by 2019.

The common people can now think of bank account, L. P. G. connection, electricity due to the vision and action of our great leader, Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Swachch Bharat is not a slogan now; it is a mission for the citizens of the country.

The Triple Talaq Bill is a revolutionising step. This will give respect and justice to Muslim women. We hope the Opposition, particularly the Congress, will come forward to pass this Bill and will not do the mistakes this time as it did in 1986.

The National Health Policy will give relief to the poor citizens. The present policy will give the poor citizens access to modern medical aid.

Millions of youths are trained by the Skill India Programmes which provide them a respectful living.

The growth in every sector leads India to a new height under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I thank the Hon'ble President of India for this Speech which is a mirror of the achievements of N. D. A. Government.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand up to speak on the motion of thanks to the President’s speech.

Sir, the President's speech is a policy document of the government. What were the achievements of the past years, or what were the activities of the government? What will be the policy of the government in the coming years? What will be the road map? What will be the future plans? All these things are shown in the speech of the President.

This tradition has been going on for years, and we all respect and honour the president's speech.

Deputy Speaker Sir, before every election in our country there is talk of development. But instead of development, religious frenzy takes over, and our development remains limited to that. If we look at the current situation of the country, an atmosphere of communalism is growing in the country. An attempt is being made to throw the country into the fire of communalism. There is a tense situation in the entire country. An attempt is being made to terrorise a particular section of the

society through fear. This is a matter of great concern for all of us.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we look at the speech, it is just a fake promise. The government has once again used fake promises. The fake promise that was used in 2014, and the people of the country believed in it. Those promises made in the 2014 elections have not been fulfilled yet. What were those promises? Every countryman remembers that very well. It was mainly said that every poor person will get 15 lakh rupees in his account, and that is why a large number of people got excited and opened accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana. Even today, people are waiting for those 15 lakh rupees. Secondly, it was said that farmers would be given an increased price of 50 percent of their cost. Even today, the farmer is waiting for that. It was said that ten crore youth would be given employment in five years, but today our Prime Minister is advising them to make pakodas. During the 2014 elections, our Prime Minister used to give a speech that if our government comes to power, we will teach a lesson to China and Pakistan. To date we are waiting for that day to come when China and Pakistan will be taught a lesson.

Sir, the president of the ruling party says that it is not necessary to fulfil the election promises; they are made to win the elections, and it is like a fake promise. After whatever their actions of the last four years, how can the country trust their promises? People have stopped dreaming, and now they want some work to be done on the ground and some such achievement to be made in the true sense.

Deputy Speaker Sir, it is very difficult for people to develop trust in any political party, which we call credibility. Today's present government, the ruling party, has lost its credibility and has lost its reputation.

Sir, the way he has denied the promises made in 2014 has shaken people's faith in him. There is a saying in our country that life may be given, but a promise should not be broken, but the present government does not believe in this slogan or this thing. They have no regard for their word and are not concerned about promises. If seen in this way, then this government, which has always been saying that we are moving towards development, is working to take development forward, and its results can be easily judged. The main reason for this is that this government has become proud of power. When any person, party or group becomes proud that they will always remain in

power, then they keep on making mistakes. Similarly, this government is also completely immersed in arrogance, and arrogance is not liked by anyone, be it God or Allah. They forgot that the same people who put them in power can also bring them back on the streets.

Sir, we believe that after watching this speech, it seems that the government is once again trying to keep the people of the country in the same illusion. As I said, the way the environment of the country is deteriorating, it once again seems that the Raj Dharma, which should be followed in this country, is not being followed. I am reminded of what Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji said as Prime Minister in the year 2002, that it is important to fulfil one's duty as king. It is the responsibility of the head or prime minister of any country to ensure that all people in the country feel that they are getting justice. Today we are seeing that all the government agencies, be it ED, Income Tax or CBI, are being misused openly. All of them are being misused. They are being used for their political gains. It’s a matter of great concern. If government agencies are used in this manner for political gains, it could endanger democracy in the country.

Sir, today not only the common people but also the political workers are scared, and along with that, the media is also scared

today. There is fear inside him too, and today he is scared of writing the truth. This environment that has been created in our country needed to be looked at and handled. As far as economic equality is concerned, it is being said that we are working for the poor and working for the weaker sections of society. Kharge ji just said, and other people have also mentioned, that the country's income today is concentrated in the hands of a few people. 73 percent of the income of this country has gone to one percent of people, and the inequality that is spreading in this country due to this is dangerous for us, for the coming days, and for saving democracy in the country. As far as the question of black money is concerned, when demonetisation was introduced, at that time our Prime Minister while addressing the country and the nation, had said that this would stop black money.

Sir, everyone knows who has the black money in this country. As I said, 73 percent of the income is with one percent of the people. If black money was to be searched in the true sense, then it had to be searched from those people. The entire country was troubled by demonetisation, due to which our economy has not been able to recover to date. What was the need to do this? I would say to this government that there is still

time because the result of the Rajasthan by-election has just come out.

Before this, the results of Gujarat had come. This is a challenge; it is a kind of warning to this government to control itself. Otherwise, if this pace continues, then we hope that they will have to lose power in the upcoming times.

Thank you.

[*]**SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (BETUL):** Republic Day is our main festival. He said that my government, dedicated to the weaker sections, is working on the basic spirit enshrined in the Constitution to strengthen social justice and economic democracy in the country and to make the life of the common man easier. He said that my government has presented a bill regarding Triple Talaq in the Parliament. I hope Parliament will make it legal soon. After making a law on triple talaq, Muslim sisters and daughters will also be able to live a fear-free life with self-respect.

To end discrimination against daughters, the government had started the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" scheme. Seeing the positive results of this scheme, its scope has now been increased from 161 districts to 640 districts. He said that the government has taken a big step by amending the Maternity Benefit Act. Provision has been made to give 26 weeks leave with pay to women instead of 12 weeks. Now working women will get more time to take care of their newborns. He said that so far bank accounts of about 31 crore poor people have been opened under the "Jan Dhan Yojana." Before the launch of this scheme, the number of women's savings accounts in the

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

country was around 28 percent, which has now increased to more than 40 percent.

The government has emphasised that providing loans without bank guarantees to the poor and middle classes, especially to promote self-employment. Now people are able to easily take loans to fulfil their dream of running their own enterprise.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, around 10 crore loans have been sanctioned so far, and loans worth more than four lakh crore rupees have been given. There are around three crore people who have taken advantage of this scheme for the first time and have become successful in becoming self-employed.

Solving the problems of farmers and raising their standard of living is the top priority of my government. The government's schemes are not only reducing the worries of the farmers but are also reducing their expenses on farming.

It is a result of the policies of the Government and the hard work of the farmers that there has been a record production of more than 275 million tonnes of food grains and about 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables in the country.

Committed to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. Work is underway to connect the country's agricultural markets online so that farmers can get a fair price for their produce; agricultural commodities worth more than Rs 36000 crore have been traded on e-NOM so far.

The work of completing 99 irrigation projects pending for decades is also in progress. Due to the new policies made for pulses, the production of pulses has increased by more than 38 percent compared to last year, which is a record.

To increase the income of farmers, an ambitious scheme has been launched in the dairy sector by way of the “Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund” of Rs. 11000 crore.

On one hand, urea production has increased due to the government policies; on the other hand, black marketing of urea has also stopped after 100 percent neem coating. Work is being done at a fast pace towards restarting the fertiliser factories in Gorakhpur, Barauni, Sindri, Talcher and Ramagundam.

Under the "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana," cheap and simple insurance services are being provided to the farmers.

During the year 2017, for Rabi and Kharif crops, 5 crore 71 lakh farmers have been provided security cover under this scheme.

The government has made insurance schemes accessible to the poor at a premium of 90 rupees per month and 90 paise per day. Till now, more than 18 crore poor people have joined the "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana" and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

The government is also committed to the social security of the senior citizen. Around 80 lakh senior citizens are benefiting under “Atal Pension Yojana.”

Around 2 lakh 70 thousand Common Service Centres have been created across the country, which are providing digital delivery of various services at affordable rates even in the remote areas of the country.

Under the "Bharat Net Project," work is being done to connect two and a half lakh gram panchayats of the country with broadband connectivity. More than one lakh panchayats have been connected in the first phase.

To brighten the lives of the poor and enable them to move on the path of development, the Government is providing

electricity connections to 4 crore poor people under the “Saubhagya” scheme.

With the aim of taking development to every section of the society, the work of "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana" is progressing rapidly. In 2014 only 56 percent of the villages were connected with road connectivity. Now more than 82 percent of the villages have been connected by roads, most of which are in remote areas.

It is essential to make the objective of the law effective so that every poor person gets enough food. Under the National Food Security Act, the system of providing food grains at cheap rates in all the states of the country is being made transparent and leakage-proof.

Sensitive to the aspirations of every section of the society, my Government has introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill to give constitutional status to the “National Commission for Backward Classes.”

There are more than 2.5 crore disabled people in our country. The Government has enacted the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016." 4 percent reservation in

government jobs and 5 percent in higher education has been provided for the disabled.

Employment opportunities have been provided to youth of Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain communities through programs like "Learn and Earn," "Ustad," "Gareeb Nawaz Skill Development Scheme," "Nai Roshni," etc.

In the last year, more than 45 lakh students have been given the benefit of scholarships, fellowships, skill development and coaching schemes.

Keeping in mind the objective of women's empowerment, for the first time since independence, the restriction on women above 45 years of age to go on Haj without male relatives has been lifted. This year more than 1300 women are going on Haj without a Mehram.

Everyone should have a roof over their head and get water, electricity and toilet facilities. With this sensitive thought, the government is working towards the target of providing houses to these poor families in every housing sector of the country by the year 2022.

In the last three and a half years, more than 93 lakh houses have been constructed in urban and rural areas. Under the

"Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban," the poor are being given a 6 percent interest rate for building houses.

The government has formulated a new "National Health Policy" to provide better and more affordable health facilities to the poor and middle-class people.

Under the “Deendayal Amrit Yojana,” discounts ranging from 60 percent to 90 percent are being given on more than 5200 life-saving branded medicines and surgical implants through 111 outlets.

To increase the availability of doctors, 13000 MBBS seats and more than 7000 post graduate seats have been approved. To ensure quality and transparency in medical education, the Government has also introduced the “National Medical Commission Bill” in the Lok Sabha.

More than 2400 "Atal Tinkering Labs" have been approved by the Government under the "Atal Innovation Mission" to lay the foundation of entrepreneurship and creativity in children from an early age.

The Government has approved the formation of an autonomous examination organisation, the "National Testing

Agency," to conduct all examinations of higher educational institutions in the country.

He said, My government, active for the bright future of the youth, is working on creating 20 "Institutes of Eminence" in the country. Under this mission, financial assistance of Rs 10000 crore will be given to selected educational institutions.

Our country is the youngest country in the world. To enable the youth of the country to fulfil their dreams and become self-employed, the government is running programs like Start Up India, Stand Up India, Skill India Mission, and Mudra Yojana.

Industries or companies that are creating new employment opportunities are being given financial help under the "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana." More than 20 lakh beneficiaries have received assistance from this scheme.

The government is creating 40 percent opportunities for the workers in the minimum wages and they are being given financial help under the "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana". More than 20 lakh beneficiaries have received assistance from this scheme.

The government has increased the minimum wage of workers by more than 40 percent. The number of registers for

compliance with labour laws has been reduced from 56 to 5. Now all returns are filed online on the Shram Suvidha Portal.

It is a matter of pride for all of us that Kumbh Mela has been included in the list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO. Ahmedabad has been awarded the status of India's first "Heritage City" by UNESCO. Chennai has been ranked by UNESCO in the list of Creative Cities.

India's ambitious space program is achieving new heights in national development and regional and international cooperation. For the first time in the world, ISRO successfully launched 104 satellites at one go.

Under the "Pradhanmantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan," the government is running the world's largest digital literacy program. Under this program, so far one crore people have been made literate in digital form.

"BHIM app "is playing a big role in promoting digital transactions. More than 100 public facilities have been made available on mobile through the recently launched “Umang App.”

Through Aadhaar, the benefits available to poor beneficiaries are reaching them directly, without any

middlemen. Digital payments are being made in more than 400 schemes of the present government. Till now, an amount of more than Rs 57000 crore has been saved from falling into the wrong hands.

Due to commendable efforts in the electronics manufacturing sector, now there are 113 mobile companies operating in the country, the number of which was only 2 in 2014. This has provided new employment opportunities to our youth even in small cities of the country.

Investments are being continuously increased for capacity development and modernisation of railways. The government is committed to providing world-class rail services. Work on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed bullet train has started.

The Government has also formulated a new policy for metro projects. The policy emphasises that “last mile connectivity.” In the country, work on metro projects is currently underway in 11 cities.

The Government has approved a new mega program, “Bharatmala,” in the highway sector. An amount of Rs 535,000 crore has been provisioned for this. To enhance National

Corridor Efficiency, about 53,000 km of National Highways have been identified.

Small cities of the country can be connected by air routes and the lower middle class, middle class and youth can easily avail themselves of the benefit of air travel at low cost. For this, the scheme "Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik," i.e., the "Udaan" scheme, has been started.

While after independence only 76 airports in the country were connected with commercial flights, in just 15 months of the "UDAN" scheme, work has been started to connect 56 airports and 31 helipads. Until now, 16 such airports have started flights.

This is the first time that the expansion of power capacity in the country has increased more than the target. Now India has become the net exporter of electricity. The work of providing electricity to 18000 villages is also moving towards completion.

The government has ensured availability of electricity to the states at affordable rates by completing the work of “One Nation One Grid.” Schemes worth approximately Rs 1.5 lac

crore have been implemented to strengthen the power distribution system in every village and town of the country.

More than 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed in the country under the "Ujala Yojana." More than 50 crore LED bulbs have also been sold by the private sector. Due to this, the poor and middle class are saving more than Rs 40000 crore annually in their electricity bills.

Along with protecting the environment, 10000 crore units of electricity are also being saved every year in the country. The generation of solar energy has increased 7 times in the last three years.

Efforts in India have made the International Solar Alliance a legislative body. Its headquarters has been established in India itself.

With a vision to extend the benefits of development to every region of the country, my Government is working sensitively to meet the hopes and aspirations of the people of the Northeast.

In the last three years, the government has approved a scheme of Rs 10000 crore for strengthening the power

transmission and distribution network in the Northeastern states.

The government is also laying full emphasis on increasing connectivity in the Northeast. Last year, the country's longest river bridge, Dhola-Sadiya, was also dedicated to the nation. The bridge has reduced the distance between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh by 165 km.

Due to the regular efforts of the Central Government and State Governments, the internal security of the country has improved remarkably. In the Northeast, the security situation has also changed. Incidents of Naxalite-Maoist violence have also decreased.

For this, the aware residents of these areas and our military, armed forces and police force deserve congratulations. We appreciate all our sentinels and pay tribute to those who have been martyred.

Terrorist violence inside Jammu and Kashmir is directly linked to cross-border infiltration. The army, paramilitary forces and the Jammu and Kashmir Police are responding appropriately to this violence in close coordination with each other.

The government has approved a scheme worth more than Rs 18000 crore for the modernisation of police forces.

The policy related to strategic partnership in the defence manufacturing sector has also been finalised. It will promote greater private sector participation and employment generation in the manufacturing of major defence platforms and equipment.

The Government has fulfilled its promise of “One Rank One Pension” and paid arrears of over Rs 10000 crore to more than 20 lac retired servicemen.

Service to humanity has been an integral part of India's cultural heritage. Be it the earthquake in Nepal, the flood disaster in Sri Lanka, or the drinking water crisis in the Maldives, due to these values, India has always been present as the first responder.

Today all Indians residing in any corner of the world have the confidence that if they face any trouble anywhere, the Government will rescue them safely and bring them back to the country. More than 90000 Indians stranded abroad in distress have been brought back since 2014.

Due to the diplomatic efforts of the Government, India has gained new respect in the world. India is represented in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Organisation, and the Economic and Social Council. India got success in the ICJ election.

After joining the Missile Technology Control Regime last year, India has also been included as a member in the Wassenar Arrangement and Australia Group this year. This success has been achieved after a long struggle and is an important achievement of the government.

The commencement of Chabahar Port is a historical event. Through this port, the first consignment of wheat has been sent to Afghanistan. This year, an air corridor has also been inaugurated between India and Afghanistan, through which cargo transportation has commenced.

Despite slow global economic growth, India's growth rate has been impressive. The economy has experienced a temporary slowdown in GDP growth since the first quarter of 2016-17. This decline reversed in the second quarter of 2017-18.

The inflation rate, current account deficit and fiscal deficit have decreased on average over the last three and a half years.

In 2017, foreign exchange reserves crossed the 410 USD billion mark. Due to effective policies of the Government, foreign direct investment has also increased from 36 billion USD to 60 billion USD during the last three years.

For the economic integration of the country, the government has carried out the biggest tax reform since independence in the form of the Goods and Services Tax. The benefit of lower prices can reach the consumers. For this, the National Anti-Profiteering Authority has been constituted by my government.

The government is also committed to strengthening the banking system and bringing transparency to it. For this, a decision has also been taken to recapitalise public sector banks with a capital investment of more than Rs 2 lac crore.

The fight against corruption continues. In this context, registration of about 350000 suspicious companies has been cancelled in the last year.

Due to these efforts of the government, in three years, India has moved from 142nd rank to 100th rank in the World Bank's

Ease of Doing Business ranking. This has increased the reputation of the country in the world market.

There is concern among governance-conscious people about the adverse impact of continuous elections being held in one part or the other of the country. The burden on human resources increases due to frequent elections. The implementation of a code of conduct also hampers the development process of the country.

This budget will accelerate the fast-growing economy, and the farmers and labourers will get the maximum benefit of this budget. We have received positive suggestions in this regard, and we should go ahead with the roadmap.

When the whole world is unhappy about India's progress. All the credit agencies of the world, the World Bank, and the IMF have been giving positive opinions. This budget will give new energy to the growing economy of the country.

[English]

[*]**ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI):** I am very fortunate to be born in a nation where we are having a Constitution which provides equality before law to all the citizens, irrespective of their cast, creed, religion, economic status and tone of the skin. It is for the Government to instil confidence, rather security feeling, in the minds of all sections of people that they are safe and secure under this dispensation. But unfortunately, there are instances to suggest otherwise. I am not blaming any political or non-political outfit as such, but the ruling dispensation should introspect and come out with more convincing resolutions to win the confidence of the minority, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people and other backward communities too.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are being deprived of their rights due to various reasons including the lack of clarity in rules and regulations and procedures for implementing programs meant for them. The inter-State migration of SC people after 1950 is still continuing as a grey area which resulted in denial of rights conferred on them

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

including benefits for education and protection against atrocities. Similarly, the programs and projects meant for the tribal people are also in jeopardy due to indiscriminate exercise of power by various departments, mostly the forest and wildlife departments. The establishment of road connectivity, electric line and improvement of tribal habitats are being obstructed by the forest officials citing lame excuses under the pretext of implementing Forest Conservation Act 1980. The Forest Right Act is also being misinterpreted and misused to the disadvantages of the SC/ST people. The forest department has been obstructing road work under the PMGSY citing the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 which came in to force on 25-10-1980. The department is even stalling maintenance work of roads which were in existence for decades before 25-10-1980 including National Highways, road maintaining by Public Works Departments, Gramin roads leading to Tribal settlement, etc. Since the Forest Conservation Act does not have retrospective effect as regards the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure including roads, the conduct of the forest department is arbitrary, unlawful and rather denying the right of the people guaranteed under part 3 of the Constitution. In this regard, the Ministry of

Environment and Forest had issued guidelines on 07-01-2011 making it clear that even the forest managed roads constructed before 25-08-1980 can be converted in to pucca roads without attracting the provisions of the Act. Even then the construction of seven PMGSY roads, 32 roads maintained by state PWD and maintenance of the National Highways are being obstructed by the Kerala Forest Department in my constituency alone. Therefore, the urgent intervention of the Government is requested to solve the above-mentioned issues. I think this is very much essential for taking forward the dreams of the farmers of the constitution.

Though the Hon'ble President had averted many developmental issues of the poor and downtrodden in his speech, there are issues which affect the development aspiration of the people at large. The declaration of Ecologically Sensitive Area's (ESA) in some parts of the Western Ghats on the basis of the report submitted by the High Level Working Group (HLWG) headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan has been pending for more than four years to the disadvantage of the marginal and small-scale farmers, the indigenous people and other stakeholders. The MoEF & CC had published a draft notification on 10-03-2014 proposing to

declare certain areas in the Western Ghats as ESA after accepting the proposal of the Government of Kerala to reduce the area of ESA from 1310 Sq/km as proposed by the HLWG to 9993. 7 Sq/km out of which 9907 Sq/km forest ESA and 886. 7 Sq/km as non-forest ESA. This draft notification has been re-promulgated on 10-03-2014, 04-09-2015 and 27-02-2017. The draft notification dated 27-02-2017 will expire on 25th Aug 2018. Now it is learnt that all the State Governments in the Western Ghats area have submitted their responses to the draft proposals and the Ministry has also obtained expert inputs from the Wildlife Board of India. If, at all, any further clarification is required from the State of Kerala, the State Government is prepared to submit the same as stated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala in the letter DO No. A2/23/2016/ENVT dated 03-05-2017.

All the developmental activities of the Local Self Governmental Institutions including the implementation of MGNREGA works are in jeopardy due to the scarcity of raw materials including granite and sand arising out of the prohibitory order dated 13-11-2013 issued under section 5 of the EP Act, 1980. The construction work of the Government Medical College at Idukki to the tune of more than Rs. 300

crore has also been affected. In short, the entire developmental activities have been stagnated. In these circumstances, the Government of Kerala has proposed to declare ESA confining to the protected areas and reserve forests. I urge upon the government to take immediate steps to issue the final notification on the draft notification forthwith.

Petrol/diesel has become an indispensable part of our day-to-day life, and we can't imagine our life without it. But the petrol prices are skyrocketing and it is eventually going to affect the cost of each and everything that we use in our day to day life. Poor people are already working hard to earn two square meals a day and this hike is definitely going to paralyse these already-burdened people. Within three years, petrol price has increased 10 times and is still increasing. It is nothing but adding fuel to the fire. Petrol hike directly or indirectly affects all the major sectors like transportation, textiles, auto, FMCG etc. , for manufacturing and transportation. This affects the prices of daily essential commodities which are transported on a daily basis. Banking sector is also expected to suffer due to high inflation level. Hence, I request the Government to have a relook in this matter of regulating the petroleum price.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Sir Deputy Speaker, year after year the Hon. President presents the vision for the coming 365 days to the country through his speech. Every citizen of the country looks towards that speech with the hope and desire to touch new heights while keeping forward our values and principles and the foundation of India's strong values and principles. But, I have to say with regret that in the last four years, since this BJP Government has come to power, every single dream of every citizen of our country has been completely destroyed by this Government. Not only this, not acting on their mistakes is one thing, but they also refuse to accept and listen. Today, being a public servant, this question arises in my mind: are these good signs of a living democracy? Four years have passed since the people had handed over their trust in BJP and this NDA government by giving them the reins of the country. But whenever difficult questions or inconvenient questions are raised before them, they shrug off all those questions, and instead of paying attention to them, they leave the field. Today four years have passed. Today this government is standing at the last threshold. This needs to be accounted for. This

Government will have to realise its shortcomings and take responsibility for them in this House today. This requires introspection. My previous speakers had also said that alarm bells are ringing all around the country. Whether it is the suffering of the farmer, the plea of the farmer, the crumbling economy, the faltering foreign policy, or the thinking and ideology about internal security, an environment of intolerance has been created in the entire country today. Today every single citizen of the country is scared; every single citizen in the country is troubled and helpless. Was this the thought and ideology, destiny and image of a new India that this government had imagined? To date, with eyes blindfolded and cotton stuffed in ears, the same tune is sung that all is well, ‘good days have come.’ But today an attempt has been made to weave an illusion of profit and greed. I am confident that after twelve months or fifteen months, the people of this country will pierce through this illusion like an arrow and bring a new light to the entire country.

Deputy Speaker Sir, the foreign policy of the government changes like the weather. They don't get tired of patting on the back. Regarding China, the Prime Minister had said that we will show red eyes. Today, in the Doklam region near our

border, China is setting up military camps, regiments and helipads and is developing them. Instead of stopping this, the success trumpets of diplomacy are being blown. It is being celebrated. I want to ask, what is the celebration about? Sometimes they say that a negotiated settlement has been done with China and the Chinese army has gone back, and sometimes they say that no, the Chinese army is still present there. … (*Interruptions*) They have completely established there.

This is the reality today; you can read the news. China's fighter aircraft, early warning system, and helipads have been completely established near Doklam. The situation that exists in Doklam today is the same situation that has been created by China in Tibet. Attempts are being made to encircle India from all sides. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor with Pakistan, where one lakh Chinese troops will be deployed after an investment of 36 billion dollars. Attempts are being made to encircle India from all sides. Today China is provoking us, and we are watching the spectacle. Whatever the situation with China, the same situation is visible towards Pakistan as well; the helplessness of our government is visible.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, today ceasefire violations are taking place day by day. There have been 251 violations on the LoC in the month of January. Thousands of our people have been displaced in the border area. Nearly 28 people have lost their lives in the last year alone. Whether we talk about Captain Kundu or Shri Ram Avtar Singh ji of Gwalior, who have sacrificed their lives for this country, today there is this helplessness. It was said that ten heads would be brought in exchange for one head, and today this Government is sitting idle and merely watching the scene.

Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to present the data for the year 2013. At that time there were 93 violations in the border area, and today, four years later, in the year 2017, i.e., in just one year, there have been 860 ceasefire violations, an increase of nine hundred percent in just one year. I am surprised that in the address of President, it is written that while patting the back of State and Union Territories Governments, I will quote that due to regular efforts, there has been significant improvement in the internal security of the country. This statistic is not a symbol of improvement but a living monument of their failure. Where internal security is concerned, the lives of our soldiers are also being played with. URI happened,

Pampore happened and Pulwama happened. I do not want to repeat it. But instead of strengthening the army, it is being neglected today.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, today the army needs forty days of war wastage reserve, but our capacity is only for ten days. If we talk about the Air Force, today we need 42 squadrons, but we have only 33 squadrons. The UPA government had made the Rafale deal for 126 aircraft, i.e., 7 squadrons, so that we could reach forty. These people came to power, and the first thing they did was to throw that agreement into the dustbin, and instead of buying one aircraft for Rs 526 crore, they bought 36 aircraft for 1 thousand 6 hundred crore rupees. I want to ask, where is transparency? Our Defence Minister, whom we respect so much, had said that day that we will place all the statistics on the table of the House. Yesterday a statement was given in the Rajya Sabha that due to the secrecy package, we cannot give any figures. I want to ask where the accountability and transparency of this government went.

Deputy Speaker Sir, I demand here that a white paper on this aircraft deal should be tabled in the House. The reality is that even today this government will continue to give false assurance that all is well and good days have arrived. Whatever

the condition of our internal security and our foreign policy, the same condition has happened with our economy also. A serious situation has arisen in every corner of the country. If we talk about the agriculture sector, today the agricultural crisis is spreading across the country like a wildfire.

Four years ago it was said by them that we will give more than MSP, one and a half times the cost of agriculture, and after that their attorney general was sent to the Supreme Court saying that this is not possible; it was just an election slogan. The affidavit was filed in the Supreme Court, and today, after four years, the same false promise is being repeated again. Today I demand that you just leave the profits. Today my farmers are not getting the support price in this country; today the farmers are not even getting the cost price.

If we talk about fertile land, there has been a 6.5percent decrease in the area, and today the actual income of the farmers is not increasing. I am not saying this; their economic survey itself is saying this.

Deputy Speaker Sir, it was said in His speech that the Central Government will double the income of farmers by 2022. Do they understand what they have to do? If we want to double the income by 2022, then we will have to increase the

growth rate of agriculture by 12 percent from next year, which today is negative and growing by only two percent. Will this government be able to make it possible? Look at the price of potatoes in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab; it costs Rs 8 but is not available even for Rs 4. Is this the reward for a bumper crop to our farmers?

We talk about the support price. Let us look at the price of Toor. The support price of tur is five thousand and five hundred for Maharashtra, but the farmers are not even getting four thousand there. If you look at my state, the support price of urad is three thousand and five hundred, but today the farmers are not getting even two thousand rupees. What should we say about the condition of the farmers? In Mandsaur, 6 farmers were shot dead. In Tikamgarh, the farmers were stripped naked inside the jail and beaten with sticks. My farmers from Tamil Nadu were standing at Jantar Mantar with the bones of their companions. The one who feeds 125 crore people goes to sleep hungry tonight.

Let us talk about the price of diesel. They increased the price by Rs 14 per litre. When the price per barrel was 120 dollars during the time of the UPA government, then it was called economic terrorism, and today.

When the price of crude oil had reached forty dollars per barrel, this government increased the price of diesel to a new high.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your leader has already spoken on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADIYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: If we talk about employment opportunities, today our youth is wandering due to unemployment. They had said that two crore employment opportunities will be given to the youth every year, but if we look at the data of the last three years, they could not give more than two lakh, one lac and four lakh. They just talk about the pakora job. … (*Interruptions*) What will happen to our IIT and IIM people? What will happen to our eight lakh engineers?

Finally, I want to say four lines of a poet. One of our leaders had said that the game of power will continue, governments will come and go, and parties will be formed and disbanded, but this country must remain, and the country's democracy must remain. This was said by our former Prime Minister Atal Bihari

Vajpayee ji. … (*Interruptions*) They will have to keep remembering this. The people of the country have decided that the lotus flower was our mistake.

Finally, I would like to say poetry of four lines.

Let there be no talk of religion, let there be no talk of caste,

The public is unemployed, let's talk about morsel first.

Neither bhajans nor azans disturb my sleep,

My sleep is disturbed by dying soldiers, by farmers committing suicide,

Try blowing air into someone's dying stove,

Try applying medicine to someone's wounds,

Those who point fingers at people's hard work,

The value of every citizen will be understood,

Just open your eyes and raise your head and look.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Speaker, I thank the President with full support for his speech in the joint session of both Houses of Parliament. I would like to share some reflections from Rashtrapatiji's speech. We all know very well that what our President has said is what we want to achieve. Our government has achieved a lot with its never-ending achievements, and these achievements will continue in the times to come.

This is a budget for work and not just for namesake; the government's intentions and commitment to serve the poor are visible with our decisions. This includes all sections of society. This budget is pro-women, pro-farmers, pro-senior citizens, and pro-SME and basically, in one sentence, this budget is pro-growth.

Hon. President's presentation of the figures demonstrates the significant effort the government has made. 1. 5 times increase in MSP, Rs 2000 crore for development of agricultural market, 8 crore free gas connections, health insurance coverage of Rs 5 lac per family, and more focus on the transport system, that means we have benefited every sector.

When the whole of America has been fighting for health care for a long time, we have done the work in one go by

starting the National Health Protection Scheme, Ayushman Bharat and have brought 50 crore of the country's population under the ambit of health security and apart from this, we have allocated Rs. 600 crore for food in the Tuberculosis Disease Eradication Scheme. 600 major railway stations will be redeveloped, and the government plans to provide housing for all by 2020. In a true sense, it is a budget for everyone.

Our economy is running in an energetic way. Inflation, balance of payments, fiscal deficit and current account deficit have declined steadily since 2014. With the consistent efforts of our Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modiji, foreign direct investment and foreign exchange reserves have reached record levels. We all know that the country, and especially the common man, is very happy with the decision of demonetisation. To understand how successful this is, we can look at the following statistics:

1) Undisclosed income of more than Rs 24800 crore was detected between November 2016 and October 2017;
2) 3.89 crore income tax e-returns were filed till November 2017, with a rise of 19.7 percent compared to the same period last year.

3) The biggest tax reform to date, GST is also showing positive trends by furthering cooperative federalism; 36% of the estimated total tax revenue for 2017-18 is collected by GST.

Jan Dhan Yojana, which was introduced to promote direct benefit transfer to the people, has achieved unprecedented progress with 26 crore bank accounts, 59% of these accounts opened in rural areas, and a total of Rs. 73,258 crore deposited in these accounts.

When I look at my state, Bihar, I find that the government is showing its commitment towards the people of Bihar under PMGSY. We have completed 11,517 km of roads out of the target of 22,500 km by 2020. Till now, a total of Rs 1,48,918 crore has been distributed in Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. An amount of Rs 5389 crore has been allocated under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana for the year 2017-18, and we have released Rs 4035 crore to date. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 538,959 houses have been provided so far, and we are moving towards the target, which is to be achieved by 2020.

The Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme has become the world's largest cash benefit scheme, and we have saved about

Rs 29,446 crore in subsidy due to its implementation. 94% of total LPG consumers have been covered under the PAHAL scheme.

If we talk about cleanliness, 77% of rural families have been freed from open defecation through the construction of toilets. A total of 20,325,774 toilets have been constructed so far. To support the rural economy and rural livelihoods, we have given the highest allocation to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, and a total of Rs 50,009 crore has been released in 2017-18. In 2017-18 we have so far released 82% of the total allocation for Gram Panchayats. All this is proving to be a better step towards rural India than the previous government.

Respect for women and their empowerment is only possible with this government which has become very evident after getting its first woman Defence Minister; Recently our government has promoted Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana for the whole of India, and it will be 100% funded by the Central Government. On the call of Hon. Prime Minister Mann Ki Baat, free checkups and treatment of about 1 crore poor pregnant women have been done in such a short time. To prove this commitment, there is also Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, in which

1.1 crore accounts have been opened with deposits of Rs 15,849 crore. Mission Indradhanush and the Pradhan Mantri Indian Public Training Programme seem to win the trust of the countrymen towards the Government and their love for our Government. With these words, I fully support the president's speech. I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak for so long.

[English]

***SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI):** I express my gratitude and indebtedness to our immortal Leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA before I express my views on the Motion of Thanks.

Agriculture is the lifeline of our country, where more than 70 crores of people are solely dependent on agriculture or agro-based industries for their life and livelihood. This is a huge population and no wonder that the farmers' population in our country is more than the total population of most of the countries in the world. Therefore, the emphasis on agriculture and enhancing farmers' income are most important. The Government has to address the problems arising out of the acute drought situation which has affected agriculture in Tamil Nadu. A special package for drought affected farmers would have been the apt decision on the part of Union Government.

In a vast country like our India, due to varied climatic conditions prevailing in different parts of the country, while some places are severely affected by scarcity of rainfall and drought, some places are affected by excess rainfall and

* Speech was laid on the Table

subsequent flooding. In both the cases, farmers and agriculture are affected the most. Due to natural calamities and failure of monsoon rains, most part of the country is affected either by drought or by severe flood. There are many reasons for this. But in my opinion, the foremost reason is Government's prolonged delay and reluctance in nationalization of all the rivers in the country and also the inter- linking of major rivers in the country.

The most important natural wealth of our country is the large number of rivers flowing across different States. Most of the rivers, particularly, the peninsular rivers are flooded during the heavy wet monsoons and remain dry during other seasons due to scarce rainfall in the catchment areas of these rivers. Hence the farmers are in the clutches of either a severe flood or drought. This is a very bad situation for farmers of this country. It not only affects their crops but also make them suffer most to repay their loans, resulting in the suicides of farmers in the country. The nationalisation of rivers and inter-linking of the rivers are very important as they not only solve the inter-state water sharing disputes among the Indian States but is also the only way through which adequate water for irrigation in various States could be ensured and the problems faced by the farmers

due to lack of water and drought could be solved permanently. Also the Government should consider creating a comprehensive National Policy on Indian rivers and National River Water Grid to enhance the process of inter- linking of rivers flowing in various States. In this way, the Government can harness the excess water in the rivers cleverly and judiciously to benefit drought hit parts of the country.

Water is indispensable for agriculture. Irrigation is the blood circulation of agriculture. Without water nothing could be done, without adequate water, even if we spend crores of rupees, farmers have no chance to flourish. The River Cauvery is the lifeline of Tamil Nadu, particularly, the millions of farmers in the delta regions in Tamil Nadu. But, unfortunately, year after year Tamil Nadu farmers are betrayed due to the non release of adequate water from river Cauvery, even after the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The unconcerned attitude to the higher riparian State of Karnataka to obey the orders of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal has killed hundreds of farmers in Tamil Nadu and has driven several thousand out of the agriculture. The total loss due to the non release of Cauvery water for crop seasons in Tamil Nadu has taken heavy toll on agriculture and farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA has been conferred with a Titles, " Restorer of River Cauvery" and " Pennycuick of the Modern Tamil Nadu" by the People of Tamil Nadu for her remarkable and outstanding success in the long legal battle for restoring the water rights of Tamil Nadu in getting the rightful share in the Cauvery River water sharing issue with Karnataka State in raising the water levels up to 142 feet in the Mullai Periyar Dam. Both the victories are historical but the Union Government should expedite the process and constitute the Cauvery Management Board immediately to direct the Karnataka State to release water from Cauvery river in accordance with the award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) in monthly deliveries to ensure adequate release of Cauvery water from Karnataka for irrigation in Tamil Nadu.

With the notification of the Final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, the scheme for modernisation of the canal system in the Cauvery Basin at a cost of Rs. 11,421 crore may be accorded approval. The Tamil Nadu Government had submitted the proposal for the extension, renovation and modernization of Grand Anicut Canal to develop agriculture in the delta districts of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai costing Rs.

2,610 crore to the Central Water Commission and the Commission also gave in-principle consent. I urge the Government to allocate funds at the earliest for the speedy implementation of Grand Anicut project.

Tamil Nadu Government had also sought the assistance of the Union Government for implementation of several important proposals linking the rivers Cauvery- Vaigai- Gundar at a cost of Rs. 5166 crores and Athikadavu- Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 1862 crores. This may be sanctioned on a priority basis. Likewise, the Pennaiyar (Sathanur Dam)- Palar Link Scheme and Pennaiyar- Nedungal Anicut- Palar Link at an estimated cost of Rs. 500 crores may kindly be expedited.

It is happy to note that the Government is committed to double farmers' income in 5 years and this is a most welcome plan. Farmers need more attention and dues from the Government for their hard work and commitment towards food production. Normally, the big landlords and farmers with larger landholding will get their agricultural loans easily. But, small, medium and micro level marginal farmers do not have such support.

The rural economy contributes around 50 per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product and is already showing sign of strain as Government cuts the once- generous subsidies that shielded farmers and villagers. Farmers' income dropped due to drought. They borrowed loan from banks for seeds and fertilizers, but now they don't know how to repay the loan. This is the plight of farmers in India, particularly, the micro, small and marginal farmers with less land holdings. This needs to be addressed on a war- footing note.

The Union Government has to allocate more funds for the proper maintenance and use of existing dams and water reservoirs in the country. The deepening and de-silting of local water bodies and the lakes is crucial for growth of agriculture. The Union Government has to allocate more funds for the river restoration projects in the country and also to increase and enhance water catchment capacity in the country. Development of social forestry and increase of green cover in the country is also part of the agro development activity only.

Farmers are needed to be encouraged in as much possible ways like the introduction of comprehensive crop insurance schemes, issuance of Kisan Credit Cards to all the farmers in the country and providing them with adequate financial support

as well as ensuring them with the adequate supply of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides, farm equipments, etc. Also farmers should be encouraged with good reasonable Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce. The Government should also instil confidence in their minds by effecting good procurement policies. Without these two vital actions, farmers will be reluctant to take up agriculture and it will affect our agrarian economy and agriculture will decline fast. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has authorized Food Corporation of India, along with other procuring agencies, to undertake procurement of food grains, pulses and oilseeds. If the money we spend on importing pulses reaches our farmers, there won't be any suicides or shortage of food grains. There has been an overall increase in the prices of almost every commodity.

In the time of drought or natural calamities like floods, their crops are damaged completely and in such times, entire agriculture loans provided to them need to be waived completely. Also, farmers should be given proper compensation for the loss of crops and it should be done on a war footing mode otherwise the cash starving farmers may not be in a position to continue to practice agriculture after damage

of crops due to flood or loss of revenue due to severe drought conditions.

I urge the Union Government to release a special package and funds to address the plight of farmers in Tamil Nadu at the earliest. The Union Government should take all possible steps to improve the socio economic status of farmers in the country and make them happy to continue with agriculture and farming to make our country self sufficient and self reliant in agriculture and its related fields.

[*]**KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR):** Equality is a right guaranteed by our Constitution. As those belonging to the opposition bench, a part of our job is to hold the Government accountable. In the 2014 election manifesto that was brought out by the Current Government, they promised the following:

"Women's welfare and development will be accorded a high priority at all levels within the Government, and BJP is committed to 33% reservation in parliamentary and State assemblies through a Constitutional amendment. "

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi formed a Government at the Centre with a majority that hadn't been seen since 1984. Therefore, the difficulties that the UPA had faced in the passage or the passing of the Bill aren't prevalent for the current Government. More so, our former Party President and UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji has already expressed our support to the cause.

The current Government has led initiatives like " beti bachao, beti padhao" and yesterday Hon'ble MoS, Shri Kiren Rijiju also tweeted about "beti ko khilao" but in their

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

conception of empowerment, the Government has missed out on the entire notion of *"beti/ bahu ko sadan mein lao"*.

To empower a section of people, it isn't a one- off instance or act that empowers them. It is a process of socio- political- economic changes that engineer that process. All three go hand in hand. Political empowerment has been a way for thousands of women to break through the social stigmas that bound them. It made them important stakeholders, it helped them get out of their homes and regions of gender role and engage with society at large. In 2013, the World Bank conducted a research concluding the following results:

First, longer exposure to female political representation increases women's overall labour force participation- both from having women as members at all levels of local Government as well as leaders of district councils.

Second, greater exposure to women Political Representatives raises the share of public empowerment opportunities allocated to women under the MGNREGS.

Finally, we find evidence that increasing access to public goods that women care about (e. g. roads, health) encourages greater female Labour Force Participation in the presence of

women leaders. The findings highlight important complementaries between political and economic policy tools to increase women's labour force participation.

The report also hints at an earlier finding: women leaders change the level and composition of the public goods provided; women leaders are more responsive with respect to public goods preferred by women. (Chattopadhyay and Duflo 2004).

It is safe to say that this is the emancipation and the level of work women have achieved after the 72nd and the 73rd amendment. I thank Rajiv Gandhiji for this progressive step. But here is where I would like to re- iterate a few findings listed in the "pink" economic survey: "In a country like India with around 49 per cent of women in the population, the political participation of women has been low," it noted. The survey said there are developing countries like Rwanda which has more than 60 per cent women representatives in Parliament in 2017.

Quoting an Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women report- Women in Politics 2017, the survey said Lok Sabha had 64 (11. 8 per cent of 542 MPs) and Rajya Sabha 27 (11 per cent of 245 MPs) women MPs. "As on October 2016, out of the total 4,118 MLAs across the country, only 9 per cent were women," it said. In India, between 2010 and 2017,

women's share rose 1 percentage point in its Lower House (Lok Sabha)"

It also observes that there are 13. 72 lakh elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions which constitute 44. 2 per cent of total elected representatives (ERs) as on December, 2017. Even chapter 10 of the survey (volume 2) successfully points us to the lakhs of missing women from our polity and politics.

For women to be truly empowered, this has to be changed. The survey observes as to why women drop- out and all of us are aware of it. But we also need to realise that we need to have a more conducive environment for women to join as well.

A Women's Reservation Bill is the answer to this. More women in the Parliament is the answer to this. When we say "neta", the image a person gets shouldn't be of a man who is violent and hateful, but of a person who works for them. This Bill is our chance to reform our politics, and I hope that all of you will ensure the passing of this Bill which will ensure 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and in State Assemblies through this year.

While the Prime Minister talks repeatedly of ease of doing business, he must ensure ease of doing politics for women of India.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to speak in favour of the speech of the Hon. President on the motion of thanks of my friend Rakesh Singh. I want to congratulate him; it was the first speech of the Hon. President. Secondly, I want to congratulate you for this also. We have been listening to the president's speech. I can call it the first speech of the Hon. President. Whatever words the Hon. President spoke, just two days later, on 1st February, the Hon. Minister of Finance tried to put them into practice. I would like to congratulate him for this. I have to say two things; the third thing I would like to say in detail. Firstly, the Hon. President talked about equality in the society and gave the example of Dr. Ambedkar Sahib. Dr. Ambedkar took the oath of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, who were hanged. He told the countrymen that we are leaving our lives, but remember the white Englishman is going and the Black Englishman will come. Unless there is equality in economic freedom, political equality will have no meaning. I think he took this thought from the land of Anandpur Sahib.

Deputy Speaker Sir, you know that in this country, the talk of equality was first implemented in practical form in Sri

Anandpur Sahib when five people from different directions, from East, West, North, South and Central India, taught them in utensils; the talk of equality started from that time. In that light, today our government has tried to work on what the President said. Four crore people have gotten employment under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. They talk about pakodas and tea. Four crore people have gotten work; a target of eight crore people has been set ahead. Similarly, the issue of electricity connections was something that no one had seen before; four crore electricity connections were provided to slums, and this is a matter of great achievement.

Our mothers and sisters used to cook rotis with wood and would become blind because of the smoke. There is talk of making India smoke-free by giving gas connections to six crore people. It is about taking poor people along; a new economics model has come. They nurtured rich people. How much of our country's resources went to a few people? In the figures that have come out, a survey was conducted by an agency. I have been a professor of economics. I was surprised by that survey. 73 percent of the country's money went to one percent of the people. Who is responsible for this? Today a new scheme has come to decentralise this money. There is the Prime Minister's

Health Scheme, and there is the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme; houses were given to crores of people who did not have homes. I think a new vision has come; poor people and farmers should be uplifted as much as possible.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, you know that the farmer is the backbone of this country. Nobody had thought that in the last four years, the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme, the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, and other schemes were introduced for agriculture, which increased the yield of farmers, and the Soil Health Card was introduced. I will call the Modi government historical and revolutionary in two steps of my speech. Shiromani Akali Dal has been demanding for a long time that the MSP price should be fixed at one and a half times the cost of the farmer. Three days after this budget speech, the government announced that one and a half times the cost price would be given.

Recently my friend, Congress leader Scindia Ji, has said that MSP used to be fixed, traders used to loot, some other people used to loot, and now they have decided that there will be a difference below MSP; to compensate for that, the central government or the state government will prepare a mechanism with the help of NITI Aayog. I know that we are introducing

the Bhavantar Bharpai Scheme. We will be able to save the farmers from the losses they used to face.

Some shortcomings in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana have been removed. Earlier the block unit used to be the unit; now the village has been made the unit. I want that farmers should make units because when it rains there is loss.

As far as border areas are concerned, as far as the extension of NFL Nangal in Make in India is concerned, I will say all these things in the budget speech. It has been said in this speech that the problem of minorities has been created convincingly. I want to ask the Government whether Sikhs are not in the minority. Sikhs are considered to be the important minority of this country. If any community has shed the most blood for the country's independence, it is that of the Sikhs. If anyone fought at the forefront in the Indo-Pak war, it was the Sikh brothers. Kharge Sahib has left from here; he had said loudly that our government did this and did that. … (*Interruptions*) I want to tell Kharge Saheb and my Congress friends that Congress has done such things that history cannot forget and we can never forget. The patriotic community, which has the highest place, Sri Akal Takht Sahib, our forces and the army, which fights with the enemy countries—those forces were used to destroy

this place. The attack happened on the day that was the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib. No one else can create the history that the friends of Congress have created.

One of their leaders. . . * Yes, he gave a confessing statement yesterday that I killed 100 Sikhs. What harm did anyone do to me? … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

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

… (*Interruptions*)… *

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: It is running on the channels. It came in newspapers. The second thing he said was that someone may shoot the CM of Delhi. The third thing he said was that one hundred and fifty crore rupees of my friends are lying in Swiss banks. Fourthly, he said that I have appointed two judges; whatever needs to be done will be done through them. You are threatening us; I will file a criminal case against anyone who speaks against me. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

* Not recorded.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not connected to the President's Speech.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: This is a very serious matter. Allow me to conclude. I have been sitting since morning; I had asked for time.

Today Wagah Border would have been near Gurgaon, the border of Pakistan, if Master Tara Singh had not been there. The Congress people were the first to put handcuffs on Master Tara Singh's hands. They talk about Jammu and Kashmir; Jammu and Kashmir would not have rotted or burnt if … [1*]Defect the brother-in-law of [*] and there. . . "The government has not been destroyed. Jammu and Kashmir would not have rotted or burnt if Master Tara Singh's advice had been followed, and it would have been allotted to the Sikhs of Pakistan. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is all right.

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[*] Not recorded.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: This is a historical feat of the Emergency. Our country is considered to be the largest democracy in the world. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not connected to the President's speech. Please wind up.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDMUJRA: People like me who used to study in university. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not concluding.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

… (*Interruptions*)... *

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: I am saying loudly that 100 Sikhs were killed, but nothing happened to them. … (*Interruptions*)

A case should be filed against him, and he should be put behind bars. He said a non-mindful thing. … (*Interruptions*) He said one more thing; he said that the day. … * was murdered, I …* He was taking them in his car and taking them around the streets of Delhi, showing that dead bodies of Sikhs were lying there. … (*Interruptions*) had to satisfy him mentally; did this so that he could sleep. He has given this statement. … (*Interruptions*) Deputy Speaker, Sir, such things are happening in this country. Tell me, whom do they respect? Who do they give pride to that we did this and we did that? … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

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

… (*Interruptions*) ... *

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Those who want to eliminate the minority, those who want to eliminate the community of patriots, and those who got our Gurudwara

* Not recorded.

demolished by the army will have to give an answer. … (*Interruptions*) This thing came true. One of their leaders had said that when a big tree falls, the earth trembles. … (*Interruptions*) He had said this. Today the same thing is being said again after 33 years. I want to tell my Congress friends that if you don't change your behaviour... (*Interruptions*) our history is… (*Interruptions*) They say that Abdali came here. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, he is speaking false things against Congress Party. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Already I have told, the name will be deleted.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Abdali had killed one lakh Hindu people on the streets of Delhi. After Abdali, if anyone killed 30 thousand Sikhs, it was the Congress people. Therefore, I want to say that this happened after Abdali, Ghazni, etc. … (*Interruptions*)

With this, I conclude.

[English]

***SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM):** I express my gratitude and indebtedness to our beloved immortal Leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA, before I express my view on the Motion of Thanks.

Though there are lots of demands from Tamil Nadu, I would like to confine to important and long pending railway demand of people of my Arakkonam Constituency for extending the Arakkonam- Velachery EMU fast train (Train No. 43936) up to Tiruttani Station. Due to insufficient frequency of EMU Trains in the morning hours between 7. 00 am to 8. 50 am, most of the train commuters are facing huge hardship travelling to and from Chennai. There is an urgent need for extending the said train up to Tiruttani for the benefit of train passengers in this area. If the above said train starts from Tiruttani instead of Arakkonam, it will be beneficial for many more train passengers living in and around Arakkonam Parliamentary Constituency.

I would also like to bring to kind notice the long pending demand of people of my Arakkonam Constituency to provide a

* Speech was laid on the Table

stoppage for the Brindavan Express Train Nos. 12639-12640 at Sholinghur Railway Station. Sholinghur is famous pilgrimage centre which attracts lots of pilgrims from all over Tamil Nadu. There are large numbers of train commuters who travel to and fro in Brindavan Express. They are finding it very difficult due to the lack of stoppage of this train at Sholinghur Station. Therefore, I urge up on the Government to issue necessary directions to the concerned authorities to provide a stoppage for Brindavan Express Train Nos. 12639-12640 at Sholinghur Station.

Also the Trivandrum Mail Train Nos. 12624 towards Chennai crosses the Arakkonam Junction at 5. 45 ama and it does not stop at Arakkonam but stops at Avadi only. Since the train is not having a stoppage at Arakkonam, the passengers who want to get down at Arakkonam have to travel up to Avadi and catch a train to come back to Arakkonam. This is unnecessary and lot of passengers, particularly elderly people and women with children are suffering a lot because of this. To avoid the inconvenience I urge upon the Government to direct the concerned authorities in Southern Railway to provide stoppage for the Train No. 12624- Trivandrum Mail at Arakkonam Junction.

[Translation]

***SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE (RAVER):** I support the motion of thanks presented by the Hon. member Shri Rakesh Singh in the House today on the speech of the President of India to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on 29th January 2018. Inspired by India's age-old civilisation and the long-vision principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, we added a new special dimension to the Republic Day celebrations with the 10 ASEAN Heads of States visiting our country and praising our government's Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas, which is especially dedicated to the weaker sections and working to make the life of the common man easier.

Giving the slogan of building a clean India to increase the dignity of the poor and women, the government constructed many toilets and provided more than 3 crore 30 lac gas connections free of cost under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which gave them and children great relief from many diseases and gave them an opportunity to compete with the well-off women. The Triple Talaq law, which will soon be legalised by the parliament, has increased the respect of

* Speech was laid on the Table

Muslim women and has played a vital role in freeing them from the recent situation and has given them the right to live a fear-free life by increasing their self-respect. The scope of the Maternity Benefit Act for women was extended from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, which gave working women an opportunity to take good care of their newborn babies and children in the initial days.

To promote self-employment, the government provided loans without bank guarantees through Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, which gave great relief to the poor and middle class. Praised the government for strengthening the economic and social condition by setting up and running their own enterprises. Due to which the poor got an opportunity to move forward and hence got a chance to establish social balance in a new way in the country. To further strengthen the foundation of the government's Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana to train the youth and provide them better employment, I demand that the youth who have done apprenticeships in railway jeans establishments, whose number is only 21000 in the entire country, and who have passed the apprenticeship from 2015 to 2016 before the new Railway policy of 20% reservation, which has been implemented from 21st June 2016, be included in the

service of more than one lakh vacant posts under Railway's Safety Category Group 'D,' so that the Kaushal Vikas Yojana will become even stronger and the faith of these youth in the government will be strengthened.

The government is continuously trying to move towards doubling the income of farmers by 2022, which resulted in record production of food grains and fruits and vegetables this year. He praised the commendable work done to connect the agricultural markets of the country through the e-NAM portal so that farmers get the right and fair price for their produce. The new policy of pulses has increased production, and farmers have gotten a fair price. Since my region has the highest production of bananas in the country, I place before the government the demand for insurance coverage on this product under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana with minimal premium for the progress of these farmers, and I demand to give the status of fruit to bananas and include them in the National Horticulture Mission.

Under the National Horticulture Mission, by making Horti Train and VPU goods racks available to farmers at concentrated tariff rates, farmers of my district can bring their banana crop to sell in the big fruit markets of India. By getting a fair price

for it, our government's thinking towards the nation's prosperity in farmers's welfare will get a further boost. Therefore, I demand from my region that such a goods train scheme be operated under the Bhusaval Railway Division.

Our government has made women's power an integral part of the country's various development journeys. To further strengthen this foundation and to fully empower women farmers, I suggest making a proper plan for such women in the agriculture sector, which includes a plan to provide fertilisers and institutional loans, especially to women cultivating bananas and other fruits.

Work on many irrigation projects that were pending for years is in progress, which will benefit our farmers completely, due to which farmers will be free from fear of producing agricultural produce in case of natural calamities, which will directly result in promoting the balanced and progressive life of the farmers. He praised the ambitious scheme of increasing the income of farmers by providing large amounts of funds to them for adding agricultural produce to businesses like dairy processing and infrastructure.

In his speech, the President praised the work done by my government to connect fifty-six airports and thirty-one

heliports under the 'Udaan Yojana' for air connectivity to small cities. Jalgaon Airport in my state of Maharashtra, which is fully prepared to handle commercial traffic, has recently been connected to a city like Mumbai under this scheme, for which I would like to thank the government and the people of my constituency. Along with this, many students from my Raver constituency go to Pune city for higher education. These students often have to travel for emergency work. Therefore, through this motion of thanks, I demand to start air service from Jalgaon to Pune and further to Delhi as soon as possible. Its proper benefit will also be availed to micro and small industries, rural areas and farmers, and many tourists visiting the world-famous Ajanta Caves.

On the creation of basic infrastructure and ultra-modern infrastructure, our government has decided to convert all the narrow gauges in the country to broad gauge, due to which recently there is a provision for the Pachora-Jamner railway line, which has been operational from pre-independence 1918 till date in my Lok Sabha constituency. My government has further decided to extend this line to Malkapur via Bodwad along with this conversion. I demand that the Pachora-Jamner railway line be connected from Pahur station to Ajanta Caves

through a branch line for the convenience of the many tourists who come to see the world-famous Ajanta Caves and for direct connection with Mumbai.

While praising the launch of a cheap and simple insurance scheme for the economic security of the poor, farmers and senior citizens, he also praised the arrangement made for them to get the benefit of a simple and cheap pension scheme for their prosperous life.

In the modern era of digital connectivity, citizens were made digitally literate under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Literacy Campaign.' Due to the commendable steps taken in electronics manufacturing, mobile manufacturing companies are expanding their business in the country, due to which more employment opportunities are being provided to the youth of the country, and due to reduced imports, the economic condition is also getting a boost.

"Sports Talent Search Portal" was started to enable rural, backward and lower-level youth to perform in their sports field and to ensure transparency in the selection of talented players so that talented players get a fair and deserving opportunity and the country's name reaches a high level in the world in this field of sports. This experiment was praised. It was also mentioned

that by organising several international sports, the country has created a new place for itself in the world.

Expressing concern over the adverse impact on the economy and development of the country due to continuous elections in one part or the other of the country, the burden on human resources, and the disruption of the development process due to the imposition of a code of conduct, discussions on the issue of holding simultaneous elections in the country and building consensus among political parties will be a new initiative towards all-round development of the country; hence, it is recommended to hold simultaneous elections in the country.

'One Nation One Tax' for economic integration— The biggest tax reform of this country, the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), ensures that the benefits of reduction in prices reach consumers directly, and a National Authority has been formed for this.

the President, while patting the back of the Government for introducing the Constitution Amendment Bill in the Parliament to give constitutional status to the National Backward Classes Commission for the upliftment and respect of all sections of society and for equality of the weak and the

deprived, has constituted a commission to study the sub-categorisation of backward classes to make the benefits of higher education and appointments accessible to the most backward among the backward classes.It is reflected in the speech of the President that the Government is dedicated towards the poor, farmers, minorities and youth and is continuously striving for their progress. My government, under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, respecting the basic spirit of the Constitution, is committed to strengthening social justice and economic democracy in the country and to making the life of the common man easier, and we will celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, in 2019 by making the country completely clean. With such reverence, I fully support the motion of thanks presented by Hon. Member Shri Rakesh Singh in the House today on the address of the President of India.

*SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SAINT KABIR NAGAR): Today, 2332 years ago, while addressing the citizens of the nation, great Indian political thinker Acharya Chanakya said that being born in a poor or uneducated family is not a crime, but dying as a poor and uneducated person is the biggest crime on earth. Acharya Chanakya, in his speech, shook the mindset of the citizens by saying that poverty, that is, lack of resources, is a living hell. Assimilating these sentiments, our Hon. Prime Minister has taken a firm decision that we do not have any enemy country in the world. We do not hate any class, so the honourable Prime Minister has given the slogan to the citizens of the country: Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas. To bring these sentiments to fruition, the honourable Prime Minister is tirelessly working hard and enthusiastically and is displaying valour to bring to fruition missions like poverty-free India, illiteracy-free India, filth-free India, unemployment-free India, etc.

It is the vision of our Prime Minister that the line of actual construction of India passes through the farmers, the poor, labourers and the youth. Our government, where farmers get a fair price for their produce and labourers get rewarded for their

* Speech was laid on the Table

hard work, at the same time, has made a meaningful effort to bring about a tremendous revolution through skill development and Make in India to create self-reliance among the youth. Our government has fulfilled the dreams of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, who had hoped that political democracy would be possible along with economic and social democracy in independent India. While implementing this mission, the successful Hon. Prime Minister of India is making tireless efforts to provide rights and privileges to Dalits, backward classes, minorities, women and youth. Hence, while taking this mission forward, our government is also receiving tremendous support from the country's eminent scientists, renowned educationists, farmers, labourers, technocrats, businessmen, youth and women. As a result of this, our government wants to assure the citizens of the country that by 2022, we will be successful in introducing a happy India, a clean India, a self-reliant India, a safe India and an empowered India to the country and the world.

[English]

[1]*SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA (RAMANATHAPURAM): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Thank you so much for allowing me to take part in the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the Hon. President's Address to Parliament. This is the policy document of the Government. It is considered as a prelude to the Schemes that are to be implemented by the Government during this year. We always look at the Address of Hon. President as a curtain raiser for the future programmes of the present Government. I wish to stress on one important aspect of the Hon. President's Address. A separate paragraph in the Address has been dedicated to the issue of Triple Talaq with due importance. Hon. President says and I quote, "My Government has tabled a Bill on Triple Talaq, once enacted, will also enable Muslim sisters and daughters to live a life of self-respect with courage.:" Unquote. This is stated by Hon. President in his Address to Parliament. It is said that once the law is enacted Muslim sisters and daughters will live a life of self-respect and courage. It is important to know what the Muslim community thinks about this issue. Once this law is enacted the Muslim families which are now living in peace

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

and harmony will be forced to witness deterioration and destruction. I wish to mention here that this is the mind-set of the entire Muslim community in India. When the Bill on Triple Talaq was introduced in Parliament in December last year, I raised some pertinent questions and sought clarifications. While replying to the debate, Hon. Minister of Law did not answer to any of my questions. Hon. Law Minister did not clarify. I wish to add something more on this issue. Hon. Supreme Court says that pronouncement of Talaq three times, at one go, will not be considered as divorce. It means the contract of marriage has not become null and avoid as the married couple live together without any separation. If they seem to live together, it means that they are not separated. In the case of no break-up in the contract of marriage, how will be the husband of that woman be an offender. If he is not an offender, how can you arrest or punish him? You should answer my question. This is a very valid question. Hon. Prime Minister should answer. Hon. Prime Minister has in different fora, time and again, stressed that he has brought a new law to protect the Muslim women of this country. Hon. Prime Minister will be replying to this discussion on the Motion of Thanks. I urge that he should answer my questions. Section 3 of the Bill on Triple

Talaq says, “Any pronouncement of Talaq by a person on his wife, by words either spoken or written, or in electronic form, or in any other manner whatsoever shall be void and illegal”. Section 4 says that whoever pronounces Talaq referred to in Section 3, upon his wife shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend for a period up to 3 years and fine. This is as mentioned in the Bill, No Union Government has ever got the courage to bring such a legislation since the independence of our country. Who will provide the subsistence assistance to the Muslim woman when her husband is lodged in jail? Who can extend help to Muslim woman and her children when her husband is imprisoned. Such a Bill has been introduced by this Government. I urge upon that the Hon. Prime Minister should reply to my questions. Marriage is a civil contract. How can you provide criminal punishment to a person who has not committed any offence. ? The Government should clarify on how a civil law can be converted into a criminal law. In the year 2006, Justice H. K. Sema and Justice R. V. Raveendran, Hon. Judges of the Supreme Court had categorically stated in their verdict that a civil case should never be converted into a criminal case. I quote from the verdict. “Converting a civil matter into a criminal one is not

right. No such attempt should be termed as good. This is against the practice of law and should not be allowed. ” Unquote.

Whether or not this judgement is acceptable to the present Government? This is the judgement of the Hon. Supreme Court. Whether the Union Government is in agreement with this verdict or not? What is the response of this Government. I want to know from you. I want the Hon. Prime Minister to clarify. This Bill is against the Article 14 and Article 15 of the Constitution of India. But this Bill on Triple Talaq is just against those fundamental rights. There is a fundamental flaw in this Bill. This Bill violates the basic feature of our Constitution. The fundamental rights provided under Article 14 are severely hampered. I want to ask a pertinent question as to how can you legislate a law which is totally against the provision of fundamental rights as enshrined in the Constitution. They say that the Bill was brought before the Parliament on the directions of Hon. Supreme Court. Triple Talaq at one go is not valid as per the verdict of Hon. Supreme Court. If the Union Government desires so, it can bring a legislation on these lines. Hon. Supreme Court has never directed to legislate a law in this regard with criminal punishment. This is a blame game of the Union Government.

My question to the Union Government is whether they have followed all the directions of Hon. Supreme Court in several matters. Hon. Supreme Court has so far pronounced several landmark judgements in the interest of general public. Have you ever tried to implemented all those directions? After a long legal battle, we got a verdict in favour of Tamil Nadu from the Hon. Supreme Court in the Cauvery river water dispute. Hon. Supreme Court in its verdict had directed the Union Government to follow the interim verdict of the Cauvery rover water Tribunal in immediately setting up of a Cauvery river water Management Board and Cauvery Regulation Committee . This is an issue affecting the livelihood of the people of Tamil Nadu. Have you ever come forward to implement the verdict of Hon. Supreme Court protecting the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu. ? You have not done anything in this regard. You have rather got the courage to take this extreme step for oppressing and suppressing a community which nobody would have even ever dreamt of. This is what I wish to mention. Pronouncement of Triple Talaq at one go cannot be considered as divorce. If the Union Government desires to bring a legislation in these lines it can go ahead. This is what is mentioned by the Hon. Supreme Court in its verdict. Hon.

Court has upheld the provisions of Shariat law. Islamic law says that pronouncement of Talaq three time at one go is null and void. This was upheld by the Hon. Supreme Court. Everybody is welcoming this decision. But bringing a legislation to change this into a criminal offence is totally unacceptable. Muslim community will never accept this. I wish to kindly state that whether a leader of a country will wage a war against his own people? Whether a king of a country will act against his own countrymen? Will he wage a war against them? This Government is waging a war against the people of this Country. It is a civil war against the minority community throughout India by this Government. This is my accusation. What is Shariat? What do the Muslims think about Shariat? Shariat is a way of life. We believe that this has been provided by our God. Prophet Mohammad (BPUH) is an illiterate. He cannot read or write. How a person, who did not know to read or write can create the Holy Quran? He has not created this holy book. He has not written it. Holy Quran was not available during the period of Prophet Mohammad. I wish to say to this august House that this Holy Quran which guides us, which gives us the rules of life, which gives the Shariat law, was not available during the period of Prophet Mohammad. After his time, Holy

Quran was compiled during the period of Hazrat Umar. Holy Quran was published as a book during the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr. The sayings of God have been compiled and published in a book form called the Holy Quran. In various Universities, as many as 40,000 versions of Holy Quran were researched and it was found that there is absolute unanimity with zero difference. Shariat law is the belief and life of Muslims. The prevent Government has even tried to bring changes or amendments to such a Shariat law without any fear in mind. I am afraid as to what will happen to this Government in future. As I mentioned earlier, as per the legislation anybody can file a case. Not only the affected woman, anybody else can file a case. Once the case is registered, the person who is the husband of the affected woman will be arrested and put behind bars. Muslim males will be jailed. Affected women will roam on streets. This is going to take place. Whether this is what the Government desires to witness?. This Government wants to oppress the Muslim community. This is a prelude to the Uniform Civil Code. O 2 December, 1948 Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar had spoken in this very august House about this issue. He has categorically stated that no Government can exercise its powers to provoke the Muslim community to rise in rebellion. This was

the statement made by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in this House. I quote “The Government cannot exercise its power in such a manner to provoke the Muslim community to rise in rebellion. I think it would be a mad Government if it did so. ” Unquote. This was the statement made by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in this august House on 2 December, 1948. Even after mentioning this, if the Government is stubborn in not withdrawing this bill, I can cite yet another example. It you want the issue of Triple Talaq to be put to test on a trial basis well before the introduction of Uniform Civil Code, I wish to say that you will only be unsuccessful in all your attempts. King Akbar propounded a new religion called Din-I-Ilahi with all the best elements from various religions of that time. Din-I-Ilahi had only 22 adherents What was the fate of Din-I-Ilahi? With the demise of King Akbar, this new religion founded by him also lost its significance and came to an end. Hence I wish to state that your efforts will never be successful. You are trying to amend the Shariat law. You will witness the strong reaction. I wish to caution you that no Muslim citizen in India will ever accept to give up Shariat law. If you yourself have chosen spoil your reputation, we cannot do anything. We are clueless. A couplet from the classical work Tirukkural says, “Idippaarai

Illaatha Emaraa Mannan Keduppaar Illaanum Kedum. ” The Couplet of Tirukkural goes to explain the fact that if a King is without the guard of wise men who can rebuke him, he will perish even there be no one to destroy him. The great Tamil Poet Mahakavi Bharathiyar says that “If an educated person does the mischief, he will go unprotected; he will go unprotected”. You are intentionally doing wrong. You are intentionally deciding to crush the Muslim community. You are intentionally trying to suppress the minorities. Therefore your decision will not fetch you success. We will not let you to be successful in your attempts. Thank you for this opportunity.

20 00 hrs

***DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR):** Addressing the Joint Session of Parliament on the first day of Budget Session, President Ramnath Kovind gave Government's list of priorities including farmers, jobs, women along with bijli- sadak- pani and schemes for the minorities, the disabled and the elderly. Highlighting the Government's flagship Aadhaar Scheme, the unique identity number has helped in securing the rights of the poor by eliminating middlemen and till now more than Rs. 57,000 crore have been prevented from going into the wrong hands.

The Government is committed to doubling the income of the farmers by 2022. The work of linking the agricultural markets online in the country is currently being carried out for the farmers to get fair price for their produce.

Employment opportunities have been provided to the youth belonging to Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain communities through programmes such as, 'Seekho Aur Kamao', 'Usstad', 'Garib Nawaz Kaushal Vikas Yojana', 'Nai Roshni', etc. More than 45 lakh students have benefitted from

* Speech was laid on the Table

scholarships, fellowships, skill development and coaching schemes during the last one year.

Enterprises or companies creating new employment opportunities are being provided financial assistance under the 'Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana'. Over 20 lakh people have benefitted under this scheme.

Government started the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme to end discrimination. Looking at the positive result of this scheme, its scope has now been increased from 161 districts to 640 districts.

The dignity of Muslim women has remained hostage to political gains and losses for many decades. Now, the country has got an opportunity to get rid of this situation. My Government has presented a Bill in relation to Triple Talaq. I hope that Parliament will pass the Bill soon and officially make it an illegal and unlawful practice.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI PRABHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA (BARDAULI):** First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. President for raising many important issues related to the national interest in his speech and discussing the main points:

Bank accounts of about 31 crore poor have been opened so far under Jan Dhan Yojana. Before the launch of this scheme, the number of women's savings accounts in the country was around 28 percent, which has now increased to more than 40 percent. Around 10 crore loans have been sanctioned so far under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana; loans worth more than Rs 4 lakh crore have been given. There are about 3 crore people who have succeeded in starting self-employment. A new kind of social balance is being established in the country, in which every poor person is getting an equal opportunity to move forward. Schemes have been made available to the poor on one rupee per month and ninety paise per day premium insurance. Under these schemes, the poor have received an amount of about two thousand crore claims.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

Solving the problems of farmers and raising their standard of living is the top priority of the government. The schemes are not only reducing the worries of the farmers but are also reducing the expenditure on farming. Due to the hard work of the farmers, there has been a record production of 275 tonnes of food grains and 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables in the country. The work of completing 99 irrigation projects pending for decades is also in progress. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana has been launched to ensure that farmers' produce is not damaged before reaching the market and there is no wastage of agricultural produce in the country. An ambitious scheme has been launched by the Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund to increase the income of farmers. On one hand, the production of urea has increased; on the other hand, black marketing of urea has also stopped after 100 percent neem coating.

The government is active in removing the feeling of financial insecurity in the lives of the poor, farmers and senior citizens. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, cheap and simple insurance services are being provided to the farmers. 5 crore 71 lakh farmers in the country have been provided security cover under this scheme. For the social

security of the elderly, about 80 lakh senior citizens are benefiting under the Atal Pension Scheme of the government.

The respect for Muslim women has been a subject of political gain and loss for many decades. Now the country again got an opportunity to get free from this situation. After enacting the Triple Talaq law, Muslim sisters and daughters will be able to live a life without fear with self-respect. To end discrimination against daughters, my government started the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme.

Under the Bharat Net project, work is being done to connect 2.50 lakh of the rural population of the country with broadband. More than 1 lakh panchayats have been connected in the first phase. To bring light into the lives of the poor, electricity connections are being given to 4 crore poor people under the Saubhagya Yojana. The work of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is progressing rapidly to bring development to every section of the society. More than 82 percent of villages have been connected by road. Most of them are in remote and inaccessible areas. The aim is to provide road connectivity to every village in the country by 2019. The objectives of the law need to be strengthened further so that the poor can get enough food. The system of providing food grains

at cheap rates is being made transparent in all the states. The upliftment and respect of every weak and deprived section of the society is the priority of the government.

The minimum support prices for several forest products collected by tribals have been increased. The livelihood of millions of people in various tribal areas of the country, especially in the Northeast, is dependent on the bamboo industry. The reason for bamboo being classified as a tree was that it was difficult to use it for livelihood. Keeping these difficulties in mind, the government removed bamboo from the category of tree. Now there is freedom to cut and transport bamboo. Museums for the tribal freedom struggle are being established. The foundation stone of the museum was laid at Kevadia near the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the banks of the Narmada in Gujarat. On behalf of the tribals, we express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji for this noble work. The proposal to build museums in tribal states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Manipur is also under consideration of the government.

Our country is the youngest country in the world. To enable the youth of the country to fulfil their dreams and become self-

employed, the government is running programs like Start-up India, Stand-up, Skill India Mission, and Mudra Yojana.

Recently, my government has approved two schemes named "Sankalp" and "Strive" to develop skills among the youth as per today's industrial requirements.

Our working brothers play a central role in nation building. With sensitivity towards workers, the process of reform in labour laws is continuously going on. The minimum wage of workers has been increased by more than 40 percent. The number of registers for compliance with labour laws was reduced from 56 to 5. Now all returns are filed online on the Shramik Suvidha Portal.

Like Arjun, the Hon. Prime Minister will continue to work, keeping one goal in mind. Our fight is for the progress of the country and for the development of the country. We will definitely win against those who try to stop us and will take the country forward under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Thank you.

***SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON):** I rise to support this motion of thanks. Our NDA Government is almost completing 4 years since its formation. Due to the continuous efforts of the government, our country has progressed in every field during these four years. Whether it is a matter of better health of the people or of economic development of the country. Whether it is the field of foreign policy or the defence of the country.

We all know that through the speech of the HON. President, the government gives an account of its past work and informs the country and the Parliament about the strategy to be adopted for the coming year. Our Government does not believe in appeasement but believes in the policy of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' and is making every effort to empower the minorities to implement this strategy. Although the government has abolished the Haj subsidy in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court, it has also decided that all this money will be spent on the educational development of minorities, especially minority women.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

It has been the endeavour of our government to provide better and affordable health facilities to the poor and middle-class people. At the same time, the quality of medical care should be improved, and on this basis, the new National Health Policy is being implemented. Due to the Jan Dhan Yojana of the government, today 31 crore poor people have succeeded in connecting with banking services. Due to demonetisation, along with the elimination of black money from the country, the problem of counterfeit currency has also been gotten rid of to a great extent. The Government is also committed to strengthening the banking system and bringing transparency to it. For this, a decision has also been taken to recapitalise public sector banks with a capital investment of more than Rs 2 lac crore. Our fight against corruption continues. In this context, registration of about 350,000 suspicious companies has been cancelled in the last year.

Through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the farmer is assured of compensation for the losses incurred due to adverse weather conditions year after year. At the same time, the government is trying to double the income of the farmers. To promote irrigation facilities, the government has implemented various irrigation schemes on a priority basis

across the country, and their results will start becoming visible in the coming years.

The government has approved a scheme of more than Rs 18 thousand crore for modernisation of police forces. Due to the regular efforts of the Central Government and State Governments, the internal security of the country has improved remarkably. In the Northeast, the security situation has also changed. Incidents of Naxalite-Maoist violence have also decreased. At the same time, the policy related to strategic alliances in the defence manufacturing sector has also been finalised. This will encourage greater private sector participation and employment generation in the manufacturing of key defence platforms and equipment. Not only this, but the government has fulfilled its promise of 'One Rank-One Pension' and has paid arrears of more than Rs. 10 thousand crores to more than 20 lac retired soldiers.

Due to these efforts of the government, in three years, India has moved from 142nd rank to 100th rank in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking. This has increased the reputation of the country in the world market. For the economic integration of the country, the government has carried out the biggest tax reform since independence in the form of the Goods

and Services Tax. To ensure that the benefit of reduced prices reaches consumers, the Government has constituted the National Anti-Profiteering Authority.

Due to the diplomatic efforts of the government, India has gained new respect in the world. Today all Indians living in any corner of the world have confidence that if they face any trouble anywhere, their government will rescue them safely and take them back to the country. Since 2014, more than 90,000 Indians stranded abroad in distress have been brought back.

The government has ensured availability of electricity to the states at affordable rates by completing the work of 'One Nation-One Grid.' Schemes worth approximately one and a half lakh crore rupees have been implemented to strengthen the power distribution system in every village and town of the country. Under the 'Ujala Yojana,' more than 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed in the country. More than 50 crore LED bulbs have been sold by the private sector too. Due to this, the poor and middle class are saving more than Rs 40,000 crore annually in their electricity bills. This is the first time when the expansion of power capacity in the country has increased more than the target. Now India has become the net exporter of

electricity. The work of providing electricity to 18,000 villages is also moving towards completion.

Under the Ujjwala Yojana, by getting free LPG connections, 4 crore women of the country have gotten rid of smoke and stoves, and their families have gotten a smoke-free, healthy environment. I am confident that by the end of next year, the government will provide LPG connections to all 10 crore poor families in the country.

In order to connect small cities of the country by air and to enable the lower middle class, middle class and youth to easily avail the benefit of air travel at low cost, the 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' or 'Udaan' scheme has been started. After independence, only 76 airports in the country were connected with commercial flights, whereas in just 15 months of the 'UDAN' scheme, work has been started to connect 56 airports and 31 helipads. Till now flights have already started from 16 such airports. Under this scheme, flights have also been started from my Jalgaon area, for which I express my heartfelt thanks to the Hon. Civil Aviation Minister and the Government on behalf of the people of Jalgaon and on my own behalf.

The government has been successful in fulfilling every promise made to the people of the country during the elections,

one by one. Be it expansion of railway services or metro rail projects in different parts of the country. Be it development of national highways or improvement in transportation facilities. Be it digital literacy or improvement in the communication system in the country. Be it the field of space or the development of missiles. The government is achieving new achievements in every field and deserves congratulations.

On this occasion, I draw the attention of the government towards the following problems of my Jalgaon parliamentary constituency and request that it should consider these problems sympathetically and take appropriate and prompt action for their solution-

1. Three important projects in the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra have been pending consideration with the Central Government for a long time. These should be approved quickly, and necessary funds should be made available for their implementation.
2. There is a need to start work on National Highway 211 between Dhule and Chalisgaon in Maharashtra as soon as possible and widen it.

3. The part of National Highway 6 falling in Jalgaon city has become very dilapidated, and due to its narrowness, the general public has to face the problem of traffic jams for hours. To repair this part as soon as possible and construct several flyovers and underpasses, the state government has prepared a DPR of Rs. 474 crores and sent it to the central government. It needs to be approved, and work needs to be done immediately.

4. In view of the expectations of the general public, a 100-bed naturopathy hospital should be established in the Jalgaon district.

5. Necessary funds should be released soon for early approval and working on the long-pending proposal with the Central Water Commission for removing the huge amount of silt stuck in the Jamda and Dahigaon water storage areas of Jalgaon's nearly 50-year-old Girna Dam and irrigation system, increasing the water storage capacity, and construction of embankments.

6. The river linking project pending with the Central Water Commission for linking the Girna River in Jalgaon with the Bori, Anjani, Tittur and Mahaswa

tributary rivers through channels should be approved soon and the necessary funds should be released soon to work on it.

7. Jalgaon has a large number of plastic units that manufacture various plastic products. A plastic park should be established here for the development of the plastic industry.

8. A textile park or cluster should be set up in Jalgaon for the development of the large number of spinning mills and other related industries so that along with economic development, employment opportunities for the youth can also increase.

9. Banana, mango and orange fruits are produced in large quantities in our Jalgaon district. Therefore, to ensure better prices for the fruit-producing farmers and for their processing, a food training centre should be established along with processing industries so that by providing training to small entrepreneurs for processing, their sources of income will increase as well as employment opportunities.

10. A para-military training centre should be established at Jalgaon.
11. A Passport Seva Kendra should be established at Jalgaon.
12. Under the India BPO Promotion Scheme being implemented under the Digital India Program, operations should also be started in Jalgaon.

With these words, I congratulate my government for the important work done in the interest of the common citizens of the country during the last four years and support the motion of thanks.

Plastic production takes place on a very large scale in my Lok Sabha constituency, Jalgaon. 16 percent of the total plastic production in the country takes place in Jalgaon. Two plastic parks were sanctioned in the country—1) Baroda (Gujarat) and 2) Jalgaon (Maharashtra)—but till now there has been no movement regarding the plastic park. That is why a plastic park and a C I.P.E.T. college should be constructed in Jalgaon as soon as possible.

[English]

[1*]ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA): I congratulate the President for his maiden Address to the Joint Session of the Parliament.

In 2014, the Government led by Shri Narendra Modi ji assumed office with high expectation from the people of this country. And almost after four years of its rule, the people of this country are noticing is major change in approach, policies, execution and intent of the Govt. It's a Government in whom the people have placed its full trust and faith.

The policies and programmes envisaged and executed by this Government are here to stay. It's no more *Garibi hatao* but it is *Garib kalyan*. It's not a 20 point programme, but it's Housing for All. It's not power shortage, but it's Saubhagya Yojana. It's not arbitrary allotment of coal mines, but it is coal allotment through transparent means. It's not scammed allocation of spectrum but revenue earning transparent methodology followed by the Ministry. ‘Swachh Bharat’ is not only a lip service but is a mission. Clean Ganga is not a subject of discussion, but sooner it is to be a reality. Roads, ports and

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

airports have become nerve centres of growth of aspiring Indians and young entrepreneurs with increasing connectivity and modernisation. Telephone, mobile connectivity are now issues of the past, and India is moving ahead with galloping speed in connecting the rural and urban India across.

India is a young nation with 65% population below the age of 35 years. This population desires to expand its avenues in sectors of education and entrepreneurship. The programmes like MUDRA, Start Up, Stand Up have fuelled the thinking and zeal of this young population to achieve something extraordinary. As a result, it is noticed that world is keenly watching India and is desirous of investing in Indian talent and Industry.

Toilet is no more subject of dirt or phobia, but it has assumed a significant place in board rooms of Companies to film industry. It's the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi and his Government that has brought this transformation in the mind-set of the people of this country.

Farmer fraternity is now well poised to assume an important place with lot of respect and recognition that this Government has given to this otherwise so called vulnerable section of the Indian society. With ambitious objective of

doubling the farmers' income, various schemes such as PM Fasal Bima Yojana, PM Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Cards, etc. have been initiated and effectively executed reaching crores of farmers.

Education has gained utmost importance with starting of additional IIT's, IIIT's, IIM's, etc. adapting the curriculum suiting to changing times, scholarships, etc.

Welfare of security forces is no more a subject of debate and discussion. OROP and Surgical strike has brought in sea change in boosting the morale and confidence of our security forces.

The projects, programmes and initiatives taken by this Government in augmenting the standard of living and redressing the long pending issues of SCs, OBCs and STs brethren has helped in strengthening the social fabric, health and in achieving the development and progress of the Indian society.

Honesty, integrity and corruption- free Government are the hallmarks of this Government led by PM Shri Narendra Modi.

Hon. Rashtrapati ji in his Address has dwelt on the priorities of the Government and has appealed the nation to

work to achieve ideals of equality and fraternity towards creating a glorious India. I thank Hon. Rashtrapati ji for his Address.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Sir, it is not difficult to imagine the condition of the poor in a country where 73 percent of the wealth is in the hands of only one percent of the people. People are leaving this world while waiting for old-age pensions. The poor are dying without treatment. Schemes like NREGA and MNREGA were made for the poor. They are made to do work, but for years, for years and a half, they do not get paid for that work; they do not get wages. Whenever we go to villages, the biggest complaint we get is that we are made to work under NREGA but are not paid. Those who work in these schemes earn on the same day and eat food on the same day. They are not in a position to borrow. One thing I am not able to understand is why every scheme of this government is going till the year 2022. Will the year 2022 come directly after the year 2018 this time? Where have the three years in between gone? It is being said that the income of farmers will be doubled, but it will be done in the year 2022. We will convert temporary houses into permanent ones, but we will build them in the year 2022. We will educate the tribal children, but we will do it in the year 2022. I want to ask, where have the three years between 2018 and 2022 gone? You had promised that you

would do these tasks in a hundred days each. Where did those promises go?

I tell you the condition of the minorities. There is a city in my parliamentary constituency and assembly constituency called Marelkotla. There is a Muslim majority population here. There is a government college here, and the population is more than one hundred twenty-five thousand. You will be surprised and shocked to know that there is a college there, but there is no school for boys to study Plus One and Plus Two after matriculation. Muslim boys go to nearby villages and pass Plus One and Plus Two classes and take admission in government colleges. There is no science class in the girls plus-two school. That school runs in two shifts because the number of girls there is very high. Maulana Azad Foundation has a lot of money to educate Muslim children, but no one knows where that money is being used.

I want to say, when will you make the farmers of Punjab debt-free? Nothing has been said on this subject in the president's speech and in the budget.

Sir, I want to recite four lines. I will talk in a few lines about things that the President has not even mentioned in his two-

hour speech. I will appeal to the Members of BJP to listen carefully.

"Petrol and diesel prices are getting far from the reach of the general public.

Farmers are being forced to commit suicide across the country.

The traders have not yet recovered from the blow of GST and demonetisation

I want to ask a question to the Modi government.

It's almost four years since you became

In these four years you gave lot of fake promise.

You tell me one thing honestly, when are the good days going to come?"

"Where did the intention to implement the Swaminathan Commission report go,

Where did the promise of providing two crore jobs every year go?

For how long the youth of Punjab will burn in the fire of unemployment?

Or will fry pakoda after doing BA-MA.

You people are just speech givers and your style of speech is also unique,

In the same manner, tell me when are the good days going to come?”

Finally, I want to say:

“By speaking about Digital India, he has awakened new hopes in the youth of the country

And the country is entangled between Khilji, Shahjahan and Tipu Sultans

And some people are taking special advantage of the government schemes,

The saints are doing business, the businessmen are taking retirement.

Wherever Prime Minister Modi is going to go,

People are going to ask him this question that tell me Modiji,

When are the good days going to come?”

SHRI JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, you gave me this opportunity to speak; thank you very much for that.

We all have proposed an amendment in the House on the speech of the President, which is related to the country, is related to the state of Bihar, is related to our parliamentary constituency Banka, and is related to Bhagalpur-Jamui-Lakhisarai. The country is going through a difficult situation. This was the first speech of the President. There was no discussion about the middle class, there was no mention of young women, there was no mention of farmers, there was no mention of retail traders, and there was no mention of employment opportunities for SC, ST and Muslim brothers. Once the country was cheated. These are promise breakers. This budget has been presented in despair and frustration. I want to ask, where did the special state status of Bihar go? Where did the talk of a special package go? Today the situation has gone from bad to worse. The Bharatiya Janata Party and this government are dream merchants. They do demonetisation, but in the year 2019 the people of the country will ban their votes.

Jobs for two crore youth and Make in India were talked about. They used to call inflation a witch. How did she become their friend now? It's amazing.

There is a saying that the hunter will come, spread his net and put the grains. These people are hunters. They have trapped people by luring them. But in the year 2019, the people of this country - farmers, labourers and youth, none of them are going to fall into their trap.

Get the caste census done, give reservations, conspiracies are being hatched against opposition leaders, and they are being harassed. Remember, the day is coming when people will say, Vacate the throne; the people of the country are coming. You guys, please remember this.

Shri Babul ji is sitting here; he will point to you and tell you, and then this thing will come to light.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): “Truth cannot be hidden by artificial principles; fragrance cannot come from paper flowers.”

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: "Truth cannot be hidden by artificial principles, and fragrance can never come from paper flowers."

Sir, I will finish my talk in three or four minutes. Promise your promise. You worked to show this country many golden dreams and the beautiful dreams of Mungeri Lal.

"Your promise, your promise, the simple voter of this country died on your promise."

That is why today they do politics of graveyards and crematoriums. Where will the crematorium be built, and where will the cemetery be built? They do politics on cow and ram. How will the good days come? When will inflation decrease? When will two crore youth get jobs? Ahir Regiment and Mahar Regiment, all the regiments exist, but the Ahir and Mahar Regiments should also be formed. Attacks are taking place from across the border. The country is being saffronized. Kasganj is an example of it. Your countdown has started from Gujarat. They are going today. Two members have come from Rajasthan; more will come in the coming time.

Sir, today there are many questions before the country. The condition of Bihar is bad. There have been atrocities on Dalits,

the Srijan scam, the paddy scam and atrocities on Dalits in Nandan Gram; women have been tortured. There the administration has sent the Mahadalit to jail, and sticks have been fired. I will conclude my speech in two minutes. There is no law and order in Bihar. There is murder, there is robbery, there is burglary, there is crime, and there is rape. Women are brought from Nepal via Madhubani, Muzaffarpur and border districts of Bihar on the pretext of jobs. They are lured and sold openly in the country. The Home Ministry should look into this.

Sir, I also want to recite a poem; please listen to it carefully.

Gandhiji had said, “Do or die, the British should leave India. Subhash Chandra Bose had said, You give us blood, we will give you freedom. Shastri ji had said, Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan. Our then Chief Minister of Bihar Laluji had said, Study or die. What the leaders of the present are saying, the leaders of this country are saying, is vote for us, open a pakora shop, and stop studying. We are with everyone; the country will grow with pakodas. Good days will come.” That is what they are promising to the country.

Sir, I want to say in one line, “If we even sigh, we get [1*] defamed, whereas on the other hand, they kill in billions and crores, but no one even discusses them.” The situation is very serious. They say that the country has not done anything in 70 years. Who says that the country has done nothing in 70 years? I am shouting loudly that when tanks, machine guns and jet planes came out from India Gate on 26th January, that was the earning of the last 70 years. It was not BJP's two-year earnings. Remember, the country progressed in 70 years. ... * will not progress with promise. When the time comes, we will put forward our point again. Thank you very much for the time you gave.

SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO: You have divided the identity of the common people into so many parts that there is nothing left for Bihar.

* Not recorded.

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, the President, through his speech to both Houses of Parliament, presented a scenario of India's journey of pride, dignity and development in the world.

Sir, it is the strength of the people's power of the country that today, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, the fate of the villages, the poor and the farmers of the country is changing. This is such a Government, which has set the target of changing the fate of the farmers of the country within these three and a half years. He took care of the workers, youth and women of the country and also took a journey of development from village to city for the development of the country. Chairman Sir, now if we look at the tenure of three and a half years, we also want to compare it with that tenure of 70 years. In the last three and a half years, no one cared about the farmers of the country. This is the first government in which the Hon. Prime Minister has said that we will work towards the goal of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022. It would have been better if some government in 70 years had said that we will work to change the condition and direction of the farmers. We said in the House and outside the House that we will change the fate of the farmers of the country. Today this change is not

just a change; we made this change in the budget. For the first time in the history of the country, in the budget speech, a proposal was made to give more than 50 percent of the cost to the farmers. We have worked for the farmers. Whenever we used to talk about commodities under this line of action, our Jyotiraditya Scindia ji used to say that the price of urad is being sold at the support price of three hundred fifty rupees; perhaps he did not know that the support price of urad is Rs. 5200. It would have been better if we had implemented the Prime Minister Insurance Scheme for farmers wherever there is a matter of disaster for the farmer. When farmers crops were destroyed by hailstorms, for the first time the government talked about increasing the disaster compensation by two and a half times. We financed such an irrigation scheme in Nanyan, which was lying closed, through NABARD and provided water to farmers fields. We have worked to establish industries of agriculture and animal husbandry people through credit cards to farmers, livestock farmers and fishermen of the country. We have set a direction on how we will aim to double the income of farmers by the year 2022. Not only this, but for those commodities that were not bought at the support price, our Agriculture Minister, through the Prime Minister, announced

the purchase of all commodities and food grains at the support price. We have set this target. We took care of the workers of the country and worked to increase the wages by 40 percent on the support price within the country. If anyone has given the minimum pension of Rs. 1000 to the workers in the country, who used to get a pension of two hundred fifty to three hundred rupees, then it is our Government.

Sir, our Government has done the work for changing the destiny of the youth in our country. In the year 2014, when there were only two industries of mobile and electronics equipment in our country, today this government has started 103 industries and has given employment to those youth. The direction has been set to provide employment to people by training them through five lakh apprenticeships. Sir, in this country for 70 years the son of a labourer continued to be born as a labourer. Our Prime Minister has worked towards providing employment to the youth through skill development and has worked towards skilling them so that a labourer's son will not be a labourer but a skilled youth who can work in the country and outside the country as well. We have given this direction. We can say that we have taken care of these poor people. Even after 70 years of independence, 18000 villages in

this country did not have electricity, and people lived in darkness. We said that we should provide electricity to every home in the country by the year 2018.

Hon. Sir, he was just talking about pakodas. Who has taken care of this poor person through the Mudra Bank Scheme? Be it the street vendor, the tea seller, the Kachori seller, the hawker, the clothes seller, the tribal women who make small items from bamboo in the villages, those who make a living from honey, or the women running beauty parlours, there are several such small things to whom I say, Who has done the work of ensuring that through these small industries the poor people are able to arrange for two meals a day? It would have been better if you had worried about poor people for 70 years. Today, don't make fun of the person who makes pakodas. You did not do anything to make him self-reliant. We have shown them the way to the bank. Today we can confidently say that we have made ten crore people self-reliant by giving them loans. Not only this, but we have also made arrangements for the livelihood of the poor by keeping three lakh crore rupees in this budget.

Sir, this government has worked to change the direction of the villages of this country. For road connectivity within the

country, we can say that we have worked to improve road connectivity through the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana by 2019. Earlier there was no electricity in the village; it was dark. We have worked there. Now, the son of a poor farmer in the village will also be able to study about the country and the world through digital mediums in the village like a millionaire businessman and will be able to do e-governance. We have worked to bring a change in their life. We have worked to implement basic facilities inside the village. We also built national highways, we have built waterways, and we have started air services. We can say with confidence that the change that has taken place in these three and a half years has become history.

Sir, pick up any area and see. Whether you look at the road, or the aeroplane, or the son of a village farmer, or the area of cleanliness. The poor did not even have money for medicine; he would die drowned in debt. Our Prime Minister said that now no poor person will remain without treatment. By giving a health care facility of five lakh rupees to that poor person, 40 percent of the people benefited from it. Earlier, poor people used to die without treatment due to lack of money. We have worked to open small medical colleges.

We have also worked for the education of the poor. Earlier, the son of a tribal from the tribal area of the village could not study. We have opened Eklavya Vidyalaya in the villages where tribals and poor Adivasis live and have made arrangements for their education and accommodation so that a new future for India can be created. Our government has done this.

Sir, we have not left any area of public life in which our government has not brought change. I can say that if you take up any area, they will know what work has been done for our poor people.

Sir, we have also worked for the houses of poor people. For years the poor of this country lived in mud huts and were homeless. We took a pledge for that—that by the year 2022, Modiji will be the first Prime Minister of the country who said that our government will work to provide a roof to every house. Our government is working to provide a house to every person, whether he lives in a city or a village, by the year 2022.

This will be the work of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where we will work to provide a house to every poor person by the year 2022, whether he lives in the city or in the village. Sir, I do not want to take much of your time. I want to say that in

three and a half years, looking at any one sector, looking at the 70 years of governance and the three and a half years of the Prime Minister's governance, India today stands as a matter of pride at the international level. If we are standing strongly on the border, then it is a matter of pride for 125 crore people of India. I conclude by saying one important thing: that our democracy in this country is very strong, but the uniqueness and authenticity of our leaders is diminishing. Today 125 crore people of the country have faith in the Prime Minister of this country. Whatever changes you make in the country, big economic changes you make in the country, or any major change in the world that needs to be made in India, 125 crore people of India are standing with the Prime Minister of India. It has become a speciality of politics that people give up subsidies worth crores of rupees on a single call from the Prime Minister. When there is a call from the Prime Minister to change currency notes, people stand in line, but they know that whatever decision the Prime Minister is taking, he is taking it in the interest of the country. If this speciality has been established, then it has been established by the Hon. Prime Minister. This has become the direction of all change and if the work of changing the lives of the farmers, labourers, youth and

women of the country has been done, then it has happened in these three and a half years of government. The country and the world are watching it. The pride of India has increased in the world today; from a financially strong economy to our borders, it can be said that the pride of India has continued to grow in the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The motion of thanks given by the President of India is to change the direction of India, and I support this motion of thanks.

[English]

***DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** In the course of his Address, Hon'ble President has emphasized upon many policies of the Government through which the aspects like Swachh Bharat Mission, empowerment of Women, corruption, quality of life, development of farmers, health and sanitation, social and economic equality, etc. have taken a shape in everybody's mind. I have also tried my best to watch, understand and analyse the outcomes of these policies, programmes and the intention of the Government. In this regard, I would like to touch certain aspects which in my opinion the Government has failed to execute its policy in the right direction.

I would like to remind the Government generally on the issue of Health and Sanitation and particularly about its declaration to make India open- defecation free by October 2019. We can see, as per a survey conducted by a Government agency, nearly six out of the ten toilets built by the Government under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan don't have proper water supply, making them totally unusable. The findings have put a

* Speech was laid on the Table.

question mark over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious target. It is more pathetic that the survey has found that in Assam, Punjab and Odisha, that is my State where no agency was appointed for cleaning the community toilets built under the mission. Secondly, 40% of toilets in villages were not connected to a drainage system and the toilet waste is being released directly into local water bodies, thereby polluting the limited water resources which ultimately affect the health of the rural people since the mission was targeted therein.

Secondly, the claim the Government is making to empower dalits, women and adivasis is sheer eyewash. We have many instances where the disadvantaged groups have been attacked. According to official statistics more than 50,000 crimes against members of Scheduled Castes alone has been reported by August of 2017. Dalits in several states have been abused by vigilant cow protection group. In spite of having the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Rules passed, the incidents of atrocities and caste based violence have increased substantially and no action has been initiated against the accused. This has made the intention of the Government regarding social and economic equality aspect of the Government clear.

In regard to the aspect of women empowerment, we can see that the incidents of rape, harassment and torture against women have vehemently increased in various shapes in many States like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, etc. Especially, women from marginalized communities continued to face systematic discrimination in almost all parts of the country.

The most important factor which the Government is putting focus in its recent General Budget is the issue of farmers. The farmers have been neglected severely by the Government and in consequence, the rate of suicide has increased in every part of our country, which is a cause of concern for all of us.

The Government has also failed on the front of the job creation, since the day they came to power in 2014 which contradicts the promise they made in the election. The expenditure on education has also been declining steadily since they came to power. In my opinion, it is necessary to make a country stronger if the provisions of health and education are given importance which has not been felt so far.

However, in spite many drawbacks, the Government has initiated many steps for development of the country. Hence, I support the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

[1*]**DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL):** I wish to raise some serious objections and reservations on President's Address. His speech did not address the serious situations of this country, especially economic and social issues. The sluggishness and consequent difficulties emerging in the lives of common people, especially in the unorganised and informal sector, the decreasing growth rate of investment, rising unemployment, problems faced by the agrarian population, deterioration of law-and-order situation, serious concerns about the safety of women and children, caring of senior citizens and age-old people were not catered with. It is only a shower of political slogans without wholehearted willpower from the Executive. This Government still doesn't understand what the real problems are. The powers and prerogatives of the legislature are being usurped by the Executive, which is against the spirit of the Constitution. Is this "Achhe din"?

This Government also followed the footprints of Congress Government on the policies of liberalisation and privatisation. Concessions and incentives are given to the corporates and the rich and affluent. But whatever subsidies and other reliefs were there for common and poor people, all those are being snatched

* Speech was laid on the Table

away day by day. Ruthless exploitation continues in the unorganised and informal sector. The disparities of caste, creed, religion, genders, etc. are still looming and not weakening. Economic disparities are also growing alarmingly. The public health system is nose diving into shambles. Educational sector has become a rampant business without any ethics in the hands of the profit motivated private sector. The failure of the Government to widen and scientifically liberalise the educational policy, so as to provide access to higher education to all irrespective of their paying capacity, is not addressed with. The Government is silent to take effective steps to provide the lifesaving medicines, medical and surgical machines and equipments at subsidised rates and the failure of steps taken by the GOI to ensure effective drug policy to control the abnormal rise in the prices of medicines. Why the Government has raised the excise duty several times on petrol and diesel even when the prices of crude oil in the international market was declining. This has led to rise in the prices of all essential commodities. The GST was introduced without proper homework and adequate measures to protect states' interests.

Please specify the reasons for economic slowdown even after concessions and tax reliefs to corporates to the tune of 6. 50 lakh crores of rupees. Why there is no mentioning about the recommendations of Justice Ranganath Misra Commission Report, where it has been stated to provide 10% reservation for Muslims and 5% for other minorities based on socially and economically backward criteria.

Why the President was silent about any financial provision for the SAGY? He is also silent about the filling up of one million vacancies under various Government establishments, departments, Railways, armed forces, Para-military PSUs and Banks and Insurance Sectors, etc. Railways now head towards privatisation while the experience in other countries shows us its ill effects and the social costs.

The emergence of 'paid news' has been a dangerous phenomenon in media world distorting parliamentary democracy and mocking up the universal adult franchise. We need thorough electoral reforms.

President should advice GOI to ensure universal coverage irrespective of schedules and fix statutory minimum wage at not less than 18,000 per mensem. Removal of all ceilings on payment and eligibility of Bonus and Provident Fund is a

necessity and also to increase the quantum of gratuity without any limitations. There is no mention about compulsory registration of trade unions within a period of 45 days and immediate ratification of the ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98. This Government has failed to assure implementation of Pensions for All.

It is regretted that there is no mention to curb the alarming rise in the atrocities against Dalits, SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities in the country. There is no mention to have a policy for India's 8 million differently abled population, whose interest cannot be protected in the absence of an efficient and strong institutional mechanism. There is no mention to have a stringent and better legislation, particularly for the physical as well as psychological health of women and children. It is regretted that there is no mention about the attacks against writers and journalists including murder of Gauri Lankesh and Santanu Bhowmik.

The President's Address is again silent on any viable and feasible welfare and rehabilitation scheme for the Non-Resident Indians and their dependant family members. What happened to the Dr. Swaminathan Committee Report? The primary sector is the most neglected one. The sad and

deplorable condition of the Indian agriculture during the tenure of this Government has reached such a dimension that farmers' suicides are on the rise. The MSP fixed by the GOI is not scientific and satisfactory. The extent of cultivable land also diminishing. It is high time that there should be reservation of jobs in private sector also.

Why there is no mention about the NPAs of the large industrial houses during the last three years? Is the GOI afraid to reveal the names of the big sharks of NPAs as well as black money holders? The burning issues of the common people - uncontrolled inflation of prices of essential goods and services and inadequacy of the social security still exist unchecked.

Why there is no mention about the establishment of benches of Supreme Court outside Delhi as envisaged by the Constitution of India under Article 130? Why the Address is silent about the establishment of permanent benches of High Court in Thiruvananthapuram as well as other capital cities?

The Address does not speak anything about financial and technical encouragement of traditional industries such as handloom, potteries, bamboo, carpentry, coir, traditional ornament making, mat-weaving, fisheries, handicrafts, etc. There is no mention about the National Bamboo- Mat Weaving

and Screw Pine Workers Welfare Board with its Head Quarters at Nedumangad in Attingal Lok Sabha Constituency of Kerala. The constitutional norm of "equal pay for equal work" was recently reminded by Supreme Court also. But, still it is a mirage to the working class.

There is no mention about the protection and maintenance and also providing play grounds to children in every Gram Panchayat. I am sorry to say that there is no mention about the failure of the GOI for not constructing the Attingal bye- pass in the NH-47 and not fulfilling the promises made in earlier Railway Budgets.

The ill- effects of demonetization have not been mentioned. How much black money was unearthed?

I feel the elements of domestic colonialism in his Address. Imposition of food habits, dress code, beliefs, language and lifestyle are all creeping in- Beware and be cautious!

The Government is not sincere in developing efficient and low cost water transport in the country. I can't understand why we don't have a separate Ministry of Fisheries and ancillary occupations. There is no mention about the extension of the National Inland Waterways in between Kollam and Kovalam

in the State of Kerala. The preservation of water sources should be of prime concern. But the rain water harvesting and construction of new hydro- electric power projects do not find any place in his Address.

There is no mention about adequate financial assistance to the States which have suffered due to natural calamities, especially when the Oikhi Cyclone has affected Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadeep.

Why there is no mention about declaration of the Anjengo (Anchuthengu) Revolt of 1721 at Attingal as the first revolt against the colonialism and thereby declaring 2021 its National tri- centenary? Hon. President is silent about the establishment of a National Film Museum at Chirayinkeezhu in Attingal Parliament Constituency, in memory of Late Cine Star Prem Nazir.

It is unjust to be silent about intolerance manifesting the violence and spread of communal polarization in the country. Why the President was silent on the growing incidents of mob-lynching, the recent brutal killing of migrant labourer Mohd. Affrazual in Rajsamand, Rajasthan and Madhu Sarkar in Gujarat? He did not mention about the increasing attacks and atrocities on Dalits, Tribals and Adivasis in the country, the

recent one where Dalits were attacked in Bhima Koregaon on January 1st.

The President's speech is simply nursing the corporate interest, not people's interest.

Thus, I oppose the Motion of Thanks in its present form.

***SHRI C. N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR):** Hon'ble President has delivered his maiden speech addressing the Joint Parliament Session on January 29, 2018, just after two days we celebrated the 69th Republic Day of our country. When we make an assessment of the three and a half years of rule of NDA Government, controlled and administered by the RSS, we find that everything that people built and administered by the RSS, we find that everything people built and cherished during the past seven decades are being demolished by this Government. The concept of secular democratic republican society is being gradually eroded. Not a single day passes without attack on one or the other aspect of the Indian Constitution. All sorts of obscurantism, religious absurdities and other such ugly manifestations are displayed to downgrade all that is positive in our Constitution.

Our judiciary was supposed to remain intact and emerge as the saviour of the democratic set up. But, the recent episode in the apex court has raised many questions about its functioning. Four senior most judges of the Supreme Court were forced to come to the public to register their grievances and fear that if not checked, the democracy itself will be in peril. The issues

* Speech was laid on the Table.

they raised are of very serious nature and the President has just ignored this incident in his speech.

There have been continuous attacks on the freedom of expression, right to dissent and attacks on minorities and Dalits leading to sharpening the communal and caste polarization in the society.

In the name of "ease of doing business", attempts are made by the Government to curtail the trade union rights of the workers.

No effective measures have been taken to solve the prevailing crisis in the agriculture sector, leading to the distress and increased incidents of farmers committing suicide.

No stringent measures are being taken to recover the ever increasing NPAs of the public sector banks from the wilful defaulters, particularly, in the corporate sector.

The education sector is being increasingly commercialized making it impossible to get quality education to the common people.

The deteriorating condition of the public health facilities in the country is compelling the poor patients to avail medical treatment from costly private medical institutions.

The crime against women and children are increasing.

The problem of unemployment, particularly of the educated youth in the country remains unsolved.

Unfortunately, the Hon'ble President has not expressed any concern in his Address about these burning issues of the common people of the country. Hence, I oppose the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI):** This happened for the first time in the history of the country when the 14th Honourable President of the country celebrated Republic Day as a major festival. It was a matter of great joy that, for the first time, the Heads of State and Government of 10 ASEAN countries were present, which added a special dimension to our long vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakum.'

Constitution maker Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar used to say that political democracy cannot be permanent without social and economic democracy. To make this dream come true, the successful Prime Minister of the country, Honourable Shri Narendra Modi, is committed to bringing about a change in the standard of living of the villages, the poor and the farmers, especially the people of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. After the formation of the NDA government under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, a new change has come in the development of villages, poor people, farmers and people of scheduled castes and tribes.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

When we talk about villages, we don't just give slogans but want to develop them by sending money directly to the accounts of village heads through the 14th Finance Commission. When we talk about the poor, we provide them accident insurance at an annual premium of Rs 12 per year and life insurance of Rs 2 lakh at 90 paise per day and secure the future of lakhs of poor labourers working in the unorganised sectors of the villages and the country through Atal Pension Yojana. When we talk about the poor, we make a plan to provide free health insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh to 10 crore poor families of this country. So that the poor of this country can get themselves treated in a government hospital or a private hospital, the Hon. Prime Minister has resolved that the poor of this country should not die due to lack of treatment. When we talk about the poor, we start schemes like Udaan, through which even a person wearing slippers can travel by plane; this is the dream of the Hon. Prime Minister. When we talk about the poor, we make plans to provide housing to all the poor and labourers of the country by 2022 and are committed to providing housing to everyone.

When we talk about farmers, we provide them fertilisers, seeds, electricity and water as per their requirements. The

recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee for the upliftment and development of farmers remained in cold storage for decades in this country; no one had the courage to implement them. If anyone had the courage to implement it, it was the successful Prime Minister of this country, Hon. Narendra Modi ji. The work of fixing MSP for farmers at one and a half times the cost price was done by the Hon. Prime Minister of this country.

When we talk about the upliftment and development of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people, we launch schemes like Start-up and Stand-up so that a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste community of this country does not remain only a job seeker but also becomes a job giver.

At present the youth population in the country is above 65 percent. Due to the wrong policies of the previous government, crores of youths became unemployed in this country. In order to provide employment to them, the Hon. Prime Minister trained them through the Skill Development Scheme. And to ensure that these youth do not remain unemployed even after training, the Mudra Scheme was started, through which 10 crore youth of this country were motivated towards self-employment, and a loan of about 10 lac crore rupees was given

under the Mudra Scheme so that the youth of this country could contribute to building the nation and become a giver to the government instead of asking from the government. The work of developing such thinking was done by the successful Prime Minister of this country, Hon. Narendra Modi.

For women's empowerment, about 3 crore 30 lac women of this country have been saved from suffering from serious diseases by providing them smokeless fuel through Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Many people in this House have seen for themselves how women were forced to collect wood and cook food on the stove. Women and their children had no choice but to breathe smoke. No one has tried to get rid of this in the 70 years of independence. If anyone was concerned about this, it was the successful Prime Minister of this country, the respected Narendra Modi. The Hon. Prime Minister is determined that all the women of this country should be free from this suffocating life, that is why he has set a target of giving free gas connections to 8 crore women under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, so that in the coming time, all the mothers and sisters in the country will be given gas connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

By building crores of toilets in the country under the Clean India Campaign, the Hon. Prime Minister has not only freed the mothers and sisters of the country from shame and embarrassment but has also provided them an opportunity to live with dignity along with protecting them from serious diseases.

The Hon. Prime Minister believes in empowerment and not appeasement. That is why I would like to specially mention Muslim sisters, whosedignity was violated for decades. After the formation of the government of Hon. Modi Ji, Muslim sisters and daughters would now be able to live a life without fear with self-respect. The Hon. Modi Ji government has taken action by bringing triple talaq under the category of crime.

Under the objective of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, the Hon. Prime Minister has provided the benefits of scholarship, fellowship, skill development and coaching to more than 45 lakh students in the last year by training people from Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain communities through programs like Learn and Earn, Garib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme, Nayi Roshni, etc.

The Hon. Prime Minister has made available more than 800 cheap medicines to the poor through Jan Aushadhi. Also, the

prices of stents for heart patients have been reduced by up to 80 percent, and to meet the shortage of doctors, 13000 MBBS seats and 7000 postgraduate seats have been approved.

To promote sports in the country, the government has started the 'Khelo India' program through a very important 'Sports Talent Search Portal' with an amount of more than 1750 crore rupees, which will promote sports and players in the coming time.

This is the first time in the country that the target for expansion of power capacity has been increased significantly. Under the Ujala scheme, till now more than 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed in the country, and more than 50 crore LED bulbs have been sold by the private sector as well.

Due to the brave soldiers of this country, the borders of this country are safe; due to them, the pride of the tricolour is safe; due to them, we are safe. If anyone takes the historic decision to implement One Rank-One Pension for such brave soldiers, then it is the successful Prime Minister of the country, Hon. Narendra Modi. There has been a big change in the internal security of the country under the NAD government. For the first time in the Northeast, security arrangements have been strengthened. At the same time, incidents of Maoism and

Naxalite violence have decreased in the country. The paramilitary forces and police forces of the country deserve congratulations. I appreciate all those security forces and pay tribute to the security personnel who sacrificed their lives in protecting the country.

Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, this country is continuously moving forward, realising the slogan of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas.

[English]

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): Respected Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to speak. I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address on behalf of my Party AIUDF led by Maulana Badruddin Ajmal. Due to shortage of time I would like to put my views very briefly.

As we all know, the present Government came to power with many promises to the people of the country including curbing price rise, giving relief to common people, making corruption free India, bringing black money from abroad, creating job opportunities for the youth of the nation and maintaining peace and tranquillity in the country. The Hon. Prime Minister gave slogans like 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' and 'Garibon ki Sarkar'.

Sir, after about four years the Government needs to introspect its promises and situation of the country very honestly as to how much it has succeeded in fulfilling the promises it made to the people of the country before coming to power.

When I look at the situation, I find that the people of the country are facing problems at various levels. The prices of essential commodities are touching the sky. The increasing prices of diesel, petrol and gas cylinder are also causing trouble to the common people. The number of jobless youths is increasing in the country day-by-day as the Government has failed to create job opportunities. The black money is yet to be brought from banks abroad. The crime against women is increasing. Even incidents of rape of minor girls are reported which is very much disturbing for the country.

The peace and tranquillity is also on risk in our beloved country. Many incidents from various parts of the country had been reported in which people of minority community, Dalits and weaker sections were attacked, killed and publicly lynched. Journalists are also being attacked. The incidents of communal violence are also increasing. The worst part is that many people are openly supporting the miscreants but the Government fails to act against them.

People of the country had faced problem during demonetisation. They all have tolerated it in the hope for something good. They are still to come out of the damage made by demonetisation. We need to know what the Government has

done for damage control, especially for small businessmen. The Government has to think first for lower and middle class people and then about the corporate sector.

Sir, GST was also introduced as a good thing for the country and for people of the country. But we have seen lots of loopholes in its execution. It needs many corrective steps. It needs to be made easy and business friendly otherwise it would continue to have bad effect on economy. It was expected that price of many things would come down after implementation of GST but Government needs to check it out whether it happened or not because according to common people the price of the items on which tax slab was increased after GST went high while the price of items on which tax slab was decreased after GST did not come down.

Sir, I would like to state here that the flood and erosion cause disaster every year in Assam and lakhs of hectares of land already eroded to the river making large number of people homeless and landless.

Our party has been demanding to declare flood and erosion of Assam as a national calamity. We once requested Hon. Finance Minister to grant a special package for flood control measures and for protection from erosion.

Sir, North East states are the most backward in the country. There is lack of infrastructure, poor road and railway connectivity and lack of industries which are all together pushing the area to backwardness. Our Prime Minister also promised all round development of the NE states but unfortunately it did not happen. I am saying this because no proper step was taken for flood control, no initiative was taken for promoting organic farming and no industry was established in NE states.

Sir, I on behalf of my party, AIUDF, met Hon. Minister of Heavy Industries several times. I also met Hon. Prime Minister for revival of Nagaon Paper Mill and the Cachar Paper Mill because its closure caused unemployment for several thousand people. Hon. Prime Minister promised in public rally during Assam election but unfortunately these paper mills are not revived.

Sir, Similarly, North East Industrial Policy was suspended by this government. Subsidy for poor people of tea garden was also stopped.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the government to kindly pay special attention to NE States especially Assam. Please adopt effective plan for flood protection in Assam, establish

industries in NE States, better the road and railway connectivity and infrastructure. Please establish hospitals to provide healthcare facility and educational institutions for students in NE States especially in Assam.

[Translation]

*__DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):__ Under the motion of thanks on the speech of the President, I got the opportunity to express my views on the speech, for which I am heartily grateful.

This speech is an open vision document of the government, which reflects the vision, thinking, strategies and determination of the NDA government led by Shri Narendra Modi ji for their efficient implementation. A determination that has been appreciated by the entire world. The way in which the successful Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has written a golden chapter in the all-round development of the nation by taking revolutionary steps in various fields in the last three-and-a-half years is an unparalleled example.

Today, when the whole world is forced to live in an environment of uncertainty and despair, India seems to be infusing new hope, optimism, enthusiasm and new zeal into the world scenario. Recently Prime Minister has outlined the **World Economic Forum in Davos** by presenting India as a

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Global Power Warning of Terrorism, Protectionism and Weather Change.

The world's economic pundits are comparing India to a shining centre. The efforts to reach out to the last person in society with the basic mantra of ***'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'*** have now started showing results. For the first time, the country has got such a Prime Minister who, on one hand, provides leadership to the whole world against climate change through non-conventional solar energy, and on the other hand, **provides visionary leadership to the country in establishing India** as an emerging economic power in the entire world community. Fortunately, for the first time we have got such a popular leadership, which is determined to take India to the masses through various ambitious schemes and the chapter of social and economic development.

In three and a half years after becoming the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has provided visionary and strong leadership to the country by living up to the hopes and expectations of 125 crore people of the country. People's expectations seem to be changing as a result, and people's confidence is getting stronger. I believe that the government is facing all-round challenges right now. We have to go a long

way to achieve our goal. We do meaningful politics; we do the politics of nation building and public welfare, and in this sequence I want to place before you the important achievements of my government.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

For the first time, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, a Prime Minister has pledged to provide toilets to the villagers under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan because even after 68 years of independence, 68 percent of rural Indians still did not have toilets. Governments came and went in the country, but only this government understood the seriousness of this important issue and undertook a big campaign to resolve it.

To date, important work has been done towards cleanliness by constructing more than three crore toilets in the country.

New Initiatives for Infrastructure Development

The National Highways in the country were constructed in the years 2013-14 for 3500 km, 2014-15 for 8,000 km, and 2015-16 for 10,000 km. Construction of more than three times the capacity in a very short span of time reflects our belief that we consider highways as the blood arteries of the nation, and our Government is fully dedicated towards their development.

Today, we are constructing more than 30 K0M0 roads per day. A target has been set to construct 41 km of roads per day in 2018-19. In October 2017, the country announced an investment of about 7 trillion dollars for 83,677 km of roads.

Financial Status

Our government, which is engaged in giving concrete shape to the concept of holistic social and economic development, has been successful in realising Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's economic development based on integral humanism. For the first time in the history of the country, in order to empower the states and to increase better coordination between the Centre and the states, the state's share in central taxes has been increased from 32 to 42 percent.

According to the estimates of the World Bank and IFF, the country's economy will grow at the rate of 7.8 percent in the year 2019. In the year 2018, while the US economy is growing at a growth rate of 2.5 percent, our growth rate is estimated to be 7.4 percent.

Today, for the first time, the World Bank and IMF are declaring Indian GDP growth as the fastest-growing growth rate in the world.

India's services sector is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the world, with a growth rate of over 9 percent.

Our foreign exchange reserves exceeded 410 billion USD, which is a major achievement. We have emerged as an attractive destination for foreign investment, and our foreign investment has reached 60 billion USD. Which broke all the records till now.

It is a very proud thing that our government has succeeded in controlling inflation, the current account deficit, and the fiscal deficit.

By adopting GST, the world's biggest tax reform, we have taken a step towards establishing a transparent, accountable and development-orientated system. Which will be a new chapter in the economic development of India.

Government dedicated to highest technology and technology

It is a matter of pride for us that under the Bharat Net project**, work is being done to connect** two and a half lakh Gram Panchayats with broadband. More than one lakh gram panchayats have been connected in the first phase. **Through e-**

health, e-education, e-governance and e-commerce, we are trying to change the fate of every citizen of the country.

For the first time, ISRO has created a new record by successfully launching **104 satellites**. By successfully launching PSLV **C-40,** the country has proved its superiority in space technology. India has opened a new market in this field by launching satellites for neighbouring and many friendly countries.

A pledge has been taken to transform the entirety of India through Make in India, Ease of Doing Business, International Solar Alliance, One National One Grid, and Digital India. While we are trying to connect all the countrymen with a strong power distribution system through One Nation One Grid, we have also tried to provide electricity to 18 thousand villages by spending **one and a half lakh crore rupees.**

It is a matter of pride that power savings and production are going on simultaneously. In the last three years, we have increased solar energy **production by an unprecedented seven times**.

A network of air services

Under the leadership of the successful Prime Minister, our government wants to connect even the small cities of the country with air travel.

We have launched the Udan scheme, **under which 56 airports and 31 helipads have been built in 15 months. With increasing connectivity, millions of people will get direct or indirect employment.**

For the first time in the country, a provision of air travel up to one hour at Rs. **2500 has been made**. The common man can fulfil his dream of travelling by air.

Government dedicated to the welfare of Himalayan and North-Eastern states

Under the strategic strategy of our government, rapid work is being done for the Himalayan region and the North-Eastern states. **A special plan has been prepared for establishment in the North East region in which projects related to health, education, drinking water and energy will be completed.**

While the government has allocated Rs. **twelve thousand crore for strengthening the road network in Uttarakhand in the form of All Weather Road, Rs. 10 thousand crore has been approved for strengthening the power network in the**

northeastern states. Char Dham Maha Yojana, which will be a twelve-month, twenty-four-hour safe journey of the four Dhams of Uttarakhand, I thank the Government it has been decided by the Government to develop the Barak River as National Waterway-16.

Outstanding Initiatives in Strategic and Defence Areas

Uttarakhand is a soldier-dominated state. I am very happy that the government has fulfilled its promise of One Rank One Pension by paying Rs 10 thousand crore. Strategic partnerships in the manufacturing sector in defence have been finalised. This initiative will create employment on a large scale in the country and will give a boost to ambitious schemes like **Make in India, Digital India, and Stand Up India.**

India became a part of the **Missile Technology Control Regime last year and subsequently joined the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement** as a member, which is a major achievement.

We inaugurated **Chabahar Port** in Iran, which will play an important role in cargo transportation with Afghanistan.

Concerns about migrants

Our Government is dedicated to the values of humanity and is playing an important role in disseminating Indian cultural heritage across the world. Be it the **earthquake in Nepal, the floods in Sri Lanka, the drinking water crisis in the Maldives or the issue of 90 thousand Indians stranded abroad**, we have tried to help them with utmost sensitivity.

On January 9th, **2018, we celebrated the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas with great pomp, in which public representatives from 24 countries** participated enthusiastically.

We have launched a massive program for smooth passport services in collaboration with the Department of Posts by sanctioning **251 Passport Seva Kendras.**

Empowerment of Women

It is a matter of great joy and pride that under the leadership of our illustrious Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, more and more attention has been given to women's empowerment.

While we have expanded the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme to **640 districts, we have also honoured our mothers by providing them 26 weeks of** maternity leave in the form of Maternity Leave.

To free the poor mothers and sisters of the country from the smoke of stoves, **we have provided more than three crore thirty lac gas connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**.

Strengthening social justice and socio-economic democracy, our Government has enhanced the dignity of women by constructing toilets across the country.

We have promoted women in skill development and the Mudra scheme. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has given employment to 10 crore people by providing them loans worth Rs. 4 lakh crores. 60 percent of these people are women. Several schemes have been made for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities.

Government dedicated to farmers

I am extremely happy that our Government has taken important steps towards raising the standard of living of farmers and giving them the benefits of their hard work.

Ensuring a support price to farmers at one and a half times the cost of production is historic, which strengthens the confidence of farmers.

Today, as a result of the government policies and the hard work of our farmers, we **are producing more than 275 million tonnes of food grains and more than 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables.**

Under the leadership of the successful Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, our government is determined to double the income of farmers by the year **2022.**

Our commitment towards farmers is also reflected by the fact that while on one hand we **have started an ambitious scheme of Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs. 11 thousand crore in the dairy sector, on the other hand, we have stopped the black marketing of urea through 100 percent neem-coated urea**.

Through Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana, we are trying to bring economic stability in the lives of the poor, farmers and senior citizens. **Through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana alone, we have provided security cover to 5 crore 31 lakh farmers. Similarly, we have made insurance schemes accessible at**

one one per month and 90 paise per day, which have benefited more than 18 crore poor people.

Promoting Skill Development Entrepreneurship:

Around 10 crore loans have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, **in which loans worth more than four lakh crore rupees have been provided. These loans have a good representation of** women. This is a new history of employment generation.

Our government is emphasisingloans without bank guarantees for the poor and middle class so that people can successfully take loans and establish their ventures.

Employment generation is being promoted in the country through various ambitious schemes like Digital India, Make in India, Stand Up India, and Start Up India and by creating a defence platform.

The ranking of ease of doing business in the country has improved from 142nd to 100th rank. This has increased the country's reputation in the global market manifold, which has opened new doors for investment and, along with it, has created the possibility of opening up millions of new employment opportunities.

5 lakh people have benefited under the National Apprentice Promotion Scheme.

It is a matter of joy that recently the government has approved two schemes named Sankalp and Strive in which training will be given as per the industrial requirement. Under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana, assistance has been continuously provided to the beneficiaries.

Government dedicated to backward, deprived, disabled, scheduled castes, tribes and minorities

Even after almost 70 years of independence, development of the weaker and deprived sections of the country was a big challenge. It is the good fortune of the country that the process of giving constitutional status to the Backward Classes Commission has been initiated by our government in the form of an amended bill.

A commission has been formed to provide benefits in higher education and appointments to the most backward class among the backward classes.

Bamboo has been removed from the category of tree by the government in tribal areas so that local people can have freedom in using it. Keeping the tribal people in mind, the

minimum support price on their forest products has been increased. Many museums are being established in the country to honour the tribals.

It is a matter of pride for us that the government has introduced the Disability Rights Act, 2016, keeping in mind more than two and a half crore disabled people in the country. A provision of four percent reservation in government jobs and five percent reservation in higher education has been made for the disabled. For the first time in the last three years, more than 9 lakh pieces of equipment have been provided to the disabled by organising camps on a large scale across the country.

While on one hand the government has saved Muslim women from exploitation by introducing the Triple Talaq Bill, on the other hand it has removed the ban on women above 45 years of age from going on Haj without a male relative.

Our Government has given importance to empowerment rather than appeasement and has provided new employment opportunities to minorities through programs like (1) Learn and Earn, (2) Ustad, (3) Garib Nawaz Skill Development Scheme, and (4) Nayi Roshni, etc.

Swasth Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

For the first time after 70 years of independence, a government has come that has taken important steps for the treatment of diseases of the poor and middle class.

While our government is providing generic medicines at affordable rates through Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras, free dialysis facilities are being provided to the poor under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Program.

Under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Yojana, **we have provided discounts ranging from 60 to 90 percent on more than 5200 life-saving medicines and surgical implants.**

Due to various steps taken for vaccination, the growth rate has reached 6.7 percent. Through Intensified Mission Indradhanush, we have pledged to provide proper vaccination to all the children living in the country.

To eliminate the imbalance in the doctor-patient ratio in the country, our government has approved **13 thousand new MBBS seats and seven thousand postgraduate seats.**

We want our doctors to lead the entire world through their knowledge and skills. Keeping this objective in mind, we have introduced the National Medical Commission Bill in the Lok

Sabha. The work of spreading Ayurveda and Yoga to the entire world has created history in itself.

Promotion of education and research

Our government believes that a better India can be built only through education. Our Government, committed to a strong scientific and modern education system, will develop 20 universities in the country to international standards. For this we have arranged a fund of Rs 10 thousand crores.

We have tried to give a new dimension to management education by making legal provisions to enhance the educational quality in IIMs and to increase autonomy in research and other activities.

For the first time, more than 2400 Atal Tinkering Labs have been approved to develop innovative thinking **among the youth and encourage them towards entrepreneurship and creative work.**

The government has approved the formation of the National Testing Agency to raise the educational level.

Our government has focused its attention on the youth. A campaign with an amount of Rs 1750 crore has been started under the Khelo India program. A scheme has been started to

provide scholarships of Rs 6 lakh per annum to talented players. The Sports Talent Search Program has been started by our government to bring transparency to sports. We have demonstrated our capabilities by organising **global competitions including FIFA and ASEAN Athletics, etc.**

This is also reflected in the speech of the President. I remember some lines from Dr. Vijay Tiwari's poem.

Now we have to be determined and climb the peak of progress.

Leaving behind the boundaries of high and low, we have to move ahead every moment.

India has to create a new identity in the whole world.

To make India prosperous, we have to bring* revolution *again today.

There is faith in 18 percent of the world's humanity, i.e., the 125 crore people of the country, in their resolve, their strong determination, their hard work and their dedication. This faith gives us self-confidence, through which we will be able to realise the vision of a developed, self-respecting India.

Jai Hind.

[English]

SHRI P. K. KUNHALIKUTTY (MALAPPURAM): Sir, this Government came to power four years ago. I would like to know what achievement this Government has made during these four years. There is no major achievement. A system worked under the UPA Government. A financial expert was at the helm of affairs as Prime Minister and a system worked. He was well in control of all the Departments. So all the Departments worked very well. As a result of that, there were major achievements and the country was growing. The economic growth rate was good. It went like that. There were major achievements on the agricultural front. There were major achievements in industry. But what is the situation now? Our Prime Minister, Modi Ji, may not be a financial expert but that is not the issue. The system is not working at all. Everything is centred around one person. One fine morning somebody advised him to do demonetisation and he did that. What happened after that? The country has not been able to escape from that calamity. It seems that it will not be come out of this in near future also.

The situation is something like that. What is the use of crying after having done such a foolish thing. What is the result of it? There is no economic growth; there is no agricultural

growth. Overall economic growth rate has gone down. Recession has started.

Sir, I think, the countdown for the fall of the BJP led Government at the Centre has started. In the morning we witnessed that Members from the parties supporting the Government were in the Well of the House. We heard what the Hon. Member from that party was saying. He said that no promise that was made to the State of Andhra Pradesh at the time of its reorganisation has been fulfilled. He also mentioned that this is what is going to happen to the whole of India. It has been said by one of the Members from a party supporting the Government at the Centre. The situation is very bad. The Government has nothing to show in its balance sheet of the past four years. So, I think, a countdown for the fall of the BJP led Government at the Centre has already started. This process will get further speeded up in the coming days. After the results of the bye-elections in Rajasthan a hope has emerged that the Opposition is gaining ground. From the speeches that have been made here one can very well read between the lines and it reflects only discontent. Discontentment is quite natural because there is no result and no improvement on the ground. Let the Government not be in the hope that they will always be

able to survive on mimics like *Muttalak (Tripal Talaq),* on communal agendas. The earlier BJP Government at the Centre gave the slogan of `India Shining' but what happened when elections were held after five years of their rule? They could not deliver the results and so people punished that Government. Likewise, I believe that the countdown for the fall of the BJP led Government has already started this time around also.

20 43 hrs (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair)*

The drop in the growth rate has been quite big. During the UPA regime there was good growth in the agricultural sector, but what is the situation now? There is now a big drop in growth. On the unemployment front, India has 65 per cent of its population below the age of 35 years. It is expected that in 2020 the average age of an Indian will be 29 years. We should be proud of that. India is going to be a country in the world which will have the maximum number of young people compared to countries like China and Japan where the average age would be in the range of 37 to 48. To have such a huge population of young people is a big asset for a country like India. But the Government has wasted all these four years and

unemployment is growing. The Government is on a losing ground and there is no doubt about that.

Madam Speaker, many Hon. Speakers spoke about the situation in agriculture. But what has grown in the sphere of agriculture? It is the suicide by farmers. It is a total loss. It is a loss to the Government. The Address of the Hon. President is a balance sheet of losses. In fighting has already started amongst the people in Government and I think that the countdown for the fall of this Government has already started.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Madam Speaker, thank you. If you permit, I would like to discuss the President's address from here.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Chautala ji, please take care of some time.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: On the 29th, the President did a very good job of giving his speech on the manner in which the NDA government has run the country for the last four years and especially highlighted the plight of the farmers very well. Being a youth, I would definitely like to discuss the current situation of unemployment in the country.

Last year, Rs. 17 thousand crores were allocated in the central budget in the name of Skill India, and ghost centres for skill development were opened in the country, but the President did not discuss skill development anywhere in his speech. It was definitely discussed that four lakh crore rupees were given in the name of Mudra Loan for setting up new industries.

Madam, who has given four lakh crore rupees? If you go to any village today, there is not a single youth who has actually received money in the name of Mudra. If I talk about my Lok

Sabha constituency, a young man wanted to open a barber shop, but he had to run around banks for seven months, and he did not get a loan of fifty thousand rupees. Today, if loans are being given in the name of Mudra, then they are being given to those people who are well established and who are running small industries today, but they are expanding their business by opening more companies and taking loans in their names.

Madam, it is said that employment will be provided to two crore youth every year. The speakers before me explained very well that the Central Government was able to provide one and a half lakh, two lakh, and four lakh jobs in the last four years. But today, the serious issue that needs to be looked at is that if there is talk of creating a system, then industries should be set up for it. Today people are leaving our country's industries and moving abroad. If we talk about today, then the big industries that were running in our country are also talking about leaving our country and opening industries in other countries, be it Indonesia or China. … (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Minister is saying, What are you talking about? Let me talk about my country. Today the situation is such that when we talk about youth, you people are talking about giving jobs on an ad hoc basis; a permanent job is a far thing. Nurses are appointed on

DC rate in the name of ANM. Today teachers come to your country as guests. This is a serious matter. Today, the government will have to think, and I would also like to say that the government will have to make arrangements for the ad hoc practice and will have to provide a system to give proper employment to our youth.

There was talk about farmers; doubling the income of farmers was talked about, and doubling the income of farmers was talked about. Today everyone wants to discuss this, but even the government does not have a formula as to how the income will be doubled. The government figures show that the income of a farmer is about seven to seven and a half thousand rupees per month. If we take into account their family members, then the income of one person per day is Rs 45. Today he has to eat food, go to school, and get the gas cylinder filled, and if we talk about it, he also has to get petrol filled in the tractor. If we look at these arrangements, we did not find any blueprint in the entire speech.

I want to say one thing. the President said in his speech that we have completed 99 irrigation projects. In the year 1994, an irrigation project by the name of Dadupur Nalvi was started in Haryana state. Today the Bharatiya Janata Party government

has completely ended that project, saying that this project does not exist. The running canal was closed. The groundwater recharge project, the Sutlej Yamuna Link, which is the order of the Supreme Court, should be built; it was the dream of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji that there should be interlinkages of rivers in our country. It's a four-decade-old case. Today this government has not taken even a single serious step in this regard.

When it comes to crop insurance, ten thousand crore rupees were allocated by the Central Government for crop insurance during the last financial year. Ten thousand crore rupees were to come from the state government. You assume that Rs 23500 crore of farmers was included in it; today, out of Rs 23500 crore, only Rs 5000 crore was given to the farmers. Today the situation is that we are collecting money, but we are giving that money to private companies.

If the government has to give money to the farmers, then you should give the Rs 23 thousand crore that you have collected to the farmers through direct bank transfer. If you would deposit money in the farmer's account, then the farmer would definitely prosper. But you are giving it to big capitalists, companies like Reliance, and companies like ICICI. You are

working on depositing it in the accounts of big companies. By doing this we will only weaken the economic condition of the farmers.

I want to say one thing in the end. Today the government pretends to be farmer-friendly. The tractor is the means of transport for farmers. If a farmer goes to HDFC Bank or ICICI Bank to buy a tractor, then the data on their website shows that the farmer is given a tractor at an interest rate of around 21-22 percent. On average, the farmer is charged an interest rate of 17 percent. If you have a tractor worth four lakh rupees and you take two lakh rupees as interest, then how will you double the farmer's economic income? The Government has launched the UDAN scheme. An airport comes to my Lok Sabha constituency. Government of Haryana.

The government repeatedly says that we will start flying planes at that airport, but in four years, not even a new brick has been laid at that airport. I hope that after this speech, the government will definitely establish an airport in Hisar, which will reduce the load on Delhi airport. You gave me the opportunity to speak again; thank you very much.

[1*]**SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):** Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley has presented the budget in the interest of the country. I express my gratitude for this budget.

Every section of the society has been taken care of in this budget, due to which the common man, the poor man and the farmer brothers are all expressing happiness with this budget. In this budget, steps have been taken in the interest of farmers, in the interest of the common man, and in the interest of traders. We all know that farmers are the backbone of our country, and these farmers have made a huge contribution to the development of the country. In this budget, the Modi government has taken several steps to increase the income of farmers, the main step of which is to provide farmers one and a half times the price of their cost.

Along with the country, the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir state will also benefit from this. 'Operation Greens' will prove to be effective for farmers producing fruits and vegetables.

Through the Pradhan Mantri Road Scheme, the road will go to main centres like main education. Work will also be done

* Speech was laid on the Table.

to connect the centres to hospitals; this will make life of the people in the villages easier, and people will not migrate from villages to cities.

There is a lot of enthusiasm among women regarding Ujjwala Yojana. This scheme is not only freeing the poor women of the country from smoke but has also become a big medium of their empowerment, and they feel respected in themselves. It is a matter of great happiness that by expanding this scheme, its target has now been increased from 5 crore families to 8 crore families. The Dalits, poor tribals and backward people of the country will benefit from this scheme on a large scale.

Ayushman Bharat has brought a wave of happiness among the poor. The government has removed a major concern of the common man and the poor man. Often the poor man had to wander from door to door to get treatment for his illness, and many families were troubled and even ruined due to lack of money for treatment. Now, through the scheme Ayushman Bharat presented in the budget by the government, even a poor man will be able to get free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh. This will provide relief to the common man and the poor man. This will benefit 50 crore people.

The establishment of 24 new medical colleges by the government across the country will not only provide treatment facilities to the people but will also make studies easier for the youth and increase employment opportunities. The problems of the elderly have also been kept in mind in the budget.

Through the Prime Minister Saubhagya Yojana, every home will get electricity, and those who did not get electricity in the last 70 years will also be given electricity.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is proving to be a boon for the poor, and the poor people are taking full advantage of it. By 2022, every poor family will have their own house.

I want to draw the attention of the government towards the state of Jammu and Kashmir. For the development of Jammu and Kashmir, the government of respected Narendra Modi Ji has cooperated wholeheartedly and has taken many historic steps like AIIMS, IIT, Medical College, Central University, National Highway, Tunnel, etc.

Recently, several steps have been taken to alleviate the problems of the people living on the Indo-Pak border, which include raising 5 battalions of paramilitary forces, assistance of Rs. 5 lakhs to the family of those martyred in the shelling by

Pakistan, a package of Rs. 2 thousand crores for the refugees of POJK, etc.

Recently the Central Government has provided Rs. 415 crore to the people living in the border areas to build bunkers to protect them from the shelling by Pakistan. Before this no government had bothered about these people.

I demand from the government that for the people living on the border, a plot of 5 marla should be given to each family at a safe place as soon as possible, or a shelter shed should be built so that people can take shelter with their families for a few days.

I would like to request the government that till the construction of AIIMS is completed, OPD Super Speciality Hospital should be started in Jammu to provide relief to the public so that the people of Jammu do not have to go to other states for treatment.

I want to draw the attention of the government towards the pilgrimage sites of the Jammu division. There are many historical pilgrimage sites in the Jammu division. Therefore, I would like to request the government to provide a special package for the development of these pilgrimage sites so that more and more people can go there for pilgrimage tourism.

I would like to request the Government to set up big government, public sector factories in Jammu so that employment opportunities can be created and the economy of the State can be strengthened.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the motion of thanks on the speech of the President.

First of all, I express my special gratitude to the President that while holding the posts of Governor of Bihar and President today, he visited my parliamentary constituency Nalanda several times and provided guidance with a focus on developmental aspects. The Congress has been in power in the country for nearly 60 years. He gave the slogan of eradicating poverty, but the economic inequality in the country continued to increase during his rule, and he could not eliminate this gap.

Madam, today through this House, I thank HON. Prime Minister Modi Ji said that if he has thought or done the most for any one class, then it is the farmer and labour class. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, in the year 2017 alone, six crore farmers were provided security cover under this scheme. Today, Modiji's government is providing minimum support price to the farmers and is committed to doubling their income by the year 2022. Today, with the aim of preventing wastage of agricultural products, Prime Minister Kisan Sampada Yojana has been started. Under this, supply chain and

infrastructure in the agriculture sector are being modernised on a large scale.

Madam, the steps taken by this government in the field of energy and the efforts made to provide electricity to every household are very commendable. The biggest example of this is my parliamentary constituency, Nalanda, which today is the first district in the country where electricity has reached every village and every hamlet, and the work has been done with such efficiency that the Hon. Prime Minister has rewarded the Nalanda District Officer. The President has mentioned women's empowerment in his speech, which shows that this government is very serious about women's issues. Sir, toilets are being constructed on a large scale in this country; today 75 percent of the villages in the country have become free from open defecation. The campaign of cleanliness was converted into a mass movement by the Prime Minister. By the time we celebrate Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary in 2019, our cleanliness campaign will be fully completed, and this will be the biggest tribute to Bapu. Construction of toilets is linked to the honour and dignity of women as well as their health.

Madam, the cleanliness drive of the NDA government has also strengthened the Seven Nischay program of Bihar. Today

in Bihar the cleanliness movement has been strengthened by providing tap water in every household and paving streets and constructing paved drains.

Due to the liquor ban law implemented in Bihar, the atrocities against women have been eliminated, and their families have started saving money. The family is moving towards prosperity. The liquor ban program is so successful and positive that I request the Central Government to strictly implement programs like the liquor ban in the entire country. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, gas connections have been given to three crore thirty thousand people, and the next target is eight crore people. On 21st January 2018, on the call of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, a huge human chain was formed in the series of women's empowerment against child marriage and the dowry system so that the message of eradicating these social evils could be sent across the world. I especially thank the country's Economic Advisor Arvind Subramaniam ji for dedicating this year's Economic Survey to women's empowerment. Constitution maker Baba Saheb Ambedkar used to say that unless social inequality is reduced, political democracy has no significance. Realising the pain of the poor, the Prime Minister started the Jan Dhan Yojana and

thought of the Antyodaya Yojana. Under this, bank accounts of 31 crore poor people have been opened so far. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi himself, during the Congress government, used to say that if we send one rupee from the Centre, the poor get ten paise. Today, with the opening of accounts of the poor, the benefits of all government schemes reach their bank accounts directly, and now there is no place for middlemen. The government's Make in India, Skill India and Start Up India programs are steps directly aimed at employment generation. The economic growth that has taken place in the country today has, to some extent, increased the confidence of foreign investors in the country; FDI is coming in on a large scale, and transparency has come into the system. The Prime Minister's slogan 'Red Carpet, Not Red Tape' has strengthened the GDP. All these things have been possible because the NDA government has zero tolerance towards corruption.

Finally, I conclude my speech by welcoming and supporting the motion of thanks to the President's speech.

*SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI (MUNGER): I welcome and support the first speech by the President. The President has given a message to take all sections of India towards progress. Due to which the general public is excited. The President has mentioned strengthening democracy, which is welcome.

The people of my parliamentary constituency, Munger, are very excited by the speech of the President and are committed to extending every possible support to the government. In building a new India, the government will have to first bring the backward states to the forefront. The state of Bihar has lagged far behind other states; hence, Bihar State will have to be given momentum first.

The state of Bihar is still far away from education, health and basic facilities, which will have to be increased by working on a war footing; only then will a new India emerge.

There is a lack of primary education in my parliamentary constituency, Munger, due to which small children have to be sent out. Apart from my parliamentary constituency, Munger, children of Bihar state are forced to go out of Bihar for higher education. There is no provision for engineering, medical and

* Speech was laid on the Table

other higher-level education in the state of Bihar. For these reasons, only the children of well-off people go outside for education. Bihar has lagged behind since the time of independence, and to date previous governments have not made any strong efforts for the progress of Bihar; therefore, after lagging behind once, the state of Bihar had to go backwards again and again. In comparison to other states, Bihar has more brilliant children. Whenever they get a chance, they keep showcasing their abilities to the country, which is appreciated by the country and the world too. Therefore, it is very important to make efforts for engineering, medical, IIT, universities and higher-level education in the state of Bihar.

Due to the very poor health system in my parliamentary constituency, Munger, the general public is forced to go to Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore and Lucknow for treatment. Due to which a poor person becomes poorer for treatment. There is no system like AIIMS in my parliamentary constituency. I have been demanding an AIIMS for the health system for the last three years but have not been successful so far. Bihar is a very backward state in the health sector.

There is no industrial factory in my parliamentary constituency, Munger. The number of unemployed is

increasing day by day. The youth are forced to go out of the state in search of employment, where they face a huge language problem, but they have to endure it all due to compulsion. Therefore, the Government of India should establish factories in the Munger parliamentary constituency under the industrial policy.

So far three villages have been adopted under the Aadarsh Gram Yojana, but they have not been developed yet. Therefore, the government should pay special attention to the villages adopted by MPs. So that the most backward areas can become partners in the development of the country.

The President has made special mention of farmers, rights and the security of women, which is welcome and is being appreciated across the country. An attempt was made to boost the morale of the farmers by mentioning that they will be given a fair support price for their produce, and by mentioning giving more rights and security to women, the President has given everyone an opportunity to move forward. Which is being discussed everywhere.

I strongly support the motion of thanks for the speech of the President.

[English]

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Madam Speaker, first of all, I express my gratitude to our *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* before I speak on the Motion of Thanks on the Hon. President's Address.

Madam, Education, Employment, Enterprises, Energy and Economy are the five essential elements on which the nation is built. Urban infrastructure and Digital India are the limbs of the society which facilitates forward movement of the country.

Education is the eye of the society. A country without proper education is like a person with a blurred vision. It is heartening to see the Government aims to create an educated, healthy and clean India.

Madam, Indian fireworks industry has been facing various problems and import of cheap illegal Chinese fireworks is one of them. The Hon. Supreme Court had imposed a total ban on the sale of fireworks before celebration of Deepavali festival in Delhi. However, it is seen that pollution level was very high even without fireworks during Deepavali in Delhi. There is no data available to show that fireworks emissions are polluting the environment, the reason being there is only short-term

emissions with no adverse effect on human health. No other country has imposed such a ban. In all the countries, fireworks are not seen as a source of pollution because it is for only one day in a year with short-term emissions.

Madam, Virudhunagar district is one among the only two districts in Tamil Nadu and one among 115 districts in India selected by the Prime Minister as backward district and a target has been set to uplift the district by 2022. But with the closure of many fireworks industries, it has to be seen how the target of uplifting the district could be achieved.

21 00 hrs

Madam, added to these problems, the Government has also imposed high GST tariff on fireworks which has also badly affected the fireworks industry.

Madam, considering the grave problem, I would urge upon the Union Government to look into this serious issue by banning the sale of illegal Chinese fireworks in the country and also lifting the ban on sale of fireworks imposed by the Supreme Court in Delhi, reducing high GST tariff rate and exemption to fireworks from Rule 3(3B) of the Environment

(Protection) Rules,1986 so that our domestic fireworks industry in Sivakasi could flourish.

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (BARASAT): Hon. Madam Speaker, on behalf of All India Trinamool Congress, I stand here to speak on the Motion of Thanks in gratitude towards Hon. Rashtrapati-ji for addressing a joint House.

Madam, there are self-contradictions. Whereas I agree to his statement in line No. 12 of the printed speech that 'political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy' and I agree again in his last sentence when he stresses on the equality and fraternity. But I am confused like many other countrymen – my brothers and sisters. The contradiction is whether in the rule of his Government today, does democracy at personal level, social level, economic and microeconomic level exist in today's India? Does our Constitution not grant us freedom of speech, social, economic and political justice, give us liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity and to promote fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual? But it is challenged in his rule today.

The present day Government invokes Swami Vivekananda often *Bahurupey sommukhe tomar chari kotha khujicho Ishwar, jeeve prem karey jei jon, Shei jon sebiche Ishwar*.

"Where are you searching for God in the temples, in the processions with open arms or in the rituals? No, it is all in humanity. God is within you; God is in the human being in front of you. "

So, is it not contradictory when Swami-ji is quoted but not followed? Naren as he used to be called when he was young, at the age of five or six, pulled the *hukka* meant for Muslims in his house to see whether that would make him lose his *dharma* or religion or *jaat*. At the end, he concluded that *dharma* or caste is not such a vanity that will be lost so easily.

Ram Krishna Paramhansa Dev specifically is quoted to have said that he practiced religion in temples and mosques alike and found no difference in reaching God. Today's India is different; today's India is difficult; today's India is contradictory; today's India is short-sighted; today's India is myopic; today's India is intolerant. Hon. Rashtrapati-ji has asserted his commitment to weaker sections. But let us define weakness. Who is weak? What is weakness? Whether weakness is physical, whether weakness is mental, whether weakness is social, religious, demographic or ethnic? Which weakness is he talking about in today's India? The weak have become more vulnerable. Children are to be protected as they

are not yet strong enough, they have not grown up. But everyday, children are being kidnapped, sexually abused, tormented. Most important, the budgetary allocation has been slashed as per the Mid-Day Meals proposals. Women are our pride and physically less strong. So, we can say that they are the weaker sex. We used to say so. But today, as the Hon. Ministers have been saying that the BSF jawans have shown formations during the Republic Day Parade; they have flown fighters. So, they are not so weak. However everyday, they are being raped; acid is thrown at them; they are molested. There is no concern in reality. As it is shown that only one crore has been increased in the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' whereas in our State, -- you were also quoting -- yes in our State, our Chief Minister, Hon. Mamata Banerjee has educated 45 lakh girl children through the '*Kanyashree'*.

The Adivasis are not getting their dues. Their right over their land, their jungle, their water is being snatched away and their language is not being given, as per the Schedule, due respect. Most importantly, minorities are trembling in trepidation. Madam, if you do not believe me, ask the family members of Pehlu Khan and Mohammad Akhlaq. Where is *dharma* today? Where is God? He is here in my heart. Where

is God and where is *dharma*? He is here in my mind, in my brain, in my soul and in my thought. That is Hinduism. It is to take everybody along as we go forward. It is not maim, not kill, not hurt and not abuse as is happening in today's India.

What about economic growth and equality? It is not there. If it were there, then the large defaulters would not have been let off scot-free and the poor depositors dealt with punitive action for not having minimum balance in their bank accounts. It is not *dharma*.

The farmers and fishermen are suffering. There is farmer suicide every day in the country – 12,000 farmers have committed suicide. Though in our State of West Bengal – yes, you were quoting West Bengal – the tax for the agricultural land has been done away with. The one-time deposit money to take electric connections for irrigation in the agricultural land has been done away with. But what about Bundelkhand and Vidarbha? What about States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand? The minimum support price is not in support of the farming community. The farmers are committing suicide. Four out of every 100 farmers are committing suicide every day.

As far as the fishermen are concerned, they are not getting the benefit of what the scientists are doing. The scientists are doing good job in the country. They have forecast the cyclone Ockhi that had occurred very recently. But when they could forecast the whole path, the information that it was going to hit these fishermen out in the sea could not be reached. We have lost many fishermen. So, we have to look after the farmers as well as the fishermen, the OBCs and the minorities who are at peril here.

In the recent Budget, the Bengal rail projects have been slashed. Only two lines have been doubled. But the extension of Metro, even in my Constituency Barasat, has been overlooked. It looks like vindictive political agenda is high. The use of Central agencies is also very high.

Madam, my last point is about the security. Our country has more than 22 thousand kilometers of international border, some are friendly countries, some are non-friendly countries. The young men guarding there is someone's husband and someone's father. But all of them are children of our country. But the Government is not looking after them well enough. The question is that a strong and sturdy soldier, who sits there day and night, while we sit in our homes and they bear the bullets

for our peace and happiness, only Rs. 90 per day, for their ration, is not enough. Who is thinking about it? The medical facilities for them are not enough. Who is looking after them? This Government is not looking after them. So, I feel, Madam, India, today, is wild with the delirium of hatred, which is contradictory to the rosy picture propagated. We must strive to be more tolerant. It is time to ask, have we lost our *dharma*, Madam?

Thank you.

***SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** Hon'ble President, at the very outset of his Address, stated that 2018 would be an important year for realising our vision of a New India. I appreciate his passion for building up a New India. However, the Schemes he pointed out in his speech are not enough to fulfil this great dream.

Our great nation is undergoing a difficult period, as major sectors ranging from agriculture to industry are reeling under pressure due to the monumental mistakes on the part of the Government.

Hon'ble President in his Address has stated that the Government is working actively and with sensitivity to remove the feeling of economic insecurity among the poor, farmers and senior citizens. Further, he praised 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana', for providing crop insurance security to farmers in the country. However, the grave fact is that the Scheme has only helped the insurance companies in the country to amass exorbitant profits at the cost of the poor farmers in the country. It is clear from the fact that 20% of the eligible farmers were

* Speech was laid on the Table

covered and the majority of them did not even have an idea about the existence of the Scheme.

Hon'ble President reiterated Government's commitment to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. I welcome this ambitious mission. However, the question arises here is the steps to achieve this goal. There was no mention about comprehensive steps initiated by the Government to realise this dream in a short span of time. The reality is that the NDA Government has totally ignored farmers. There has been a steady rise in input costs and slashing of various subsidies by the Government. As a result, farmers are facing a serious cost versus income imbalance, which is driving them to take drastic steps like suicide. According to an estimate, farmers are likely to get Rs. 36000 crore less this crop season as a result of lower market prices of the top seven commodities. Therefore, the doubling of farmers' income in 2022 is to be considered as a hollow promise of the Government.

The country was rocked by farmers' protests throughout the past year. In November 2017, thousands of farmers across the country thronged the streets of New Delhi, demanding the Government to fulfil its promise to hike MSP by 50%. They also demanded the ruling Government to be more pro- active in

its stance towards farmers and protect them from the exploitation of the middlemen. The Government has forgotten the words of the father of the nation that India lives in its villages. Instead of following the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government is keen to serve the interests of only a handful of industrialists.

The Government has been widely impassive in correcting the situation and bringing the farmers out of distress. The prices of most of the key agricultural commodities have seen a decline due to additional supplies from farms and the only way this can see a positive change is with Government's intervention. The Centre has maintained that it is working closely with the States to ensure higher procurement and ease the situation but the results of these efforts seem to be lost. The worst affected this season are the ones who planted pulses, prices of which plunged by 20% below the support price. The two failed monsoons, hailstorms and irregular rainfall can be blamed for the widespread farmer agony. Although these environmental factors cannot be controlled, the Government could have been proactive in protecting the livelihoods of farmers by increasing the procurement and strengthening the Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations.

Even veteran BJP leader Shri Yashwant Sinha accused the party of forgetting its poll promises after coming to power. Recently, BJP MP Shri Nana Patole submitted his resignation over the agrarian crisis and farmers' suicides in the State. Further, the shameful use of pellets on farmers in Shevgaon, Maharashtra highlights how insensitive the BJP-led Government is towards farmers. Violent police force was used to end road blockades by the farmers. They were even dubbed as Naxals. The double standards of the BJP are now exposed. When it was in Opposition, the party had demanded Rs. 3400 per tonne for sugarcane. But, now in power, it is using the police to fire pellets on farmers, who are demanding Rs. 3100 per tonne.

I represent a State, which is supported by the income from the rubber sector. The rubber growers in the State are hit by the slashing of natural rubber prices. At the same time, the Rubber Board has rolled back its welfare schemes to support rubber growers. As a result, rubber sector in the country is on the verge of extinction.

One of the most significant and holistic indicators of economic growth is the GDP. India has long sought the tag of being the world's fastest- growing economy, even reaching

double- digit figures of 10. 26% in 2010 under the then UPA Government, spearheaded by Congress under the efficient leadership of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Data released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) on 5th January, 2017 shows that the estimate of Financial Year 2018 is significantly lower than that of last year 7. 1% and is mainly on account of slowdown in agriculture and manufacturing output. Both, in turn, have slowed down due to the confusion caused by the roll out of the GST.

Growth in private consumption is also expected to fall to 6. 3% in the Financial Year 2018. Public expenditure, a key driver of economic growth, is also estimated to drop to only 9. 4% against 11. 3% a year ago. The 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector is estimated to grow at 2. 1%, less than half of the growth last year which was at 4. 9%. Manufacturing has taken a big dip and is estimated to grow at 4. 6% compared to 7. 9% last year. India's GDP per capita is also seen declining to 5. 3% as compared to 5. 7% last year. Even 6. 5% is actually an over-estimate, saying GDP growth for India in Financial Year 2018 will probably be even lower at just 6. 3%. As Shri Yashwant Sinha points out, had it been the old methodology of GDP calculation, the growth rate would have shown even lower.

The GST in its current form has done more harm than good to the economy. Though there is no evidence to support that Demonetisation succeeded in its primary objectives: curbing black money, corruption, and lowering terror funding, it is becoming exceedingly clear that the demonetisation has destroyed the farmers and small traders. The farm crisis became worse, with farmers defaulting on loan payments. Small shopkeepers are continuing to reel under the effects of demonetisation and on top of that GST has cut into their profits.

The term of this Government witnessed a fall in the prices of crude oil. Despite this, the Government took a decision to increase the indirect tax levied on petrol and diesel benefitting the Centre with a whooping Rs. 1. 6 lakh crore, all from the people of India. International fuel prices have a spiral effect on any country's economy. Global crude oil prices crashed from $100 a barrel in January 2014 to half by November 2014. Since India was affected by the brash decisions made by the Government, it was unable to reduce the fuel prices in line with the falling global price. The NDA Government increased the tax imposed on petrol and diesel over the period from November 2014 to January 2016 notwithstanding the demands from the people to cut down fuel prices. In Financial Year 2016,

Central Excise collection from this segment increased from Rs. 1. 2 per litre to Rs. 8. 95 per litre for petrol while high- speed diesel rose from Rs. 1. 46 per litre to Rs. 7. 96 per litre. According to the numbers released by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, during 2016-17, the Government made around Rs. 38,000 crore from petrol and Rs. 1,22,000 crore from diesel, totalling a massive Rs. 1. 6 lakh crores.

Rising fuel and food prices in recent times are visible in the increasing inflation. Along with retail inflation, fuel price inflation rose to 7. 9% and food price inflation went up to 4. 4% in November. Vegetable prices have also jumped by 22. 48% from same time last year, on the back of sky- high prices for onions, tomatoes and eggs. The rise of prices in foods is not restricted to vegetables alone, but with figures rising across the board except for pulses. Separate data released by the Government shows that India's factory output, measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP) also slowed in October. Mining output of the country was also stagnant in October, while manufacturing and electricity grew by only 2. 47% and 3. 2%. Most shocking of all, consumer durables contracted for the second consecutive month at 6. 9%.

The slowing industrial production of the country indicates that the Government is not doing enough to revive the economy after the disastrous demonetisation and poorly implemented GST. Mining output, such as iron and aluminium, are used as raw material in most of the heavy industries like automobiles and manufacturing. Static output in this regard also suggests that such industries are not demanding enough raw materials and thus, are still not out of the woods. That is why, only a meagre growth of 2. 47% in manufacturing and 3. 2% in electricity is hardly surprising. Consumer durables falling for second consecutive time signals that people have cut down on buying expensive household goods. With high vegetable and food prices, many consumers are left with between a rock and a hard place.

Hon. President in his Address rightly pointed out that our country is the youngest among all nations in the world. Then the Address praised various schemes of the Government to provide employment to the youth in the country. However, the fact is that the NDA Government miserably failed to fulfil its promise regarding employment generation. The promise was that the NDA would create two crores employment opportunities every year in the country. We have to bear in

mind that unemployment in the country will worsen after the return of 500000 to 750000 skilled professionals from the USA in the light of new developments in that country. The employment opportunities in the Middle East are also shrinking. Therefore, the Government has to create more opportunities for fulfilling its promise in this regard. However, the recent Report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is showing a bleak picture. According to the Report, the situation in India will be severe in 2019.

The ILO Report states that about 77% of workers in India will continue to be under the spell of vulnerable employment by 2019. Vulnerable employment is characterized by poor working conditions, inadequate pay and difficult working conditions that undermine a worker's rights. The vulnerable employment level of India will continue to be higher than the rest of South Asia. Out of an estimated 535 million Indian labour workforce in 2019, 398. 6 million will have poor quality jobs. The official unemployment rate for the 15-24 age groups has been pegged at 10. 7% in 2019. As of 2017, almost a quarter (23. 4 %) of India's working population continues to live in extreme to moderate poverty. The Report also says that India

alone will account for almost 10% of the world's unemployed by 2019.

Not just this, the Report points out that the number of unemployed people in India will further increase to 18. 6 million in 2018 and 18. 9 million in 2019, compared to 18. 3 million as of 2017. The actual numbers could potentially overshoot the estimates, as it has happened before. In 2017, the number of unemployed people in India was 0. 5 million more than what ILO had estimated. Before coming to power, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had promised to ramp up employment opportunities, but the numbers reveals the truth behind his hollow promise.

The Government claimed that the demonetisation was to curb terror funding in the country. However, today soldiers are increasingly vulnerable to terror attacks and cross- border firings. The country would like to know the steps being taken by the Government to ensure safety of the brave children of our motherland.

Instead of fulfilling its promises, the Government has been repeating its hollow promises or setting forth more ambitious promises. Therefore, I request the Government to rectify its

errors and implement the programmes and policies in favour of the common people in this country.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon. Madam Speaker, I am extremely grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the motion of gratitude presented by our party's Hon. Shri Rakesh Singh ji on the speech of the President.

I was in the House for a long time listening to the members of the House on the speech of the President. The President's speech is a document of the government's policies, programs, plans and road map for future plans. This is also an account of the achievements of the government.

The way the Hon. members said that this Government had made promises, perhaps this Government has not moved forward in the direction of fulfilling those promises. If we look at the speech of the President and the proceedings of this House.

In the year 2014, the issue of policy paralysis was discussed in this House and it was said that there was policy paralysis in the Congress government. Because of that, people are not investing, and foreign investment is not coming. The investment that was made is going back. Even the industrialists

of this country, like Tata, who were playing a strong role in nationalism, were also going to Africa and Europe to invest. Such circumstances had arisen in the country, and it really seemed that the government of this country had become afflicted with policy paralysis. I say that after three and a half years, only two people can evaluate this government. The people of this country from Kanyakumari to Kashmir can do it, or the economists of the world can do it. After the 2014 elections, there is talk of development of the common man under the leadership of Modi ji; there is talk of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas." Its result is that today the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA government are in power in 19 states of the country. It is natural that the people of the country have approved the policies of the government. I want to say that the people of the world are evaluating the policies of this government; recently a meeting of the World Economic Forum was held in Davos. Last time, the people of the same ideology sitting on that side used to keep their eyes on the President of China when he inaugurated the shipping. Sometimes Donald Trump used to do it, where the corporate houses of the world, economists, and heads of states of the world used to gather. For the first time, India got an opportunity there; for the first time,

India felt proud that where there was China and America, the entire world invited Narendra Modi ji due to his focus on economic policies and the privilege of the preliminary session of the World Economic Forum was also given to Shri Narendra Modi due to the support given by the people of India. This is the truth; this is the reality. Why do you want to ignore it? You say, What did the government do? Narendra Modi ji was elected as the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and NDA to lead this government; at that time he had said that this government would be a government dedicated to the poor. This will be a government dedicated to the youth of the country. This will be a government dedicated to the women, farmers and tribals of the country. You should evaluate whether this government has passed these tests or not. There were formerly two Indias in the country. The first one was where, as soon as the evening set in, in Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, etc., it felt like it was day. The second one is the village. When we go to any village in our constituency, it becomes so dark that people's houses are not visible. The women of the house prepare food before evening, thinking about how the family will be able to eat in the dark. Earlier there was darkness in millions of houses in villages, and the metropolises used to

shine. Today, the new India that our Prime Minister is talking about building is the same new India where now there will not be two Indias. If India is identified with Delhi and Mumbai, then the same comforts and facilities would be available to the poor people living in villages and huts also. Earlier, to get an electricity connection, one had to make rounds of JE, SDO and XCN and had to pay two to four thousand rupees; only then could one get a connection. Today, the poor, labourers and farmers do not have to make rounds of the electricity department to get a free connection. On the instructions of the Central Government, the electricity department itself is going to their doorsteps and giving them free connections. Four crore connections have been given.

We are giving four crore connections. You can imagine that the country became independent in the year 1947. After the independence of the country, today we are standing in the year 2018. Even today, if we have set a target of 4 crore, then those 4 crore houses still do not have electricity. You can imagine that a citizen of this country, a youth born from the womb of a mother, cannot imagine that even today we live in darkness. To study at home after being forced, go in front of the lamppost at night, study in the light of a lamp and lantern, and imagine

becoming an IAS. Today Narendra Modi is going to make the dream of that new India come true. I want to say today that just now they were saying that people are taking away investments, whereas the investments were being taken away before the year 2014. You might remember that people were taking investments to Europe. … (*Interruptions*) You listen today. Where the whole world used to look at Europe, China and America, today the whole world is looking at India in ease of doing business and believes that India is the best nation for investment.

Madam, today I am talking about Saubhagya Yojana. Take the Ujjwala scheme today. What was not imagined about this Ujjwala? We should have a gas cylinder in our house, we should have a gas cylinder in the MP's house, some teacher in the city should have a gas cylinder, and some engineer or doctor should have one. What crime have I committed if I was born in a poor family? Can't he imagine? Just as the President had said in his speech after becoming the President that when it used to rain, the entire family used to gather at one place in our house because there was water leakage in my house. The entire family used to spend the whole night to avoid that drop of rain. We have appointed him as the President of India; you ask what we

have done. Today, if the government is dedicated to the poor and the Dalits, then there is no difference between words and actions. You should also look at yourself. Certainly, today all the MPs, not just the ruling party but also the opposition, would have seen a sparkle in their eyes when they would have distributed gas cylinders, stove and regulators free of cost under the Ujjwala scheme in their areas. Women have been given ownership. Be they minority women or our majority women, when they saw a stove and cylinder placed on the table in some rich man's house in their village, they used to cry over their fate that if only this would happen in our destiny someday, we too would have a gas cylinder in our house. If anyone has done the work of providing free gas stoves to those huts and thatched and kutcha houses today, it is our Narendra Modi government who has done it. Now we will give those houses also; whatever we have said, whatever the Prime Minister and the government have said, they will fulfil it. If it is about providing a roof by the year 2022, then every person will get a house by the year 2022. In this country, every house will have a cylinder, stove and toilet. I want to say one thing: when the Lok Sabha elections were going on, even at that time a senior leader of Congress had made fun of tea by calling him a tea seller and

had said that after the elections we will give him space in our office. They thought that we were making fun of the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party in this country, but they made fun of crores of poor people of the country who sit in their homes and crave a glass of tea in the morning, go to the shop of the hard-working tea vendors and drink tea. The result of making fun of them was seen in the year 2014. What the Prime Minister has said today is about enterprise. There are three crore people who have been asked to be given self-employment for the first time under the Mudra scheme, for which there is enterprise. Your city may be Indore, my city may be Siddharthnagar, the poor wake up in the morning … (*Interruptions*) Pakora and Mangauri are the breakfast for them. In Bihar, Bhujia is the breakfast. Pakora and mangauri are the breakfast for them. In Bihar, bhujia is the breakfast. You are not making fun of the government, and you are not making fun of Narendra Modi, but you are making fun of the crores of people who are working hard all day to take this country forward by eating the same pakoda. You are making fun of them.

Madam, I want to say that do not make fun of them like this. Our Fertiliser Minister is sitting here. Which session was not there when you and I and everybody else used to discuss

whether we belong to the ruling party or the opposition? Everyone used to discuss that fertilisers are not available in our areas, stick-fired is being done for urea, and people across the country are standing in queues all night for urea. Fertiliser and urea are necessary for the farmer's production, and he used to struggle for them. Since the day this NDA government was formed, there has been no shortage of fertilisers in the entire country. This is the real government.

Madam, we met the Prime Minister five times in the last Lok Sabha. We used to promise that Gorakhpur will run, Talchett will run, Ramagundam will run, and Sindri will run. Those five big factories, the hard-earned money of the people of the country, were supposed to write the fate of the country, were supposed to write a new chapter of the country, and were supposed to create a new destiny for the country. I want to ask whether Congress people are there or not. Today, those five fertiliser factories, which were closed for ten years, have been worked on by our NDA government. Modi ji has done it.

Sir, these people are saying for the farmers, how will they get one and a half times the income? Madam, this time our government has given the National Health Insurance Scheme of five lakh rupees to the people. When we go to Europe or

America, we say that here every person is covered by health insurance; if he falls sick, no matter how much money it costs, he will be treated for free in the hospitals of America and Europe. It was only a fantasy in our country. Did anyone ever think that this dream would ever come true in India? Now they may say whatever they want in the House, but outside among the public they say, From where will they get so much money?. How will they provide five lakh rupees per year for treatment to ten crore families worth fifty crore rupees? Hey, you people are dreaming, but it will turn into reality, and the people of the whole country will realise that the Modi government has done such good work for health and education.

Madam, I thank you for giving me the time to speak, and I conclude my speech by supporting the motion of thanks to the President's speech.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Madam, I stand to oppose the President's Address.

Madam, in the President's Address, the President talked that the dignity of Muslim women has remained captive to political cost-benefit. I take strong offence to it and I would like to condemn such a statement which clearly shows the hatred which this Government has for the religion of those Indians who are 14 per cent of the population. Patriarchy is the main cause of discrimination against women. What Muslim women require are jobs and education. What this Government is focussing is only on 0. 01 per cent of the Muslim women who get triple talaq. Why are they not talking about education and jobs?

Moreover, these Muslim women require education and jobs but their sons and husbands are also jobless. Your remedy is worse than the disease. This new law--if it becomes a new law, God forbid-- will destroy for ever the Muslim marriages. You will have more Muslim men in jail and you have Muslim women on the road. What we require in India is an egalitarian society in which we have more substantive equality rather than formal equality. I want to know this from the Government. If

they are so interested in Muslim women's equality, would they give seven per cent reservation to Muslim women in education? Would they give land ownership rights to women in general in India? Let them show how sincere they are.

Madam, the President's Address talks about 45 lakh scholarships. In the 2016-17 Budget, 26 per cent of the budget was reduced. My third point is, the Government said we will remove Haj subsidy. That is fine. Where is that amount being shown? That amount is not to be shown. Moreover, the pre-matric scholarship, which a minority candidate gets, is Rs. 1,000. Why have you not revised it? Who has stopped you?

The Report of the All-India Education Survey on Higher Education for the year 2016-17 has come. There are 3. 5 crore students enrolled for higher education. Out of that, only 17. 3 lakhs are Muslims, which is 4. 87 per cent. That is why, we had demanded to give scholarship on demand-driven basis. You have put a damper on it. The same report says that there are only 4. 84 lakh Muslim teachers. This in itself clearly shows that how hollow and how hypocrite this Government is.

Coming to the General Budget, the total allocation is Rs. 4,900 crore. That is not even 0. 19 per cent. The minorities of the country are 22 per cent. Again, it exposes that you only rely

on *jumlas*. They talk about schemes like Hunar, USTTAD, Seekho Aur Kamao. Madam, 43,182 trainees have been given placement. Not a single record is in public domain which clearly shows that all your claims are bogus.

Now, let me come to public sector lending. The NITI Aayog itself says that Muslim share in minority is about 73 per cent. The priority sector lending is only 45 per cent. What have you done? You have been in power for four years. This again shows how hollow and shallow your claims are.

Madam, Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-Cum-Means Scholarships have been reduced since this Government come to power. These are not my figures. These are your figures. Scholarship amount for minorities has come down drastically under this Government.

The Prime Minister talks about empowerment of Muslims. But as a Prime Minister, he has not even chaired one single meeting on 15-Point Programme initiative.

[Translation]

I want to know why the Prime Minister did not hold a single meeting, you did not hold a single meeting of the 15 Nikati Prime Minister programs, and you talk big. A meeting should

be held once in six months, but no meeting ever took place. This is all data.

Finally, before I conclude, I want to make a point! The Government rightly said that Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said that political democracy can survive only when there is benefit of social and economic democracy.

Madam, I want to know from the government that it has been a long time since 70 years of independence of this country and especially after this government came to power, you have weakened all the things that are talked about in our constitution and our law like liberty, fraternity, equality, and justice. I want to know from the government what Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said: that political democracy cannot flourish until social and economic democracy is achieved. I am stating a harsh reality before you. Even today, after 70 years, I am called a Pakistani. Why is it like this? I rejected Jinnah's message everywhere; now we cannot even wave the tricolour. I want to ask the government whether you will make such a law. You should make such a law as was made for SC and ST. Whoever in India calls a Muslim a Pakistani, he will be made non-bailable. … (*Interruptions*) 153 has failed. … (*Interruptions*) See, Madam, you see. … (*Interruptions*) This is their attitude, which shows

their thinking and their intention. … (*Interruptions*) I am telling you that we rejected the prophecy of Jinnah. Can you make a law that no Muslim in India will be called a Pakistani? … (*Interruptions*) You make that law and make provision for three years imprisonment. … (*Interruptions*) You will not make such a law. The law you are going to make on triple talaq is against women, it is against Muslims, it is against the Constitution, and it will be an injustice to women. Thank you very much.

***SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** I support the motion of thanks moved by HON. Rakesh Singh in the House for the speech given by the President to the joint Parliament on 29th January, 2018. We are grateful that in his speech, the President has discussed the achievements made by the Central Government in the last three and a half years under the leadership of our people's leader, the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Our government has achieved success in every field during its tenure, due to which every section has benefited and their condition has improved. From Jan Dhan accounts to cleanliness and from rural electrification to air services, work has been done to provide them to the general public. By the year 2022, when 75 years of independence will be completed, a resolution will have been taken to accomplish in the next 5 years what has not been done in the last 70 years. The resolution to provide housing to every poor person and water to every farm is unique in itself. Three and a half crore people have gotten free gas connections. Through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, work has been done to develop the skills of people and put them to work. Through the Mudra Bank Scheme, people have been given the facility to carry out their

* Speech was laid on the Table

work by making available money from banks without guarantee. Adequate arrangements have been made so that every poor person's house can be illuminated through Saubhagya Yojana. To ensure that people have adequate medical facilities, new AIIMS have been established in every corner of the country, and district hospitals and medical colleges have been upgraded. Soil Health Card, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Fasal Bima Yojana, has been introduced with the resolve to double the income of farmers by 2022. With this, I support the motion of thanks and express my gratitude.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Madam, I stand up to support the motion of thanks for the speech of the President.

HON. SPEAKER: All the women are also sitting with you.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: All of them have been waiting for a long time and were saying that we will sit to listen to your speech. We give strength to these women so that they continue to stand strong like this. You are also sitting; if you did not sit, then it would be incomplete.

The condition and direction of the country are mentioned in the speech of the President. The president's speech not only contains an account of what the government is going to do but also mentions its policies and achievements. The speech mentions a strong policy by the government to solve the problems of the country. In the speech, the President has expressed concern about the poverty prevailing in the country and has mentioned the government's commitment to its complete eradication and to providing all kinds of facilities to all citizens through sympathy, assistance and empowerment, which is commendable. the President informed in his speech that till now around 10 crore loans have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and loans worth more than four lakh crore rupees have been given. There are

approximately three crore people who have taken advantage of this scheme for the first time and have succeeded in starting self-employment. Under the Jan Dhan Yojana, self-employment has been successful. Bank accounts of about 31 crore poor people have been opened. At the start of this scheme, the number of women's savings accounts in the country was around 28 percent, which has now increased to more than 40 percent. The government has provided insurance facilities to the poor at a premium of one rupee per month and 90 paise per day, due to which till now more than 18 crore people have joined the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

The government is also committed to the social security of the senior citizen. Around 80 lakh of our senior citizens are getting benefited through Atal Pension Yojana. Till today these people had not even dreamt that we could do such good work.

In the field of agriculture, cheap and simple insurance services are being provided to the farmers under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.’ During the year 2017, five crore 71 lakh farmers were provided security cover under this scheme for Rabi and Kharif crops.

Being a woman, I thank the government that the government has taken a big step by making changes in the Maternity Benefit Act. There is a provision to give 26 weeks of paid leave to women instead of twelve weeks, due to which working women will now get more time to take care of their newborn child.

The President has mentioned the Government's commitment to legalise the Bill presented in the Parliament regarding Triple Talaq in favour of women's empowerment, which I welcome.

The government is paying full attention to health services, for which 800 types of medicines have become cheaper. Under Deendayal Amrit Yojana, discounts ranging from 60 percent to 90 percent are being given on more than 5200 life-saving branded medicines and surgical implants through 111 outlets. The condition of rural roads was pathetic during the previous government, but the present government is working with the idea of taking development to every section of the society. The work of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is progressing rapidly. In 2014 only 56 percent of villages were connected with road connectivity. But now more than 82 percent of

villages are connected by roads, most of which are in remote areas.

I come from a backward class. Therefore, I am well aware of the problems of this category of people. I demand from this Government, which is sensitive towards the aspirations of every section of the society, to give constitutional status to the National Backward Classes Commission, which the President has mentioned in his speech.

The development of any nation depends to a large extent on its youth power. Today our country is one such country in the world where the youth population is the highest, but the previous government did not pay serious attention to the development of youth and providing proper opportunities for them, due to which unemployment of youth was also a major problem of the previous UPA government. However, there has been talk of providing employment to unemployed youth. In his speech, the President has spoken about making a large section of the country's population more skilled through schemes like 'Har Hath Ko Hunar,' 'Ustad,' 'Nai Roshni,' etc.

Apart from this, the President has mentioned the upcoming policies of the government on issues like social media, economic policy, agricultural loans, rail networks,

high-speed trains, waterways, clean fuel, tourism, education, security, etc., which is balanced in itself.

Through his speech, the President has focused on the development of every citizen of the country through the upcoming policies of the government. Every section of the country will feel hopeful after this speech. Our former President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Ji used to say that the dreams you see during the day that disturb your sleep at night, only those dreams come true; otherwise, the dreams you see while sleeping, like the Congress party, keep dreaming during their time, and now when the time comes to speak something, they keep speaking nonsense.

I would just say that the slogan of the Congress people was-

Association with scams, destruction of the poor of the country,

No home, no employment, right to scams,

Propaganda of wrong things, respect for family members.

Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, the President's Address to the nation through the Joint Session of the Parliament is deeply disappointing. Normally, the very purpose of the Presidential Address to the nation through the Joint Session of the Parliament is to announce the programmes and policies of the ensuing year, i. e. 2018-19, to be implemented. Unfortunately, the President's Speech of 2018 consists of only the so-called achievements of the Government during the last three and a half years. That is only the repetition of the features which we have experienced during the last three years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to make a relevant point regarding the Speech as well as the position of the NDA Government. The NDA Government is always fully relying on post-truth politics. Madam, this is a new philosophy. It is a political culture in which debate is framed largely by appeals with emotions disconnected with the details of policy and repeated assertion of the talking points to which factual rebuttals are ignored. That means the truth and facts have no place and no role in the post-truth politics. Everything is just to create a perspective and to create a spectacle and nothing else.

That is being done by the Hon. Prime Minister of this country. The last example of the post-truth politics is the Presidential Speech. All these four years, the Government has been pursuing the same political strategy of the post-truth politics.

Madam, if you go through the Speech, the opening sentence of the Speech, the first paragraph and the second paragraph of the Speech, are beginning with 'Our Vision of New India' and the Speech ends with the last paragraph: "Let's move ahead together in one direction with full commitment and energy towards creating a glorious India".

Madam, I would like to know from the Government as to what is the real vision of new India and glorious India as far as the Government is concerned. Madam, if you see it, the Speech gives a very rosy picture about the socio-economic position. This rosy picture is based on the assessment made by the external funding agencies like World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Moody's Agency and World Economic Forum and all these agencies. These are being relied upon. We know the social realities. We are experiencing poverty, unemployment and inequality. This social reality is glaring and we are simply depending on the agencies. These agencies are not concerned about the social situation of our country because

they are only concerned about the market conditions and they want to take advantage of it.

I would like to tell you about the inequality position of our country. One per cent of the population of this country is owning 73 per cent of the total worth. That means, 99 per cent of the population holds only 27 per cent of the total wealth of this country. That is the inequality which is prevailing in our country. The Economic Survey has very specifically stated about spiralling unemployment as well as poverty in our country.

I would like to highlight another very important point about the Presidential Speech which is regarding the political democracy. The Hon. President, His Excellency, has made a very valid point that the political democracy cannot survive if there is no social democracy as well as economic democracy. Madam Speaker, the first Dalit President in India, His Excellency, the Late Shri K. R. Narayanan in his Presidential Speech on 15th August, 1997 addressing the Joint Session at the time of Golden Jubilee celebrations of India's Independence, also said the same thing that social and economic democracy is the tissue and fibre of political democracy. How to achieve this has also been stated by him. He said that it can be achieved by

clinging to our cultural values, our traditions of tolerance to our composite culture and secularism and our economic and social development programmes. It can maintain our unity. Madam Speaker, unity and integrity are under threat. The secular fabric of the country is under threat and intolerance is growing like anything. That will definitely adversely affect the unity and integrity of the country.

When we talk about social democracy, what is freedom of speech and expression? It is the Constitutional right which is given to the citizens of the country to have freedom of speech and expression, the right to dress, the right to eat, the right to drink, the right to speak, and the right to do anything depending on many other factors. In this regard, we are well aware of what happened with the film Padmavat recently. The secular fabric and the fundamental rights are under threat. Even the basic features of the Constitution are under threat because of the policies adopted by this Government.

I would like to state that economic freedom as well as social freedom are very important for a free country. Economic and social democracy are highly essential for political democracy. Unfortunately, when His Excellency the President spoke about political democracy, these two aspects were missing under the

leadership of most respected Prime Minister of our country Shri Narendra Modiji.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Very good! Everybody is concluding right in time.

Ramesh Bidhuri ji, you will also take care of the time, everyone is doing the same.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Madam, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the speech of the President. I was very surprised this morning. Kharge Saheb, a very big leader of Congress, was speaking in the morning. I was quite surprised at the language he was using and to whom he was reciting. If he is watching it on TV, then it is fine; otherwise, Venu ji, please convey my message to him. He was saying again and again, Read the newspaper, read this., He is the only one who reads the National Herald and probably does not read newspapers at all; his knowledge is limited. First of all, he said that it was the Congress that had worked for the poor, and the wheat at two rupees per kg and rice at three rupees per kg were done by our UPA leader and Manmohan Singh ji. Start feeding them almonds, etc. When Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, he had come up with this policy under the Antyodaya Yojana that the poor should be provided wheat at Rs two per kg and rice at Rs three per kg. Atal Ji had said that we did not have government in the states. Today we have government in 19 states. But at that time too, with a lot of enthusiasm, Hon. Atal Ji had said that if any state wants to provide cheap rations

to the poor, then it should just pay the rent, and the centre will make arrangements for wheat at Rs. 2 per kg and rice at Rs. 3 per kg. This scheme was implemented for the maintenance of the poor.

After that, he was saying that petrol prices have been increased. They were asking for the account of Rs 6 lakh crore. Kharge Saheb, you are asking for the account of Rs 6 lakh crore, but you should have read the budget also. You are demanding an account of that Rs 6 lakh crore—where did the money go?—but they could not tell whether it went to the house of any BJP or NDA leader. Where did it go? Where did it go?, He was repeating the same thing. They thought that maybe, like the 2G spectrum or like our people, it might also be going into their pockets, but they have not been able to find out yet. They thought that maybe, like the coal scam, it was going into the pockets of our people; it was going to Shri A Raja. … (*Interruptions*) But I want to say that this Rs. 6 lakh crore under Suraksha Health, Suraksha Bima for Rs. 12—the son of the poor, the poor family is insured—is Rs. 12 in a year. A poor man goes to work; he meets with an accident while riding his bicycle. 85 percent of the people in this country are poor. He meets with an accident, and he has two small children. Who

will take care of that family? Insurance of two lakh rupees is available for Rs 12. You could also make this arrangement through the insurance company. You must have done it on paper too, Venu Saheb, but it never came to practical ground. It has just been announced that ten crore families, fifty crore people, will be given insurance of five lakh rupees for their illness. You are also an MP; you must be going to your constituency. Such poor people say that they are suffering from cancer but are not getting treatment. From where will I get two lakh rupees? They have a heart operation; from where will I get two lakh rupees?. Every day letters have to be written to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, and they say that there is not that much money; it is given in quota. Today, fifty crore people, ten crore families, and our population in the country have reached close to 132 crore and these families are only 32-33 crore. Out of 32 crore, 10 crore are those families who will not have to die without treatment for five lakh rupees. Tell Kharge Saheb that this money is going there for the poor. This money will no longer go to London or Paris to educate your children or to Italy for marriage. This money will be used for the welfare of the poor.

Secondly, he was saying that SC and ST should get reservations in promotions. Buttermilk says fine, but a sieve will also, which already has 100 holes. You are asking for a promotion and misleading SC/ST regarding reservation. The government brought a law to give constitutional rights to OBCs; you are not passing it, and you are not supporting it.

On one hand you are beating your own drum that we want reservations for SC/ST. They kept misleading the people of the country for 60 years by showing Mungeri Lal's dreams but did not give anything to the people of the country. I want to tell Kharge Saheb that if you want development of SC/ST/OBC people, then pass the OBC bill. To make arrangements for the Constitution Commission, the Prime Minister of the country, Modi Ji, had said that the poor should also get the rights of the OBC category from the constitutional point of view. You had talked about providing one crore jobs. I want to say again that you should read other newspapers too; don't just rely on National Herald. It is not about one crore people. Mudra loan is for the employment of five crore people, in which the old finance minister says that pakoda sellers have become beggars; they are being made beggars. If someone wants to earn his bread with dignity by doing labour, his son does not want to

become a drunkard after wandering from door to door, does not want to become a thief, and does not want to become a robber. The son of a poor man wants to live a life of respect. You made them thieves and robbers; your 65 years of rule made them so.

Just now an honourable MP was speaking. I did not say anything at that time. Hon. Ananth Kumar ji was sitting there. He used to scold me whenever I spoke. In my area the bank manager did not give a loan to anyone; this is your failure. Why did you not go to the bank manager? Did you not ask him about your rights? I was asking Dushyant ji, from where can one get a loan from Mudra Bank? If the bank manager does not give the Mudra loan, I want the name of that bank manager. I am not talking about the finance minister, I am not talking about the Prime Minister of the country, and I am not talking about the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, any MP can give me the code number of that bank manager, and I will see how that bank manager stays for four months. You will not go among the people and work; you will only curse here. You will only curse the House and the government; everything has gone out of your hands. There was chaos in the country due to demonetisation. Your... [1*] goods were left inside the palace, *'s goods were left,

* Not recorded

* was also shouting, * was also saying that you should have told me a month ago. Whatever elections were held after demonetisation, whoever gives certificates in democracy, the people of the country give the certificates; in whichever elections were held, the poor people have chosen us. We are called a party of rich people, and it is also said that we work for money. They tell us that we are giving it to the corporates; under MSE, they have been given a discount of five percent if small people will start small-scale industries.

They are blaming us. The owner of the ship, Vijay Mallya, has run away. The loan was given during our time; you people had given the loan. When Mallya ran away, you people were saying why he was not caught. You people taught him how to steal, and after we come to power, you people talk about catching him. Why did you give the loan? Venugopal ji, why did you give a loan?

They have ruined the country's capital, Delhi. There is chaos in the streets and cities of the country's capital, Delhi. In the year 2006, the Supreme Court of India had said that in 2006, there was a Congress Government at the Centre, there was a Congress Government in the MCD, and the Hon. Supreme Court had said that you are going to turn Delhi into a slum; it is

the capital of the country, and it will be ruined. The Supreme Court of India said that the residential areas where commercial activities are going on should be sealed. In the year 2006, the Hon. Supreme Court said your government in the Centre, the government in Delhi, and the government in MCD did not do any planning. Every year, in the name of the same lollipop, they kept on increasing the ordinance ten times one after the other. Your Government did not bother about the development of the people of Delhi or how the people living in villages whose lands were acquired can get employment. Today the Supreme Court had to say, The Kejriwal government said, 'Give me two years' time., The Kejriwal government is also the seed sown by you. You had supported it for 49 days. Both had become uncle and aunt. The BJP has to be stopped; it came to power for 49 days. After coming to power, he said that I will end corruption and do a sting. Those who were troubled by Inspector Raj for two months, which was ended by Jaitley Sahib in GST, used to harass people, and they used to loot the poor in your rule.

People thought that a great form of Mahadev had come; now only Kejriwal will end corruption. Nothing happened in the 49 days of government; hence, they were given 67 seats. You are responsible for getting these 67 seats. If he had not run

the 49-day government with your support, then today Delhi would not have to suffer like this. Today Delhi is suffering. I want to return to the issue of sealing. When they said, Give me two years, the Honourable Supreme Court said, What have you been doing till now? What have you done till now? You have just created a drama. After reviving that committee, the court said that all the industries in Delhi operating in residential accommodations should be sealed. Due to this there was sealing in Delhi. It was your government; till the year 2013, Shila Dikshit ji was the Chief Minister. I want to ask you that 35 lakh people live in unauthorised colonies. Your government was in power at the Centre; why were those colonies not passed? The Honourable High Court had said that if you provide the complete infrastructure and basic amenities, we have no objection and authorise them, but not even a single colony was passed. Here you talk about farmers. Sheila ji was the Chief Minister here; you had a government at the centre. Farmers live in five districts of Delhi; there the Central Ground Water Authority is formed, and farmers are not given permission to install tube wells. Their fields do not get water. There is no water in the Yamuna River, there are no canals,

those poor farmers are dying, and today here this… *The government is sitting. hey don't give electricity connections to them. He is your brother; you have given birth to him. Sandeep Dixit ji has a partnership with his wife; the world knows which buses are running. Therefore, today two crore people of Delhi are suffering due to the misdeeds of Congress. These are the seeds you have sown; now Modi ji has to reap them.

I want to say one more point. You said what we have done for the youth. The son of the poor cannot study; he is poor. His father was a working man, so he went to support him and left his studies after class 9th. Because of people like you, because of your government, they are being exploited by calling them unskilled workers. Under this skill development scheme, for which it was just said that a provision of Rs 17 crore has been made in the budget, last year also a provision of Rs 15 crore was made. You say that centres have not been opened anywhere; I will give you the addresses. In my constituency there is a centre in Okhla, in Badarpur, in Kapashera, and in Sangam Vihar, but you cannot see them. You are wearing such glasses that a blind Sawan sees everything as green. Someone's eyesight burst during the month of Saavan. Later, when there

* Not recorded.

was a drought, he could see only green everywhere. You only see opposition to Modi ji. You don't want to see the reality. That is why I want to say that the unskilled workers, who were exploited earlier and who used to be settled by the rich people by giving them five to seven thousand rupees, today, through the Skill Development Centre, are given six hundred types of training. They can learn nursing training, blacksmith work, welding work, carpentry work, and bicycle-making work because the poor fellow could not study after ninth-tenth class. His family was helpless; his father was not able to educate him. His father used to go out to help in small jobs, or the child was not interested in studying, so he remained unskilled, and in this way he continued to be exploited for 70 years. He did not get the full amount of his wages. I am not saying that we started the skill development scheme; it has been going on since the time of Congress, but earlier there used to be a nexus of some leaders, officers and some other people. Centres were opened by forming an NGO, and grants were taken from the government for the same. Today, in Modi Ji's government, it has been said that whichever NGO gives training to anybody under the Skill Development Centre, unless it gives 80 percent placements, that agency will not get a grant from the

Government of India. That is why today those girls from poor families take training to be nurses, receptionists, and assistants. After taking training, when he becomes a skilled labourer, no one will be able to exploit him, and he will be able to get a salary of Rs. 22 thousand by showing his skill training certificate. The Modi government has done this for the poor. I have less time; I would request the Hon. Chairperson to give me five minutes. I would like to say something.

Scindia ji spoke about foreign policy; he is a senior leader. I want to ask them whether, in 70 years of independence, China ever said this. Today the official spokesperson of China says that the issue will be resolved only through talks. Was this ever said in 70 years? Outside Doklam, inside China, they are building roads and collecting ammunition. How did Scindia Sahib get information about this?

Your leader secretly meets the national presidents of China to overthrow the government of this country. Your leader goes to Pakistan and says that if tolerance is to be ended in India, Modi Ji will have to be removed. People of Pakistan will come to vote for Modi Ji to be removed. What? . . . * What did he want to say when he went there and your leader, who is the chairman of central schools? … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No name will go on record.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: He wanted to say this in the press conference; he wanted to go and instigate the terrorists to go to India and kill Modiji. Your leaders wanted to go there and say this. … (*Interruptions*) So as per the democratic process, I want to tell you people. … (*Interruptions*) Said this in a press meet, Venu ji. … (*Interruptions*) You take out the newspaper and read it. Please also read the National Herald newspaper. … (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I have said nothing will go on record record.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: If Scindia Saheb was the one talking about foreign policy, I would have told him; I would have explained to him. … (*Interruptions*) He used to say that if

you fire one bullet inside Pakistan, we will fire ten. Don't you read newspapers? Haven't you seen the surgical strike? They attacked the camp of our soldiers; they killed four people, and the next day we killed eight of their people. If today even one of our soldiers is killed by Pakistan, then within three days four of its soldiers are killed. You should also tell these figures to the country. To mislead the people of the country, they make fun of the youth. We sleep in the scorching heat of the afternoon and the harsh cold on the country's border, but they stay awake all night as guards, and you make fun of them, saying that they are not doing anything. If any decision has been taken to boost the morale of the youth, which you could not take in 440 years, after introducing One Rank One Pension, the work of boosting their morale has been done by the Prime Minister of the country, Modi Ji. Venu sir, this NDA government has done it. Therefore, I would like to tell Scindia Saheb that he may talk about foreign policy or any other policy; he may sit and debate on each policy, but he should not mislead the country. Kharge is a big leader; listening to him, people might think that he is big, senior, or whatever. He is saying, He must be saying the truth, but this destroys the credibility of political people. Credibility is broken as to how he was speaking yesterday and

how he is speaking today. Therefore, responsible people should speak responsibly inside this House. I will conclude my speech by thanking the Chairperson. Thank you.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Madam Speaker, I would like to say very seriously that you criticise the 64 years of Congress, but why do you forget the times of Atal Ji and Advani Ji? After passing that, if there has been no development in 64 years, then bring up the issues of Atal Ji and Advani Ji. You ignore them as well.

The most important thing I would like to tell you is that the Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi Ji, will have to keep one thing in mind: for the development of the country, four judges of the HON. Supreme Court have raised questions regarding democracy. Unless this House and our Prime Minister take this serious issue seriously, no matter how much you abuse each other, if the social environment from Goregaon to Nandangaon and Kasganj to Noida continues to be religious, casteist and regionalist, then how will you progress? The Prime Minister definitely says here that if I talk about a country, then this serious issue must definitely be kept in mind: you cannot imagine democracy without saving the spirit of democracy. … (*Interruptions*) The second thing I would like to say is that he has spoken about a country and elections; he has definitely said the right thing, but why is there no discussion in this country about the census of the population of 130 crore people of India?

I want to ask the SC, ST, OBC, extremely backward people, and minority people in India, why are you silent on the census? Whether the Congress people were silent or not, you abuse them. I want a census-based discussion to take place once in India. If you talk about GST, then I would like to say one GST, one country and one election.

22 00 hrs

Madam Speaker, I request that along with One GST, One Country, there should also be talk of One Health, One Education. The reports of the Kothari Commission and Muchkund Dwivedi Committee have not been implemented yet and are not talked about. They do not talk about Ranganathan Swamy Sahib's report. We do not talk about the Sachar Committee report..

Madam, I am going to conclude. Like it is the case with SC and ST categories. Many NDA leaders say there should be reservation in promotion. We talk about reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs in the private sector. We are doing outsourcing, but we are not able to talk about pay scales for those on contract and employed on a basis. There has been talk of reservation for extremely backward Dalit and Muslim women in the Panchayati Raj system. I would like to talk about the judicial

system. A judicial commission has not been formed. I would like to talk about youth employment. It is a matter of skill development. Unless people get five lakh rupees without interest from the bank, they will not be able to carry on their employment. Why don't we form a commission for the youth and make arrangements for an employment allowance of five thousand rupees for youth between 18 and 44 years of age? Nothing has been said by our President for welfare hostels, minority hostels, or extremely backward hostels. I would like to talk very seriously about scholarships for Dalit and backward-class children. Scholarships for Dalits and backward classes were stopped.

Madam, this was very important. If we want to save this democracy, then I urge that, just as the Land Ceiling Act was introduced for the Zamindari system, no one should have the right to property worth more than a minimum of one crore rupees and a maximum of twenty crore rupees. With these words, I conclude my speech by thanking you.

[English]

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. I will not take much of the time of the House.

Farmers are the backbone of this country. Seventy-five per cent of the population consists of people engaged in farming and agricultural labourers. In this Budget there is no direct relief for the farmers. So many programmes have been announced till the year 2022 which includes schemes like insurance, health etc. When the UPA was in power for four crore small and marginal farmers an amount of Rs. 72000 crore relief was given. No such scheme giving direct relief to the farmers has been announced, even though there have been cases of suicide by farmers. Out of around 700 districts in the country, around 200 districts are suffering from drought. There is no proper scheme to provide irrigation facilities to these drought prone areas on a permanent basis. That is one reason the dream of inter-linking of rivers from the Ganges to the Cauvery was not taken up and also no road map for this has been provided by this Government.

This is the most important thing. The farmers are only asking for good irrigation facilities. If they are provided with good irrigation facilities, they do not ask anything more. This Government has totally failed to take care of farmers of our country. If production is more, then naturally economic growth will also be more. This is where this Government has really failed.

I will now come to the Minimum Support Price. Of course, we appreciate the announcement that has been made by the Government. If there is sufficient rain, the farmers produce more. If there is proper Minimum Support Price, then they can survive. Otherwise, they incur heavy loss. This has not been properly tackled.

As far as the Railways is concerned, when I was the Minister, our Government had announced so many programmes, particularly to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka as these two States agreed for cost sharing and providing free land. They include, Kuppam – Marikuppam; Mulabagel – Kolar; Mulabagel – Bangarapet; Srinivaspur – Madanapalli; Chikkaballapura – Gowribidanur; Chikkballapura – Prashanti Nilayam; Cuddapah – Bangarapet via Mulabagel; doubling of Bengaluru – Mysore; Bengaluru – Kollagal; Mysore –

Kushalnagar lines. The Government of Karnataka had agreed to it. But till today it has not been implemented. … (*Interruptions*) Now, I come to the programmes meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): In the whole of the country, Karnataka is the only State that makes fund allocation for Scheduled Castes according to their population. An allocation of Rs. 86,000 crore has been provided till date. Last year, an allocation of Rs. 27,000 was given to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Sub Plan for their development. Even the Government of India could not provide that much fund. They could not give even Rs. 30,000 crore for the whole country. This is very important. If we want the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to achieve social, educational and economic equality as envisioned by great leaders like Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi, then proper funding has to be provided according to their population of these weaker sections. Then only the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi will be fulfilled.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): Madam Speaker, I stood up to speak in support of the motion of thanks on the speech of the Hon. President.

Our government is working to make the lives of common citizens easier. The NDA government is dedicated to the weaker sections. I bow with folded hands to this goodwill of the government.

The NDA government has set its five goals. The aim is to pass on the benefits of reduced prices due to GST to consumers, to provide a house to every poor family by the year 2022, to double the income of farmers by the year 2022, to work for the empowerment of minorities, and to formulate a new policy for better health of the people. Our government remains committed to their implementation because the NDA's Modi government has a leader, policy and clear intentions. As a result, good decisions have been made. There are 104 development schemes that are on the ground today. Their implementation is also happening well. The public is also benefiting from this. As has been the policy of the Modi government to reform, perform and transform, our government dreams of a new India. As we all know, and the Hon. President has also said, this is not the dream

of any one political party or organisation of the country; it is the reflected result of the hopes and aspirations of 130 crore people of the country. We all have to do it together.

As it is said in the Vedas also, Sahaviryaṃ karavabhai. Our Prime Minister and the government are working on this path. I want to say that Congress governments ruled the country for 55 years. Votes were taken in this country in the name of the poo. But do we know what happened to the condition of the poor? Poverty increased, and the poor died due to starvation. If anyone has cared about the housing, education and health of the poor and has worked towards giving them their rights and entitlements in the true sense, then it is our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who has done this; we should not forget this.

Hon. Speaker, like in the resolution of New India, every section of the society—the poor, the weak, and the minorities—should be included in the mainstream of progress. It is the determination of the Modi government to rise above religion and caste and develop the poor, weaker sections and minorities. Its image is seen in this speech. The Prime Minister had talked about cleanliness under the headings of respect and honour to women, dignity of women, education and health of daughters, etc. Under this, more than 6 crore toilets have been constructed.

More than two crore toilets are going to be constructed in the coming days. It is truly taken into consideration the dignity of women. I would like to tell you that when we go to villages to provide gas connections under the Ujjwala Yojana, tears come to the eyes of women. They say that we are unable to reach the Prime Minister in Delhi, but you please go and give our blessings to the Prime Minister because to date no government has given us a gas connection. Under this scheme, we are trying to build smokeless villages. More than 3 crore 30 lakh gas connections have been given, and five crore gas connections will be given in the coming days. The government is going to take up to eight crores. Even by changing the Maternity Act, the Prime Minister has taken a big step towards women. The greatest need is for women to be with their children. A provision has been made to give them 26 weeks of paid leave instead of 12 weeks. It will improve the health of women. Working women are very happy with this. Under the Saubhagya scheme, over 28 crore LED bulbs have been sold, and 50 crore bulbs have been distributed in the private sector. Electricity savings are also going to happen across the country. This is resulting in a saving of Rs 1500 crore in the electricity bills of poor and middle-class people. Under the Saubhagya

Yojana, even after 70 years of independence, more than 18 thousand villages did not have electricity. Since 2014, our government has completed the work of electrification in 16 thousand villages, and in the coming days, we will provide electricity to the remaining villages. Many HON. members have mentioned that appeasement is of none, and empowerment of all has been the fundamental policy of the Modi Government. Respect for Muslim women was hostage to profit and loss for many decades. In order to free the country from such a situation so that Muslim sisters and daughters can live a fear-free social life with self-respect, the Triple Talaq bill was presented in the Parliament, and it is also being appreciated. Sensitive to the hopes and aspirations of every section of the society, the NDA government has introduced the Constitution Amendment Bill to give constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes. In order to make the benefits of higher education and policies accessible to the most backward among the backward classes, a commission has been formed to study the sub-categorisation of backward classes. It's very commendable. The Modi government is emphasisinghigher education, and for this, approval has been given for the formation of the National

Testing Agency. The government is also considering setting up twenty Institutes of Eminence in the country. The whole country is appreciating it as well. Digital payments are being made for more than four hundred schemes by the present government. Poor people were being looted because of this, and there was no restriction on this looting. But through this scheme of the government, till now an amount of more than Rs 57 thousand crores has been saved from falling into the wrong hands. I also congratulate the government for this success. The entire country congratulates Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this success.

Madam, I would like to raise many points here, some of which have been raised by our esteemed members. Without speaking much due to the time constraints, the government has created the Modi principles under social security, life insurance schemes, the Prime Minister Security Insurance Scheme, Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections, and India's diplomacy in foreign policy. He is being appreciated all over the country. Due to the successful efforts of the government, India has gained a new respect in the world. HON. Chairperson, this has resulted in the biggest achievement. The effort of our government is to do public welfare through public

participation. I strongly support the President's speech motion, thank you.

[English]

***SHRI R. K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI):** Thank you for allowing me to take part in the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the Hon. President's Address. Hon. President has mentioned about the efforts of the Union Government to relieve the farmers from distress and in executing the new plans for increasing their income. It is the duty of the Union Government to fulfil all these assurances.

However, it is a matter of concern that there is no mention in the Address about the severe drought situation that has drastically affected the agriculture and farmers of Tamil Nadu. I urge that a special package should be released immediately to Tamil Nadu so as to provide drought assistance to the farmers of the State. Hon. President's Address has not dealt with the damages caused to the States due to natural disasters and immediate relief assistance to be provided thereupon. It is clearly evident that the relief assistance in full was not provided to the States so far.

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* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

Tamil Nadu witnessed unprecedented rains and floods in December, 2015 causing widespread devastation. The standing crops were also destroyed adding misery to thousands of farmers. In this regard, Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma twice met the Hon. Prime Minister and demanded an amount of Rs. 25,912. 45 Crore from the Union Government for carrying out relief and restoration work in Tamil Nadu. Thereafter a Central team visited the State and submitted a report. Almost a year has passed since then, and no relief was provided to Tamil Nadu.

Again in December 2016, Cyclone Vardha had devastated Tamil Nadu. Several thousands of trees and electric poles were uprooted due to Vardha. There was no electric supply for almost 5 days. The people and the State of Tamil Nadu faced severe losses and difficulties due to slowdown of economic activities. The State Government had sought for release of Rs. 22,573 Crore as assistance from the Union. But till now not even a single rupee has been provided by the Union Government which is further a cause for worry.

I once again urge upon the Union Government to keep in mind that the States affected by natural disasters in future should be provided immediate financial assistance by the Union.

Madam Speaker, Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu was once the granary of South India. Now the state of affairs is so bad. The land in this area has become more like a desert. Integrated Cauvery Delta Region consisting of Thanjavur, Nagappattinam, Tiruvarur, Kathiraamangalam and Maathirimangalam are very much affected due to scarcity of water. I urge that there should be a law to protect agriculture and farmers of this region. The Cauvery delta region should immediately be declared as an agricultural division. The ground water table has gone down drastically. Moreover the laying of gas pipeline along the agricultural land by GAIL has affected the livelihood of the people of my constituency. Karnataka Government is so rigid in not releasing water that is due to Tamil Nadu as per the interim order of the Cauvery Tribunal. Instead of finding an amicable solution, the Union Government is showing a step motherly attitude which is once again a cause of worry. The Union Government has failed in its duties in making available Cauvery river water that is due to the farmers of Tamil Nadu. Agricultural activities are totally affected and as a result of which the farmers are forced to depend on drought relief assistance. The rights of Tamil Nadu

as regards Cauvery river water sharing should be protected. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude, now.

Now, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)… *

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Madam, he has raised the Cauvery water issue. What is it?

The matter is pending in the Supreme Court.

HON. SPEAKER: I have stopped him from speaking now.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam, you should have given him, at least, five minutes to finish his speech.

* Not recorded

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA (SITAMARHI): Hon. Speaker, today under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, the country is moving towards development and prosperity. Those who have been ruling this country for the last 55 years continuously, the efficient administration under the leadership of Narendra Modi is today making every section of the country feel the good days, but they are not feeling these to be good days. I want to tell them to go and ask the poor women whether they are feeling good days because of the gas connection that has come to their house under the Ujjwala Gas Scheme or not. They should go and ask the farmers whether they are feeling good days under the leadership of Narendra Modi or not. They know the benefits being received under the crop insurance scheme; people are getting good quality urea through neem coating, and black marketing is being curbed. Ask those farmers whether good days have really come under the leadership of Narendra Modi or not. You go and ask those poor women; ask that young girl who used to get raped. She used to go out and get raped; she used to get molested. Today toilets are being built in 75 percent of people's houses, and go and ask the poor person whose house has a toilet built whether good

days have really come or not. What do those who go abroad and live a luxurious life know? In reality, they are not feeling the good days because they have no acquaintance with the poor, farmers and women; they have no contact with them.

Madam, I want to tell them through you that the work that the government is doing to eradicate poverty of the poor and to give double benefit to the farmers, you ask when will the good days come. You will actually not know; every section of the country, every poor and every farmer is feeling that really good days have come under the leadership of Narendra Modi and are yet to come.

Madam, I come from a middle-class farmer family from the village. I too had not seen electricity in my village, but when the government was formed under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the target of providing electricity to every village was achieved under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Electrification Scheme, and today work is being done to provide electricity to the left-out houses under the Saubhagya Scheme. Go and ask the children of those houses, and go and ask their mothers and sisters whether good days have come under the leadership of Narendra Modi or not. Then they will come to know that good days have actually come in the country.

Madam, I express my gratitude to our Prime Minister for taking the initiative to open new medical colleges in the country and announcing the opening of these colleges. I would like to demand that in Sitamarhi, which is the birthplace of Maa Janaki and where people from Nepal also come, the condition of health is not good there; all the people of Sitamarhi are looking towards you with hope and faith that you will definitely work towards establishing new medical colleges there. Whether it is about the road sector, whether it is road construction under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana or National Highway, if you go to every village where roads are being constructed and ask whether good days have come or not, then you will come to know that those who were working against the poor for the last 55 years, who were cheating the farmers, who were working against the villages, will come to know whether good days have actually come or not. I want to say that good days have indeed come; the public is feeling this.

Madam, I want to tell them through you that when the time for voting comes, they talk about backward classes, and when the formation of the backward class commission is discussed under the leadership of respected Narendra Modi, they try to delay it by supporting it at some places and opposing it at other

places. This shows what your intention is and what the intention of Narendra Modi ji is, who feels that if a backward class commission is formed, then it will be beneficial for the backward classes. Go and ask those sons of the backward classes whether good days have come under the leadership of Narendra Modi or not. If it has come, then you will really know that only Narendra Modi is creating the way to bring the country towards prosperity with Sabka Sath and Sabka Vikas. Good days have come across the country. With these words, I conclude my speech in support of the President's speech. Jai Hind.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, all the honourable members have expressed their very good views on the motion of thanks on the President's speech; all kinds of views have come up. I think everyone has got a chance; all those who want to speak have got a chance. Some people have also tabled their speeches.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Madam, there has been continuous discussion for ten hours.

HON. SPEAKER: I would also like to say that there has been a good debate. There was some disturbance, but there was a good debate. There have been good speeches. Now tomorrow there will be only a reply from the government on it.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, the 7th February, 2018 at 11 a. m.

22 26 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, February 7, 2018/Magha 18, 1939 (Saka).

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