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Magha 18, 1940 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventeenth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. XXXVI contains Nos.1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 7, 2019/Magha 18, 1940 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I regret to inform the Assembly about the unfortunate demise of our former colleague, Shri Jitendra Singh Bundela.

Shri Jitendra Singh Bundela was a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha from the Khajuraho Parliamentary Constituency in Madhya Pradesh. Prior to this, Shri Bundela was a member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from the year 2003 to 2008. He also served as a member of the Committee on Human Resource Development. He had a profound interest in social work.

Shri Jitendra Singh Bundela passed away at the age of 60 on February 3, 2019, in New Delhi.

We express profound sorrow over the passing of our colleague and extend the heartfelt condolences of this assembly to the bereaved family.

Now, the House will observe silence for a while as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

11 01hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

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11 02 hrs

*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Question number 61, Shri D. K. Suresh - Not present.

Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel - Not present.

Hon. Minister Sir.

(Q 61)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): Madam, the details have been laid on the Table of the House.

HON. SPEAKER: There are no supplementary questions. Its fine.

Question number 62, Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete.

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

(Q. 62)

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Madam Speaker, even today, programs like All India Radio and Doordarshan are unclear in the tribal and remote rural areas of the country. This includes my parliamentary constituency, which is in Maharashtra, encompassing the heavily Naxal-affected tribal areas of Gadchiroli-Chimur as well.

Madam Speaker, in this regard, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government proposes to expeditiously implement a special action plan for clear broadcast of All India Radio and Doordarshan programs in the tribal and remote rural areas, especially in the Naxal-affected Parliamentary Constituency, Gadchiroli-Chimur?

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, more than 99 percent of India's area and population are covered by radio signals. Additionally, now the television's signals cover the entire India area through direct-to-home satellite transmission. Within the set-top box, there exist certain channels upon which one may listen to the radio. Keeping in view the changing technology, now we have provided radio transmission; all the All India Radio channels from all over India have also been provided on the internet. If someone has a phone, he can listen to radio programs by downloading the mobile application on top of it.

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that within the Gadchiroli-Chimur Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra State, the Markanda Devasthan in Chamorshi taluka is a significant religious site, also known as Kashi Devasthan. This religious site holds great importance. The holy Venganga passes near this temple. The holy Markanda Dev, situated on the banks of the Venganga River, is known as Lord Shankar Ji. There is also a Hemadani temple here, which is sacred by the penance of the Rishi Markandeya. In this area, there is a prominent and very ancient cave and temple of Lingochangs, who are the deities of tribals, in Kachargarh taluka, Saleksa district of Gondia. This is a very important religious site for the country's tribal people and is located in a mountainous region. It is visited by a large number of tribal devotees not only from the State of Maharashtra but also from various States of the country, such as Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and other tribal-dominated areas. There is no doubt that tribal culture is an integral and inseparable part of India's cultural heritage.

Therefore, in this context, my supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is whether the Government will consider prioritising the broadcasting of programs related to tribal religious and cultural significance through Doordarshan and F.M. centres in tribal and nearby regions, aiming to preserve their religious and tourism importance?

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, the culture within tribal areas, their religion, their traditions—is not only about strengthening locally but also about showcasing them across India and globally. To achieve this, Doordarshan and All India Radio continuously work towards promoting these aspects. I request our Hon. MP to consider establishing a local community radio station there and assure that our entire department will support them in this endeavour. Establishing a local community radio station in those tribal areas would make it easier to promote and strengthen their culture and heritage at the localised level.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Madam, Doordarshan and All India Radio are the most prime organisations which are helping the rural masses in all the activities. Today, competing with the other channels, Doordarshan and All India Radio have been neglected. The prime slot has been given to the private channels. Doordarshan and All India Radio are the most important Government channels and these channels have reached the common people and rural masses of this country.

I think it has been neglected for the last ten years; I am saying not only now. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he is giving prime slot to these channels so that they can reach the rural masses in a proper manner?

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, the mandate of the Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan and All India Radio is to be able to communicate all the information that is required by the citizens of our country and also to entertain them and also to keep up our traditions and our culture alive. There are programmes that the private channels may not show because of commercial reasons. Nevertheless, Prasar Bharati emphasises on showing those programmes. Our primary concern is not of revenue generation but serving our countrymen. I can assure the Hon. Member that the maximum numbers of subscribers in our country are there on our DTH platform. Our programmes cover a very large spectrum of issues thereby providing the right sort of information to the citizens of our country. We are also ensuring that quality programmes are there on the Doordarshan and on the All India Radio. This is a continuous effort of not only increasing our reach but also ensuring that the programmes are better.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Though the telecast audience of Doordarshan and Akashvani is different, with the growing private channels in the field, there is a need to make Akashvani and Doordarshan more relevant, impactful, informative, and at the same time, entertaining both in the urban and rural, in the rarest, areas of our country. Otherwise, both Doordarshan and Akashvani would fade away in due course of time in future. Madam, having said that, would the Minister briefly state about the educational programmes being telecast across the country and the

efforts made by the Ministry in the last four years to take Doordarshan and Akashvani internationally by popularising the telecast programmes of popular and informative programmes? Thank you.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, the point that the Hon. Member has made is, of course, valid and very well taken. Like I mentioned, the entire Prasar Bharati, which involves Doordarshan and, of course, the All-India Radio, is continuously in the process of making their programmes better. There is a competition with private channels. However, like I mentioned a little while earlier, our main concern is to be able to serve the country and keep all cultures and all traditions alive, and for all sorts of art forms to be provided a platform.

In terms of reaching out internationally, of course, we have DD India, and we are also ensuring to make DD India stronger. There are collaborations with other countries as well. Keeping in mind what the Hon. Member has said, we will continue to work to ensure better quality.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister has made All India Radio immensely popular throughout the country with "Mann Ki Baat" (Heartfelt Conversations). ... *(Interruptions)* This is the popularity. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, in the constituency from which I hail, we consistently encounter difficulties in accessing and listening to "Mann Ki Baat"

(Heartfelt Conversations). In the matter of "Mann Ki Baat" (Heartfelt Conversations), due consideration is accorded. In the year 2014, the high-power transmission relay centre of All India Radio was sanctioned in my parliamentary constituency of Godda. I consistently wrote letters to the Minister in Parliament under Rule 377 during the Zero Hour, expecting the completion of the work within the specified timeframe. The Minister gave me the target of December 2017 initially and then the final target of March 2018, stating that the transmission line in Godda would be operational by March 2018. I am addressing the House today in February 2019. You have done a lot of work in affluent areas, but this question pertains to the poor areas. On the floor of the House and through letters, your commitment is towards the poor areas. Therefore, I would like to ask through you to the Minister, when will the transmission relay line of All India Radio start in Godda?

Madam, there was also a commitment regarding Devghar that three FM stations would be operational by June 2018. I would like to ask the Minister, when will they be operational? … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Where 50 works have been completed, there often remains one work pending. Such circumstances arise.

... (Interruptions)

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam Speaker, as I mentioned in my previous response, throughout the entire country, we

are covering 99.2 percent of the population, and, therefore, I am sure that this area is covered by radio. However, I bring to the notice of the Member that DTH is our setup box and satellite service, which also offers radio stations. Now our radio stations are available on mobile phones as well. Wherever there is a signal for regular mobile phones, people can listen to "Mann Ki Baat" (Heartfelt Conversations) and the radio. Regarding further expansion, All India Radio is installing additional transmitters, and we are also introducing private FM broadcasters in various locations across different phases. Under the scheme, this expansion will continue.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 63 – Shri C.N. Jayadevan.

Shri C.N. Jayadevan – Not present.

(Q. 63)

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI: Madam Speaker, the previous UPA Government in 2005 had initiated a program to provide electricity to every household by 2009 as part of the complete electrification of the country. However, by 2014, they were unable to fulfil this task. When our Government came into power, in the year 2014, we completed the electrification of all villages. However, upon conducting a survey, we found that there were 4 crore families whose homes were not connected to electricity. Through the Saubhagya Yojana, our Government had committed to providing electricity connections to all households by March 2019. The Government made every effort and reached people's homes through outreach and broadcasting to ensure that everyone received connections. In this direction, work progressed swiftly, and we reduced the target of providing connections to December 2018. By December 2018, we ensured that all families who wanted to get electricity connections were provided with them. There are still 30 lakh families in the country who, despite the government's extensive efforts such as setting up camps, conducting outreach activities, etc., have not yet taken electricity connections due to concerns about high electricity bills. They fear that they might receive high bills, which has led them to refrain from obtaining electricity connections despite the government's efforts.

Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if the Government will make efforts to ensure that electricity reaches all those 30 lakh families. Will the Government consider setting a maximum bill limit under the Saubhagya Yojana or providing subsidy directly through direct benefit transfer to their bills? Alternatively, will the Government create new policies to inspire these 30 lakh families to access electricity through the Saubhagya Yojana?

SHRI R. K. SINGH: Madam Speaker, as of today, except for two States, all interested households across the country have been provided with electricity connections. The two remaining States are facing some challenging circumstances, which have led to their remaining status. There is one State, Chhattisgarh, where the Bastar region faces challenging circumstances. Approximately 20 thousand households are still left without electrification there due to these difficulties. The second State is Rajasthan, where remote and scattered settlements are prevalent. There, some challenges exist. Excluding these two States, all other States have sent written notices through their chief secretaries stating that all households interested in obtaining electricity connections have been provided with them. Uttar Pradesh has also undertaken the same initiative. There were many houses in Uttar Pradesh that were using electricity without taking a legitimate connection. You could say that they were illegally using electricity. They were hesitant to get a legitimate connection and did not want to obtain an official electricity

connection. They have been persuaded to obtain legitimate connections and informed that strict action will be taken wherever theft is detected. Some States have even implemented schemes stating that even if there are previous defaulters or cases of electricity theft, they can be compounded. People are encouraged to obtain legitimate electricity connections. The efforts are ongoing in Uttar Pradesh, and they shall continue to be so. We shall engage in discussions with the Government of Uttar Pradesh to consider if we can provide any further concessions, and if feasible, we shall do so.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, please associate my question with this one so that the Hon. Minister can respond to both enquiries simultaneously.

HON. SPEAKER: You may ask supplementary questions on this matter.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, well, I will ask a supplementary question on this matter.

[English]

Madam, the question that I asked was: ‘Whether an estimated 3.4 crore rural households are still without electricity and majority of such villages are in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, etc.’

Madam, the reply that has been given is: ‘As informed by the States, there are only 21.30 crore households in the country; of these 21.29

crore households have been electrified up to 27.01.2019; the remaining 83,015 un-electrified households are in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.'

[Translation]

Just now, the Hon. Minister mentioned that this issue exists only in Chhattisgarh.

SHRI R. K. SINGH: I also mentioned Rajasthan.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: In this country, as you know, there are 650,000 villages. Including hamlets, out of these, only 18,000 villages were yet to receive a full electricity supply, which was in the process of being provided. In this House, it is frequently asked, what has been accomplished in 60 years?

HON. SPEAKER Shri Kharge, kindly proceed with your question.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Electrification is done in 632,000 villages. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We have electrified 632,000 villages. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Ask your question instead of giving a speech.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I will deliver a speech, but they provide misleading information. ... *(Interruptions)* Always ...* they maintain their stance through their speech. Therefore, I enquire why Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and those small villages, Hamlets, Hattis, and Wadis—because even there, it must reach every household. When will they complete this entirely? Will the State Government provide any subsistence allowance or subsidy for this?

SHRI R. K. SINGH: Madam, I have two things to say. Firstly, Hon. Kharge ji mentioned that he has worked in so many villages during his tenure, whereas we have only worked in 18,300 villages. I would like to inform Hon. Kharge ji and everyone else about this information. There are two things. Furthermore, the remaining villages were just as challenging and remote, whether in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Uttarakhand, or Kargil. The regions of Rajasthan were also left behind. We have completed them. The meaning of village is census villages. We have also reached all the hamlets that were there. Now there are only two states left in the country. I repeat, there are only two states left where we have not reached every willing household yet. One is Rajasthan, and the other is Chhattisgarh. There are specific reasons for both of these. Electrification is carried out through the state government's initiatives. We provide the funds, but the work is carried out through the state government. Our work is progressing well.

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* Not recorded.

Hon. Shri Kharge ji would like to enquire when we will complete the remaining hamlets and households. Our target is March 31, 2019. We will complete the work there before that. As I mentioned earlier, regarding the two states, I would also like to say that we will complete the work there by March 31, 2019.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jayadevan ji has arrived. Ask your question.

[English]

SHRI C. N. JAYADEVAN: Madam Speaker, in the reply, the Hon. Minister has not stated the target fixed under the scheme. The Minister has also not mentioned the number of households that remain to be electrified. Without these numbers, this reply is incomplete.

I would like to ask the Minister what was the target and how many more households are yet to be electrified.

[Translation]

SHRI R. K. SINGH: Hon. Madam, at the time we initiated this program,hen this plan was launched, all states had submitted estimated figures because they had not conducted a survey. There was no time to conduct a survey. The estimated figures were that there were around three crore eighty lakh,, or approximately four crore, households remaining. These were estimated figures because surveys had not been conducted by visiting the villages. When their teams reached the villages, they found that where they had estimated 100 households

remaining, there were actually only 60 households remaining, and so on. As they continued to reach and work in the villages, the estimates became more accurate over time. Today, we have electrified 2 crore 48 lakh 619 households. Currently, there are 20,134 households remaining in Chhattisgarh. They have estimated that there are 4 lakh 11 thousand households remaining in Rajasthan, but they say that their survey is not yet complete. These figures may change as their teams reach more villages and conduct further surveys.

HON. SPEAKER: Question number 64, Shri Prasun Banerjee.

(Q. 64)

SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me a chance to raise my question. Madam, I would like to ask a question. I want to thank the Minister. I am very grateful for the answer they provided. All India Radio and Akashwani have been around since before we were born. What more can I say about it? People all around the world love it dearly. Madam, based on what I have observed to some extent, I would like to highlight that twenty years have passed in this matter, and a new government is soon to come. I want to inform you that the D.P.C. (Departmental Promotion Committee) has not been formed yet. There are definitely some litigations involved. The Promotion Committee has not been convened; hence, no promotions are currently taking place. For this reason, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister Sir to take action. The situation is becoming very challenging.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, I understand the question of the Hon. Member. This contains good news, and it's a positive development. I explain its background: The recruitment of program executives occurred around the year 1990, and it was conducted by the UPSC. After that, two promotions occurred, but then a person went to court, and the court said to review the entire exercise of promotions. Afterwards, the UPSC refused to conduct both recruitment and promotions. That matter continued for a considerable length of time. In 2002, the Supreme Court ordered that action should be

taken on this matter. After that, the UPSC agreed and consented to conduct recruitment for this. I would like to inform the Hon. Members of Parliament that all departmental promotions that were due until 2018 have been conducted, and we have promoted 221 Program Executives to the next level. Execution of that is still pending. The reason for this is also that litigation is ongoing in court, and the matter is pending. As soon as a decision is reached there, all departmental promotions will have been completed; we have signed off on them; only execution remains pending.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Is there any Supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: The Hon. Minister is a sportsman. Earlier, All India Radio used to have programs dedicated to sports. Nowadays, Doordarshan has been established. Earlier, discussions about sports used to happen in every household, with ongoing commentary, but that has decreased now. This is not our concern; please let the Hon. Prime Minister continue his Mann Ki Baat (Heartfelt Conversations). We want to convey that sports should be featured more prominently on All India Radio. Not everyone has a TV, as we have observed in every village.

HON. SPEAKER: It's done; this was about promotion.

SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: The Hon. Minister himself is also a great sportsman. Therefore, we should tell him that even small sports like Kabaddi and others should be promoted and encouraged in homes. We request this earnestly from him. ... (Interruptions) Mann ki Baat (Heartfelt Conversations) should continue. Why shout unnecessarily? Mann Ki Baat is fine. Those who have something on their mind, they express it; please let us listen. We wish to say, let Mann Ki Baat continue. We request them earnestly to prioritise sports a little more.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, although the question asked is not related to this issue, since Mr. Prasun Banerjee himself is a sportsman, I will definitely answer this. If commentary were provided for different sports separately, it would greatly benefit all the citizens of the country. Currently, we are negotiating the engagement, regional presence, and revenue-sharing model within Doordarshan. It's ongoing with both cricket and other sports as well. I am confident that work on this will proceed soon, and we will see commentary for cricket along with all other sports in the near future.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Minister, I can understand the situation in which you must have encountered All India Radio. For the past four years, there has been a consistent demand among employees in this department, whether they are casual or permanent, regarding how to approach work with sincerity. In a way, you want its reach and popularity to expand. We are able to

accomplish a majority of our tasks through outsourcing. We have a surplus of technicians and engineers, but fewer programmers. However, as many employees as we have, some have not been promoted in decades, i.e., thirty–forty years. A person seated in the same position in an institution is not getting the opportunity to advance. We are unable to decide definitively on what to do about casual employees, so how will the institution progress?

The channels from Pakistan broadcast along the border of India. If we want to expand the reach of our local channels and improve their performance, instead of wasting time on court cases, we should seek a solution to this issue one way or another. Thousands of employees have been working for decades, but their problems remain unresolved. Through you, I would like to request and convey to the Hon. Minister that despite the succession of six Governments, casual employees and executives have yet to see any resolution to their issues. How they can achieve promotions in the future and what steps we are going to take in this direction, please shed some light on this matter.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Member of Parliament, as he mentioned, that this is an issue dating back several years. He also pointed out that Governments have changed from one to another, including the third and fourth, but this is the Modi Government. We have carried out promotions. We have carried out promotions in the year

2018. The issue at hand is being resolved. As far as casuals are concerned, this policy was not formulated by our Government; it was established previously to sustain broadcasting by employing casual workers to enable their supplementary income. They only get work for seven days in a month. This provides an opportunity for different people to appear on radio and television. This also ensures the execution of broadcasting.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Hon. Speaker, Shri Anurag just mentioned that channels from Pakistan are broadcasting, but our channels are not. This situation reflects a certain failure of our Government, where channels from Pakistan are broadcasting while our own channels are unable to do so.

Hon. Speaker, my question is about the era of private FM channels prevailing at this time. All India Radio has allowed news bulletins in English and Hindi on private channels. Through you, I have a question for the Government. I come from Maharashtra, but someone else here is from Karnataka. Regional languages such as Marathi, Kannada, Bengali, and others have their bulletin days occasionally during the week, but would you consider making the bulletin in regional languages as accessible as in Hindi and English so that native speakers can also understand it?

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, the Hon. Member has raised a valid point. FM radio stations typically cater to local audiences and predominantly use the language of that region. However, nowadays, all FM radios across the country, whether they are in the South, East, or elsewhere, mix Hindi and local languages in their broadcasts. Until now, news broadcasts were not allowed on private radio stations. The Government has recently formulated a policy to initiate news broadcasts on these stations. We have stipulated the condition that they will lease All India Radio's news bulletin as it is. This has recently started, and it has been only two weeks since its inception. Your point is completely valid. We have noted it. Madam, we will ensure that its quality improves continuously and that it becomes more accessible to local people. We will ensure that they get this done.

HON. SPEAKER: This is good, because people had forgotten about radio, but now everyone has started remembering it again.

[English]

DR. A. SAMPATH: I thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me an opportunity because I was a casual announcer in All India Radio some 35 years back.

HON. SPEAKER: It's great that you became a Parliament member after a casual announcement.

DR. A. SAMPATH: With the mercy of the people and also with your mercy. I would like to ask a question to the Hon. Minister, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathoreji. Two questions have been asked: one by Shri Ashok Mahadeorao and the other by Shri Prasun Banerjee. As I have told you, Madam Speaker, I am a person who has some home sickness or nostalgia with the Akashvani as well as with Doordarshan.

Now, many of the TV-relay Centres of our nation are being closed down. As regards the local TV-relay Centres in my own State, in Adoor and Punaloor, they have already been closed down; and another one in Devikulam in my learned friend Adv. Joice George's Constituency is going to be closed down.

As regards the FM coverage, I hope that the learned Minister may also agree with me that even though we all accept and know the importance of FM media, the coverage of FM is only 52 per cent. Many of the Hon. Members have said that if the FM coverage is not increased, we will not reach the people. There has been an allegation from various quarters that it is all motivated to help the private TV channels.

Madam Speaker, Akashwani is the mother of all audio media of this nation, and Doordarshan is the mother of all visual media of this nation. So, I would like to ask this, through you, Madam, from the Hon. Minister. This question is coming straight from my heart. This is not a speech, but this question is arising straight from my heart. Will the

Minister take appropriate steps at the earliest? Honestly, he can take steps to strengthen Akashvani as well as Doordarshan. Otherwise, we will be at the mercy of some other nation, and we will be at the mercy of the private channels. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, his suggestions may be well taken. That is all.

… (Interruptions)

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam Speaker, the Question was on Departmental promotions. However, since the Hon. Member has asked from '*dil se*', if you allow me, I will answer it.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: If you understood each other's hearts so well, it would make things much easier for me.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, you will find casual announcers from all walks of life. I am not surprised, and in fact, I am happy that we have an Hon. Member who has been a casual announcer.

Madam, I will clarify about the 52 per cent that he mentioned. It is 60 per cent of population that is covered by FM, and 45 per cent of geographical mass that is covered by FM. However, it is a collaborative

effort, namely, All India Radio FM Stations and private FM Stations collaborating to reach the entire country.

He also spoke about the closing down of some of the transmitters and relay stations. We are closing down the analogue terrestrial transmitters for the reason that every transmitter is able to relay only one channel. We are now digitizing it, and when we digitize it, every single transmitter, first, gives better clarity of the broadcast and secondly, it carries 10 channels. Therefore, we have a larger number of channels that can be carried. We have realised that there are very few people who are actually receiving signal on an analogue transmitter, and most people have the Set-Top Boxes and take the service from DTH. It is our continuous effort -- as a person who has been associated with the broadcast industry -- that we are not giving in to private operators, but we are collaborating with them so that the Indian population has better services available to them.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Hon. Speaker, I thank you... (Interruptions) Through you, I would like to enquire from the Hon. Minister why all Doordarshan Relay Centres in border areas have been shut down. The FM radio stations that were supposed to start, as announced, have not yet commenced in my Lok Sabha constituencies of Hanumangarh and Ganganagar. Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister why the

Doordarshan Relay Centres in border areas have been closed, and all frequencies from Pakistan are being received across Rajasthan. What is the ministry's stance on restarting the Doordarshan Relay Centres? I would like to know this from the Hon. Minister.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, I reiterate that this question was on departmental promotion, yet it keeps coming up that signals from Pakistan are reaching India. It's an international treaty; it's illegal to block anyone's signals under that treaty. I assure you that while some signals are reaching us from their side, a significantly greater number of our signals are transmitting into their country. As far as border areas are concerned, due to satellites, we have complete coverage of the entire country. The satellite footprint covers the whole of India, leaving no border area uncovered.

Regarding your constituency, Hon. Member, please meet me later, and I will assist you.

(Q. 65)

SHRI NINONG ERING: Madam Speaker, I would like to convey to the Hon. Minister that he has responded comprehensively. The project's name, Bharat Mala Project, sounds impressive. Whether it's North, South, East, or West, you are trying to connect them all together. You have included the northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland, but you have left out Arunachal Pradesh; perhaps there is a specific reason for that omission. However, I would like to inform you that recently, during the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) discussions, the entire state of Assam was shut down. If we intended to travel to Arunachal Pradesh from either east or west during that time, the entire route would have been closed.

There is only one link left, known as the PLT Road, which connects Pasighat, Ledo, and Tene Road, linking Jirdo and Daring. From Pasighat, we can travel up to border areas like Changlang and Tirap, but we cannot proceed further to Itanagar. Hon. Prime Minister, perhaps tomorrow you will visit Itanagar. At that time, please make an announcement that we will complete this road as well, and provide us with this assurance.

Madam, my question is about the East-West Highway project that was previously announced. When can you provide details about the sanctioned amount for this project?

[English]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam Speaker, the Bharat Mala Project is the flagship initiative of the Indian Government. In this, total Economic Corridor Development, Inter-corridor and Feeder road, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International Connectivity Road, which we have provided in Arunachal Pradesh; after that, Coastal and Port Connectivity Roads, Greenfield Expressways, and balance road works under NHDP. Along with this, roads under existing schemes, such as LWE, ACRDP (North-East), Setu Bharatam, and Char Dham.

[Translation]

The Bharat Mala Project covers a total length of 83,677 kilometres and has received cabinet approval. Its estimated cost is Rs. 6,96,92,320 crore. I am pleased to inform you that a total of 137 projects covering 6,532 kilometres, with contracts amounting to Rs. 1 lakh 50 thousand crore, have been awarded, and work has commenced. The DPR being developed spans 21,210 kilometres. It is noteworthy that for this, 25 thousand hectares of land have been allocated, and its 3D rendering was completed earlier this year. I think instead of me saying

something, if you visit any district, you will see road construction work happening there, which will give you an overview of the situation.

As for Arunachal Pradesh and the North-East, we have approved projects worth two lakh crore rupees. Are you aware that rail connectivity, road connectivity, inland waterways connectivity, and aviation connectivity in the North-East are witnessing unprecedented development like never before?

In the North-East, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh alone, we have approved projects exceeding Rs. 40 thousand crore. I had visited there intermittently. We have now finalised this program, and it has received the Cabinet's approval. If anyone wants to add something new, then I will have to go back to the Cabinet again. However, I request you to consider if it is possible for me to participate in any other program. Now, it will be difficult to add it to this program. As declared, this total program spans 83,677 kilometres with a cost of Rs. 6,92,324 crore, and we are striving to complete this program by early 2022, which will significantly transform the country's road network landscape. Therefore, instead of adding something new

today, we will focus on completing as much as possible with the resources available. Regarding the specific roads in Arunachal Pradesh that you mentioned, I will provide you with detailed information once, and we will also endeavour to incorporate those routes into any upcoming plans. To include this, it will require Cabinet approval, which may not be feasible.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Madam Speaker, I'm seeking permission to speak from Division number - 260. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for transforming the road network across the country, particularly with significant developments in Madhya Pradesh. Under the Bharat Mala Project, which covers an estimated 65 thousand kilometres of work, Madhya Pradesh has been specifically acknowledged for its inclusion of 5,850 kilometres.

I would like to thank the Hon. Minister specifically for the efforts made to include the Mandsaur Parliamentary Constituency under the Central Road Fund. Since Mandsaur is an agriculture-centric area, it has been particularly noted nationwide for its awareness regarding farmers' demands. I want to thank the Hon. Minister and also ask a specific question

regarding the projects implemented in the country that have significantly highlighted the road network globally, not just in India. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon. Minister for his efforts in including the Mandsaur Parliamentary Constituency up to 85 kilometres in the prestigious Delhi-Mumbai Motorway project. This initiative is set to transform into one of the world's premier roads, crucially connecting agricultural products from my predominantly agrarian constituency to major urban centres across the country. I would like to know how soon this special project will be completed for the country. I wish to extend special thanks to the Hon. Minister from my parliamentary constituency.

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam Speaker, this is the most important road in the country. Its special feature is that it is creating a new high-speed motorway between Delhi and Mumbai. Its width is 120 meters. Its most notable feature is that instead of using the existing roads from Delhi to Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, and Mumbai, a new alignment for the Green Highway has been selected. It starts from Gurugram and then passes through Sawai Madhopur, Alwar, Ratlam, Jhabua,

Vadodara, and finally reaches Mumbai. This highway's speciality lies in its development of the backward and tribal areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Haryana. Madam, I'm glad to share that we have awarded projects worth ten lakh crore rupees in my department so far. No contractor has ever had to come to the Ministry for any reason. Transparent and corruption-free work has been conducted. In land acquisition alone for this single road, we have saved the country Rs. 16,000 crore. You can cover this distance from Delhi to Mumbai in 12 hours by car, maintaining a speed of 100-120 kilometres per hour, so this is our plan. Madam, the biggest feature of this is that its work has already commenced. The works amounting to 44,000 crore rupees have been awarded from Vadodara to Mumbai. Starting from Gurugram, they mentioned Madhya Pradesh, where approximately 240 kilometres, Rajasthan 400 kilometres, Gujarat 250 kilometres, and Maharashtra 250 kilometres were roughly worked. Now our land acquisition is almost complete. I proposed to Shri Piyush Goyal that we have a width of 120 meters. If you wish, I am prepared to provide space for the bullet train as well.

Now the land is fully prepared. The work has commenced. The Hon. Prime Minister is performing the Bhoomi Poojan, and in their region in Madhya Pradesh, the Hon. Member has stated that the land acquisition work has progressed very well. There will be significant development in their region in Madhya Pradesh. The decentralisation of developments that were decentralised to cities like Vadodara, Surat, or Ahmedabad for Delhi will happen. Logistic parks will be established on this road, industries will come, trade businesses will grow, and new employment opportunities will be created in the tribal sector. There will be a new growth engine for the country. Its work has almost begun. The effort is to complete this within about two and a half years, and a significant amount of work has now also been awarded. A request has been made to the Hon. Prime Minister to perform the Bhoomi Pujan ceremony for this in the coming 10-15 days. The Minister of Finance has just announced that our national highway network has reached the top position globally. This express highway, which connects Delhi to Mumbai and costs only 1 lakh crore rupees, I also believe will

set a record in world history, and its construction will begin soon.

HON. SPEAKER: If there are savings of this magnitude, could Indore-Mandsaur be connected near Mandsaur?

[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Madam Speaker, I am really happy to mention here that the Road Transport and Highway Ministry under the leadership of Mr. Gadkari has really done commendable work throughout India and in the State of Maharashtra particularly.

Madam, in my constituency, there is one important road going through National Highway No. 60 where Mr. Gadkari had announced and done Bhumi Pujan in July 2017. That work is pending just because of the contractor's fault; the contractor has gone to the court, not because of a mistake from the Ministry. I would request the Hon. Minister to intervene and ask the contractor to complete the work. This is about Pune-Nashik road of ILFS. The other work which was announced and sanctioned was Pune-Nagar road. These two roads are important from a traffic point of view in my State, Maharashtra. So, I would

request the Hon. Minister to intervene and instruct the contractor to complete the tender work. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam, the work that was assigned to IL&FS, you know that currently, they are not in a position to carry out that work. There are five bypasses there, and at the request of the Hon. Member, tenders have been issued for all five. The department has decided that since IL&FS cannot execute the work anymore, we will proceed with the project using our own funds. The tender has been issued, and the tender has been received. It's only about an IL&FS NOC. I have spoken to them. Taking their NOC, the work will commence within fifteen days to a month. Regarding the Ahmednagar to Pune project, its Detailed Project Report (DPR) is currently being prepared. Right now, I cannot provide assurance about it. Madam, one of my good specialities is that I consider myself fortunate that every party's MP, no matter which party they belong to, says that the most and best work has been done in my constituency. These are good compliments. I really thank you. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Jakhar, please ask a very short question.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: Speaker Madam, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Hon. Gadkari ji that just a few days ago, he came to Punjab. On the occasion of the 550th Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, he laid the foundation stone for the Kartarpur Sahib Highway at Dera Baba Nanak in Pakistan. I am grateful to them and hope that regarding the delay in its construction, where they will provide clarification, I have a question for them: Will they consider integrating State Highway 25 from Amritsar's Dera Raja Sansi to Dera Baba Nanak into the Bharatmala project to create a four-lane freeway?

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Are you referring to the issue related to Kartarpur?

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: Yes, Sir. From Kartarpur to Dera Baba Nanak, because of all the devotees who come to express their faith, the request is to convert State Highway 25, whether from Amritsar to Raja Sansi Airport or from Amritsar to Dera Baba Nanak, into a four-lane freeway.

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam, regarding the road to Kartarpur that is to be constructed, our department has issued a special order. Since it was the Hon. Prime Minister's wish for us to begin the work promptly because Pakistan was about to start their work from their side, we have granted the authority to make immediate decisions and commence work, regardless of any existing rules. Only the land acquisition is being carried out by the State Government. They have been instructed to expedite the process and have been told to float the tender, as we have already given orders to complete this work through the same contractor, and this project will be completed. The "Three A" notification regarding land acquisition has also been issued by the State Government. I believe that once the land is acquired, this work will be completed. I do not have information about the extension mentioned by the Hon. Member, but I will investigate the suggestion they have provided and will make every effort to do whatever is possible.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Singh, please ask a very short question.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam, I need your protection. As you mentioned to the Hon. Minister about the road from Mandsaur to Indore,

I too come from the Malwa region. I am delighted that since the Hon. Minister took charge of their department, they have spread a network of roads across Rajasthan and the entire country, leading to economic development nationwide.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, when will the road from Kota, which is part of the Bharatmala project, the road passing through Mandsaur, and the road through Jhalawar be completed? When will this road be completed, and Madam, when will the road you mentioned, extending from your region to South India, be completed? Hon. Minister, could you please provide me with information regarding this?

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam, this question pertains specifically to Bharatmala. I don't have complete information about all the roads in the country right now, but from what I know, perhaps this road is stuck due to forest clearance issues. Is this the same road?

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: No, Sir. This road belongs to Bhavani Mandi, which is part of the Bharatmala project. This is an expressway.

HON. SPEAKER: You write it down.

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: I'll have to reach out to them immediately regarding this, and if it extends up to Indore, then I must do it. I will ensure to expedite the work of connecting it to Indore as soon as possible.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Nishank, ask a short question.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for providing more national highways in Uttarakhand in these 4.5 years than were built in the entire 70 years since the country's independence. The entire economy of Uttarakhand relies on pilgrimage and tourism. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and Mr. Nitin Gadkari for their efforts; they have formulated a grand scheme for the Char Dham, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri, at a cost of Rs. 12,500 crore. Additionally, they have separately allocated Rs. 16,500 crore for the railway line extending to Karnaprayag. This grand project for a safe Char Dham Yatra, operational 24 hours a day, 12 months a year, involves an expenditure of approximately Rs. 12,500 crores. The Hon. Minister mentioned in response to a question that Rs. 1,800 crores have already been spent on it.

Madam, through you, I would like to humbly ask the Hon. Minister whether, considering the heavy snowfall, landslides, and the conditions during floods in that region, any special

provisions have been made in this major project for environmental and forest conservation. If such provisions have been made, what are they and by when are they expected to be implemented? The same route from Muzaffarnagar to Haridwar-Dehradun, which we have repeatedly urged for and you have also implemented at the war footing level, I would like to know when it will be completed.

12:00 hrs

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam Speaker, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri, and Gangotri, you can visit any of these places throughout the year, and this new alignment has been prepared accordingly.

Madam Speaker, you are aware that when the disaster occurred in Uttarakhand, many people lost their lives. Therefore, international consultants were invited from Switzerland and around the world to conduct a comprehensive study, following which the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared. When I became the Minister, this task was specifically a result of that incident. This entire work has been carried out with attention to ecology and the environment. It is 889 kilometres long, and its

cost is 12 thousand crore rupees. It includes a two-lane paved shoulder. It includes 25 major bridges, two tunnels, and three viaducts. In addition, it includes approximately 107 minor bridges, 16 realignment bypasses, and 3,890 culverts. This is a completely new road. Therefore, the plan for this has been made with full consideration for the environment and ecology.

Another thing is that while doing all this, we have specifically placed small amenities by the roadside based on the all-season road. Seating arrangements will be available there. These incidents used to occur, such as landslides and cloudbursts, but now such an alignment has been made that even if any crisis arises, there will be no deaths, and traffic will never stop. Therefore, rock bolting, soil nailing, reinforcement of earth walls, and bioengineering measures, we have incorporated all of these into it. One thing to note is that in this project, there are 27 projects totalling 436 kilometres under State PWD, 18 projects totalling 328 kilometres with BRO, and 8 projects totalling 125 kilometres under NHIDCL.

Madam, despite addressing all environmental and forest concerns, this work was halted multiple times due to court

orders. Initially, the Nainital Court ordered its closure. Then, after moving past that, the National Green Tribunal stayed it. Now this matter has reached the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has granted permission. However, one thing is that environmental and forest clearance is not required for up to 100 kilometres. The Char Dham Yojana is not a single project; rather, it consists of 58 small projects. They have separate Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for each of them. However, those who went to court argued that it is a single project, and therefore, environmental and forest clearance should be obtained for it. This matter is in the Supreme Court, and there all the remaining issues will be clarified. But they have now granted permission to proceed with the work. I think a positive decision will also be made in this regard. There has been a one-year delay in the court case and litigation. However, I hope that this project will be completed before the year 2020.

In this, I would like to highlight the best thing, when I was the BJP President and Shri Nishank was the Chief Minister, during my visit to Badrinath-Kedarnath for pilgrimage, people were very angry at that time and used to tell me how disorderly

it was, there are no roads, etc. I was very saddened at that time. Then I told Shri Nishank to leave the Government protocol aside. I would go alone privately with a few of my people because people criticised. Now I am happy that the situation of the Ganga River and the Badrinath-Kedarnath-Gangotri-Yamunotri area has improved. Madam Speaker, you should visit Prayagraj at this time.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I have seen it. It is clean.

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: For the first time, this time, everyone is giving blessings that the water there is pure and clean. It is a continuous and pure Ganga.

HON. SPEAKER: Our blessings are with it.

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: The Ganga River has improved. People from all over the world come there for pilgrimage. All-season roads will be ready before the year 2020. You can go anywhere throughout the year. Such an alignment has been made that no matter how big a cloudburst or flood occurs, it will not cause any damage, and you will be able to visit Badrinath, Kedarnath, and Gangotri. This work will be completed before the year 2020.

HON. SPEAKER: Great! Question Hour was held today in a very good mood.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge, now you don't need to worry.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received adjournment motions on various subjects from some Hon. Members. Although these matters are important, they need not interfere with today's proceedings. Therefore, I have not granted permission for any notice of adjournment motion.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have thanked them and blessed them. Now you all please be seated.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, I am just saying thank you. *... (Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge, please give your blessings.

... (Interruptions)

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 67 to 72 and 74 to 80

Unstarred Question Nos. 691 to 920

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

12 04 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Mr. Jitendra Singh

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE OOFICE OF PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Speaker Madam, I lay the following papers on the Table: -

(1) A copy of the Central Information Commission, Staff Car Drivers (Special Grade), (Grade-I), (Grade-II) and (Ordinary Grade) Group „B‟ and „C‟ posts Recruitment Rules,2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.384 in Gazette of India dated 3rd December 2018 under sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10789/16/19]

(2) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under article 320(5) of the Constitution of India: -

(I) The Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2018published in Notification No. G.S.R.1239(A) in the Gazette of India dated 27th December 2018.

(II) The Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2019 published in Notification No.G.S.R.38(A) in the Gazette of India dated 18th January 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10790/16/19]

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

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

(I) The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (9 of 2018) published in Notification No. 116-6/2017-NSL-II in the Gazette of India dated 13th December 2018. Were published in.

(II) The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (10 of 2018) published in Notification No. 311-04/2017-QoS in the Gazette of India dated 21st December 2018 together with a corrigendum there to be published in the Notification No. 311-04/2017-QoS dated 21st December,2018.

(III) The Telecommunications (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Standards of Quality of Service and Consumer Protection (Addressable Systems)(Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (11 of 2018) published in Notification No. 21-4/2018-B&CS in Gazette of India dated 28th December 2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10791/16/19]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts of the Prasar Bharati, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10792/16/19]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10793/16/19]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10794/16/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI R.K. SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013: -

(1) Review by the Government of the working of the DNH Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Silvassa, for the year 2017-2018.

(2) Annual Report of the DNH Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Silvassa, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10795/16/19]

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

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963: -

(i) G.S.R.1208(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th December, 2018, approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2018.

(ii) G.S.R.1143(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th November, 2018, approving the Paradip Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2018 containing corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. No.7(E) dated 4th January, 2019.

(iii) G.S.R.6(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th January, 2019, approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10796/16/19]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10797/16/19]

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): Madam, I lay the following papers on the Table: -

(1) (I) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-Met), Pune, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.

(II) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-Met), Pune, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10798/16/19]

(3) (I) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.

(II) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10799/16/19]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989: -

(i) The Railways (Punitive charges for overloading of wagon) Amendment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.278(E) in Gazette of India dated 26th March, 2018.

(ii) The Railways (Punitive charges for overloading of wagon) Second Amendment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1205(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th December, 2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10800/16/19]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): Madam, I lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394of the Companies Act, 2013: -

(1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, Delhi, for the year 2017-2018

(2) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor Generals thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10801/16/19]

[English]

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

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

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10802/16/19]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10803/16/19]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10804/16/19]

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): I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2017-18.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10805/16/19]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): Madam, I lay the following papers on the Table: -

(1) A copy of each of the following papers under sub-section (1) of Section394 of the Companies Act, 2013: -

A copy of each (Hindi and English versions):

(1) The operations of Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Navi Mumbai for the year 2017-2018, reviewed by the Government.

(2) Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10806/16/19]

(3) (I) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.

(II) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10807/16/19]

[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) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers, Noida, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Academy of

Highway Engineers, Noida, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10808/16/19]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956: -

(i) S.O.6111(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th December, 2018, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.222 (New NH 61) (Kalyan to Nirmal Section) in the State of Telangana.

(ii) S.O.6112(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th December, 2018, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.365 (New) (Mangalwarpet to Mallampalli Section) in the State of Telangana.

(iii) S.O.6248(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st December, 2018, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.113 (Padhi-Dahod Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(iv) S.O.6249(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st December, 2018, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No.13 (Solapur-Bijapur Section) in the State

of Karnataka on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer Basis (DBFOT) Toll Basis.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10809/16/19]

12 04 ½ hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

46th Report

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Madam, I present the 46th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12 04 ¾ hrs

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

(i) Statement

[English]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to lay on the Table the Final Action Taken Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the Government on the recommendations contained

in Chapter I of the Twentieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on Action Taken by the Government on the Tenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Status of implementation of Reservation Policy in those companies who have 50% Government and 50% Private equity like Petronet LNG Ltd.'

(ii)Report of Study Visit

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I beg to lay on the Table the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Study Visit of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Ranchi, Hyderabad, Pune and Mumbai during September-October, 2018.

12 06hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

46th to 52nd Reports

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Madam, I present the following report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour: -

(1) 46th Report on Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 33rd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Skill Development Initiative Scheme' pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

(2) 47th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 34th report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Labour & Employment

(3) 48th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 35th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Textiles.

(4) 49th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 13th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Deployment of contract/ casual/ sanitation workers for perennial nature of jobs in the NDMC' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(5) 50th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 36th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

(6) 51st Report on Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 40th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Overseas Employment of Women Workers including Nurses and Maids, Issues and Regulatory Framework' pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(7) 52nd Report on Compliance with the Prescribed Provisions of Deduction and Deposit of PF, ESI and TDS (of Income Tax, etc.) by the Employers pertaining to the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

12 07 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

24th and 25th Reports

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways: -

(1) Twenty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in their 18th Report on 'Tourism Promotion and Pilgrimage Circuit'.

(2) Twenty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in their 21st Report on 'New Railway Catering Policy, 2017'.

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12 08hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

216th to 219th Reports

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs: -

(1) 216th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two Hundred Eleventh Report on the Cyclone Ockhi- its Impact on Fishermen and Damage Caused by it.

(2) 217th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two Hundred Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(3) 218th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two

Hundred Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

(4) 219th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two Hundred Thirteenth Report on Security situation in the North Eastern States of India.

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12 09hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 320th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2018-2019) pertaining to the Department of Space*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 320th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2018-19), pertaining to the Department of Space.

* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, See No. LT 10810/16/19.

12 10hrs

MOTION RE: SIXTY-FIRST REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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): I beg to move:

> "That this House do agree with the Sixty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th February, 2019."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That this House do agree with the Sixty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th February, 2019."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, ‘Zero Hour’.

SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Madam Speaker, Coimbatore is called the Manchester of South India and considered as the 2nd biggest city and number one industrial city in Tamil Nadu. Coimbatore has been selected as one of the Smart Cities in the country. Now, Coimbatore is a fast-growing city with all-round development in employment, education, health, agriculture, etc.

Coimbatore Airport caters to the needs of nearby districts and cities namely, the Dollar City of South India of Tirupur; Steel city of Salem in Tamil Nadu, Textile City of Erode; Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu; and Palakkad and some other districts of Kerala. Further, a large volume of goods from both industrial sector and agricultural sector are being exported from Coimbatore through highways and airways to other cities in the country and abroad.

At present, there are around 14 lakh people who travel annually to and fro this airport. About 7000 tonnes of cargo per year is handled here. Due to shortage of flight service, both for domestic and international operations, the textiles and knitting

industrial units and agricultural sector are facing a lot of problem. The farmers who are producing perishable goods like vegetables, fruits and flowers, are now compelled to goto the far away airports of Chennai, Trichy, Bengaluru and Kochi, to export their goods resulting in a huge loss of money and time. Further, Coimbatore airport was conferred with international status in the year 2012. It must get more air connectivity.

In view of this, I request the Union Government to take necessary action for the expansion of the existing Coimbatore Airport.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kulmani Samal, Shrimati V. Sathyabama and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Nagarajan.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHAR): Hon. Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. My Lok Sabha Constituency is Bulandshahr, which is 80 kilometres away from here. Many such districts are in the Delhi NCR region. Despite being close to NCR and the

capital, Delhi, many facilities have not reached here, whether it’s train services or good roads.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to inform you that the state capital, Lucknow, is 515 kilometres away from here. The Allahabad High Court is 615 kilometres away, while the Lahore High Court in Pakistan is closer, at a distance of 482 kilometres. Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Meerut, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, and Shamli are 80 kilometres away from Delhi.

All these districts are adjacent to Delhi and are also part of the capital region. Through you, I would like to urge the Government to integrate the districts of western Uttar Pradesh that are adjacent to the capital into the Delhi region so that they can be developed. These districts also contribute a significant amount of revenue to the entire Delhi region. They supply all essentials like milk, vegetables, fruits, and more to Delhi. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad and Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are granted permission to be associated with the matter raised by Shri Bhola Singh.

Shri Sushil Kumar Singh -- Not present

Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey -- Not present

[English]

SHRI M. B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Madam Speaker, in the mid-80s, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas were set up with the stated objective of providing quality education to rural poor.

Madam, in an unjustified move, the Government has recently decided to increase the fees of students up to class IX of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas from Rs. 200 to Rs. 600. The monthly fees for these students have been trebled. Further, fees for students of classes IX to XII, which includes children of Government employees and also children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have been increased to Rs. 1500 per month.

Madam, this is highly unjustified because this hike in the fees will make the Navodaya Vidyalayas inaccessible to rural poor. Furthermore, a fee of Rs. 1500 per month will not only make the Navodaya Vidyalayas inaccessible to rural poor but also is the beginning of doing away with reservation in these

schools. This is not only unjustified but also highly unacceptable and condemnable.

Madam, through you, I would like to request the Government to withdraw this hike in fees immediately. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mohammad Badruddoza Khan, Shri Tarik Anwar, Dr. Kulmani Samal, and Shrimati Supriya Sule are granted permission to be associated with the matter raised by Shri M.B. Rajesh.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Madam, this is a very serious matter. The NHAI and railway projects involved in the ongoing disputes between the Centre and Bihar have completely stalled. At my place, the tender for the NH-106 road was taken by the IL&FS company. When the Chief Justice of the High Court visited there, the High Court also took suo-motu notice. It is being given consecutive date-to-date hearings. The Chief Justice of the High Court also remarked that we have never seen such a dirty road before. We have NH-106 and NH-107 roads here. Madam, there is an overbridge in Saharsa for

which the Bridge Corporation has been allocated funds several times, but the Bihar Government is not paying full attention to its completion. From Unchet to Tara Sthan via Singheshwar Sthan Khurda, there was supposed to be a tender for culverts and bridges on NH-107, but the Bihar Government is unable to acquire the land for this. You will monitor this continuously. My only objection is that the Bihar Government be instructed that everything is ready for the tender of both bridges, but the estimate is not being finalised. I request that IL&FS Company take immediate action on the NH-106 road and simultaneously direct the Bridge Corporation to expedite the construction of the Saharsa Overbridge.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Madam, under the Ayushman Bharat Yojna, the Modi Government has implemented the world's largest scheme, ensuring affordable and quality healthcare services for the people of our country. The Government of India has sold cardiac implants, along with cancer and cardiovascular disease drugs, at discounted rates ranging from 60 to 90 percent compared to prevailing market prices through AMRIT pharmacies. Despite efforts by the

Government of India to eradicate communicable and non-communicable diseases, in the year 2018, 317,928 men and women died of cancer in India every year due to diseases caused by tobacco and polluted environments. We have recently observed International Cancer Day. In Bharat, 2,500 people are dying of cancer every day. Every 8 minutes, a woman dies from cervical cancer, and 2 die from breast cancer. According to the latest WHO figures, cancer becomes fatal due to late detection, reaching critical stages. Annually, 9.6 million people worldwide are dying from cancer.

I wish to request the Hon. Health Minister to expand the scope of pathology services in the country and launch more campaigns for cancer prevention. I wish to express my gratitude to the Minister for establishing a cancer hospital in Ambala within my Lok Sabha constituency... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Gaurav Gogoi.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Thank you, Speaker Madam. Madam Speaker, the NRC process is being updated in the state of Assam. This process has cost a lot of money, and still, many genuine Indian citizens are left out of this draft NRC. The Supreme Court has been monitoring this exercise and recently has pulled up the Government for delaying the NRC process. It shows the lack of seriousness on the part of the Government, and the Supreme Court used some very harsh words. I request the Government to speed up the implementation of the NRC and also keep in mind the present situation in the North East and the entire India regarding the Citizenship Amendment Bill. If passed, it will violate the entire NRC process and the Assam Accord. They are protesting across India against this Bill, which is unconstitutional. I hope the Government would keep in mind that the Assam Accord says that after 25th March 1971, any illegal migrant who enters India should be detained and deported immediately. The sanctity of the Assam Accord must be kept. Overall, in India, there is an absence of laws to deal with important issues... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty, and Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gaurav Gogoi.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY (KODERMA): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you. Madam, I wish to draw the attention of the House to an important matter through you in today's Zero Hour. At the district level under the Sakshar Bharat Mission, approximately five and a half lakh personnel have been appointed on a contractual basis across the country. From 1999 until 31st March 2018, these individuals worked for a mere honorarium of 2,000 rupees. After working for nearly 19 years on an honorarium of 2,000 rupees, their service period was abruptly terminated on 31st March 2018. They were engaged in various activities, along with literacy... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now, your point has been raised.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY: Madam Speaker, they were assigned various tasks such as Pulse Polio, leprosy eradication, PDS supervision, election duties, campaign

planning, MGNREGA work, Swachh Bharat Mission, and others... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now you've made your point; please refrain from speaking too long.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY: Madam Speaker, through you, I request the department to consider their case, as after working for 19 years, they are no longer able to find other employment. I urge the department to consider their case, extend their service period, and also work towards increasing their honorarium. I urge the Government to undertake this task... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Bidhuri - Not present.

Shri Arvind Sawant.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Speaker Madam, I stand here with a very distressed heart. In the past four years, you might have heard me repeatedly speak about the services of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and BSNL. If you listen to their caller tunes, it says, "Mera desh badal raha hai, aage badh raha hai" (My country is changing, moving forward). This is an MTNL caller tune, but it is itself

going into a ditch. In this entire situation, I am making repeated efforts for improvement. It's so distressing that in the last three months, they haven't even received their salary on time... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please tell us briefly.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Due to the scams committed by their Government in the year 2008, this company incurred losses... (Interruptions) The employees have made significant sacrifices since that time... (Interruptions) Employees have not asked for bonuses in the last ten years. They still haven't received a new pay grade. Even after making so many sacrifices, if there are improvements in services, the company will emerge. I would like to address two to three issues in one minute each. I had mentioned one issue earlier; recently, you may have seen that Air India utilised its land bank for its improvement and deposited money. We also have a land bank; please monetise it. Establish your own call centre; these are all suggestions I have provided. Work on those suggestions. I request you to convey to the Government from your end to take immediate steps to make both these companies viable.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal and Shrimati V. Sathyabama are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Arvind Sawant.

SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, I express my gratitude to you. I would seek your protection because this is a special and serious matter. In my constituency of Bilaspur, the second largest hospital in the state, Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS), operates where medical treatment and research are conducted. In this hospital, people from Bilaspur as well as nearby districts such as Kabirdham, Mungeli, Korba, Raigarh, Ambikapur, and many parts of Madhya Pradesh like Anuppur, Shahdol, Dindori, Mandla, etc., come for treatment, including poor and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families.

Madam Speaker, the previous government, the BJP government, had arranged for free treatment up to Rs. 50,000 for these groups through the Chief Minister's 'Health Card Insurance Scheme.' Additionally, the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana' by the Central Government was also being implemented there. However, now that a new Congress government has come into power in Chhattisgarh, it has discontinued both of these schemes.

Madam Speaker, on 22nd January, a fire incident occurred in this hospital, resulting in the deaths of five infants. Instead of investigating these deaths, the government there is protecting the guilty individuals. They are not taking any action against them. As a result, there is dissatisfaction among the people there.

I would like to request, through you, that an investigation be conducted into the incident involving the deaths of the five children, and it should be investigated by an agency of the Central Government. To prevent such incidents in the future, arrangements should be made.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Kulamani Samal, and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are granted permission to be associated with the matter raised by Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu.

DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD (BHIND): Madam Speaker, people in the Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh keep guns. This was necessary due to the problem of dacoity in this region. In Bhind District alone, there are approximately 25,000 gun licenses. Now, the problem of dacoity in this region has been eradicated. Young people in this region can find employment as security guards if they possess weapons. Due to their fearless and courageous nature, youth from the Chambal region are preferred across Bharat as security guards. Our Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, has placed special emphasis on the skill development of youth. For this purpose, a separate ministry has been established. I request the Government of India to provide training in weapon handling skills to unemployed youth in this region. With three to four months of training, they can perform exceptionally well and become valuable allies to the police and military. In Bhind District

alone, within a year, employment opportunities can be created for 10,000 young men. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are granted permission to be associated with the matter raised by Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu.

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, there are nearly 104 million elderly persons in our country, and their number is increasing steadily. It was found that 71 percent of the elderly population resides in rural areas, while 29 percent live in urban areas. Of these 104 million elderly people, it was found that more than 51 million of them live below the poverty line. We need immediate intervention by the Central and State Governments. The issue of elder abuse highlights a national shame. It requires both introspection and action from society at large. Many elderly persons are being subjected to abuse within their own families by their own sons and daughters.

Madam Speaker, with the changing family patterns and younger people migrating to cities in search of work, a large number of elders are being left alone in their old age. In urban areas, adults find themselves so preoccupied with work and the stress of city life that they leave elderly persons unattended at home.

Another cause for worry is that the number of homeless elderly is also increasing. …*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati V. Sathyabama. Is Sathyabama present here?

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Madam, I am about to complete it.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the case. It has been more than a minute.

… *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: I am just concluding.

HON. SPEAKER: Then complete it.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Madam Speaker, please allow me half a minute to speak. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: There is nothing right now.

… *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: I urge upon the Government, due to the high degree of sickness among senior citizens, that they should be provided more financial assistance, a monthly pension of Rs. 3000, and free treatment facilities for the welfare of senior citizens. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Advocate Joice George, Dr. P.K. Biju, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Shri M.B. Rajesh, and Shrimati V. Sathyabama are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.

***SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, Vanakkam. An environment friendly Zero Liquid Discharge method is being used by 300 dyeing Units and 18 Common Effluent Treatment Plants situated in Tiruppur District of Tamil Nadu. Around 9 Crore litres of Water allocated to these dyeing Units, thus saved, is also provided for the additional use of common public every day. I request that the GST on Common Effluent Treatment Plants should be brought down from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. Moreover, I request that GST on Waste Water Treatment Equipments used in these Common Effluent Treatment Plants should also be brought down from 18 per cent to 5 per cent. I request the Union Government to take immediate action in this regard. Thank you.

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Uday Pratap Singh - Not present.

Shri Raju Shetti - Not present.

SHRI HARISCHANDRA CHAVAN (DINDORI): Madam Speaker, in my Dindori region, grapes, pomegranates, raisins, and onions are produced the most. From Bharat, especially from my Dindori region, grapes, pomegranates, and raisins were exported to Bangladesh in significant quantities. The increasing production of onions in the country could lead to higher exports to foreign countries, but currently, it is only 5 percent. In the year 2016-17, a total of 38,358 metric tonnes were exported, resulting in crores of rupees in foreign currency for Bharat. However, the Bangladeshi Government imposed a hundred percent import duty, meaning that for every hundred rupees worth of goods exported, a hundred rupees import duty is levied. As a result, the export of grapes, pomegranates, and raisins from Bharat decreased to 5,134 metric tonnes in 2017-18. There has been a decrease of approximately 85 percent in exports. The export of grapes, pomegranates, and raisins was mostly done from Maharashtra, but due to a decrease in exports, the income of farmers in Maharashtra has decreased.

Through this House, I request the Government to appeal to the Bangladesh Government, in the interest of farmers in Maharashtra and to

earn foreign currency, to completely remove import duties on grapes, pomegranates, and raisins.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Harishchandra Chavan.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Madam Speaker, the area I come from, whether in chit funds, unregulated deposits, or Ponzi schemes, we are affected by them. Whether it's the Rose Valley scam, the Saradha scam, or the Basil scam, they are taking deposits here using various tactics. Due to the formation of a Government in Bengal in 2011, the rapid growth of these chit-fund companies occurred under the rationale of "when the king becomes a robber, who fears whom?" You can estimate how politicians, bureaucrats, and journalists collectively promote this company. I am only providing an example; I need your protection so that when politicians are called by the CBI in the Narada and Saradha scams, when Trinamool Congress MPs go to jail or are called for questioning, they do not face any trouble. However, as a bureaucrat, who has all the information at their fingertips, I would like to state through you that when a raid occurs at Ganesh Singhania's place, the Trinamool Congress Chief Minister, whose nephew is an MP, has all the details. To conceal this information, to hide the truth, the MP never faced any trouble, and she never sat on a protest. Yet today, she is protesting for a bureaucrat. You can see how significant this connection is. Through you, I want to state that all these chit-fund companies,

including the one where a raid was conducted at Ganesh Singhania's place, involve unregulated scheme funds linked to the Trinamool Congress Chief Minister and their relatives. There should be a CBI inquiry into this matter; they should be sent to jail, and these companies should be banned. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Shiv Kumar Udasi, Shri Devji M. Patel, Shri Ganesh Singh, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, and Prof. Richard Hay are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Nishikant Dubey.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to address a significant issue facing our country, which is not confined to any particular region but pertains to malnutrition and disability among children across the entire nation. This is a particularly serious problem for both children and mothers, especially from poor families. A recent report has indicated a decrease in the number of poor people in the country; however, this issue is not solely due to poverty. Due to the impact of Naxalism, my parliamentary constituency of Aurangabad's two districts faces heightened social and economic backwardness, exacerbating issues in my region. I request an increase in the consumption of non-staple food items among pregnant mothers on my behalf. The provision of cleanliness and clean drinking water should be ensured by the Government. Thirdly, there should be

gender equality, and fourthly, national food availability. These initiatives are being implemented by the Government, but there is a need to emphasise them more so that the issues of disability and malnutrition can be controlled.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, and Dr. Kulmani Samal are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Sushil Kumar Singh.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Madam Speaker, in the area of Coal India's CCL unit, approximately two thousand salaried workers have not received permanent service status for the past ten years, and their case is pending in the tribunal. Many people have passed away due to not getting a job, and they were unable to benefit from employment schemes. I urge the Government of India that this is a matter of salaried workers, and hence this issue should be resolved immediately by Coal India.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI): Madam Speaker, thank you. I would like to draw your attention to a very important issue. Currently, there is a lot of restlessness in the country regarding the

Supreme Court's judgements on SC, ST, and OBC. There is a lot of anger regarding the roster that has been created by considering the department as a unit and not considering the university as a unit, as per the judgement of the Supreme Court.

I would like to make an appeal through you—Hon. Prime Minister is also here, that there should be some resolution to this issue. The judiciary is functioning to uphold the law. What are we doing sitting in the Parliament? The Supreme Court is engaged in more efforts to create laws than we are.

HON. SPEAKER: Please just state your point.

DR. UDIT RAJ: Madam, some action should be taken on this matter. Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, the National Judicial Appointment Commission was established, but it was also struck down by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is anti-poor, anti-Dalit, and anti-backward. This has become a racist institution. This institution has become nepotistic.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit P. Solanki and Shri Ganesh Singh are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Udit Raj.

It does not happen this way. Please present your point. Shri Ramesh Bidhuri ji.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Madam, I would like to express my views through you. In Delhi, 30 lakh people reside in unauthorised settlements. They are living a life of utter misery. There is a fund of 48 thousand crore rupees within Delhi. In the year 2014, when the Government was formed under the leadership of Hon. Modi Sir at the centre, whose rule was in place in Delhi? During those 9 months, an amount of 120,000 crore rupees was sanctioned through the Jal Board for sewerage in unauthorised colonies. The Chief Minister of Delhi is not serious about addressing the drainage of water in these unauthorised colonies. When people go there and ask them, they repeatedly say that the Central Government is hindering their work. Madam, they themselves are the Chairperson of the Delhi Jal Board. Through you, I request that the Ministry of Urban Development grant permission for the Hon. Lieutenant Governor to intervene in this matter. The interference is being done through the Hon. Supreme Court or the Hon. High Court. Due to the anarchic Chief Minister of Delhi, 30 lakh people are living a life of utter misery. In those colonies, there is neither water supply nor drainage nor functioning sewage systeSushri Madam, attention should be directed towards this matter. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

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

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India. To address the issues faced by farmers across various States in the country, Kisan Mitra and Kisan Didi were appointed to provide information about new technologies. However, they are engaged in the task of disseminating technical and organic farming information, along with details about Fasal Bima, Bhavantar Bhugtan, Krishak Bharaman, soil testing, and related information to farmers; however, the honorarium they are receiving for this work is very inadequate. Proposals have been submitted by all States to increase their honorarium in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India. I want to request that serious consideration be given to this matter. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, and Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are granted permission to be associated with the matter raised by Shri Ganesh Singh.

Shri Ranjit Ranjan ji, please complete your statement within half a minute. We do not have much time.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Madam, I would like to express my opinion. The matter of the girls' home scandal, the rape incident involving 37 girls, was raised in this very House. Today, the Supreme Court has delivered a judgement stating that neither the

Government nor the administration has taken any positive steps on that issue. As a result, the demand we had raised in the House has been shifted to Saket in Delhi today.

Madam, you have taken up that issue with great seriousness. I extend my gratitude to you. The entire House was deeply concerned for those girls. My request is that fingers also be pointed at the other 13 institutions as well. Why is the CBI not investigating them? Along with this, I had met you. You had said that we should all collaborate to take the initiative. This matter is coming out; I have personally seen it by visiting shelters. The condition of other shelters is very deplorable. The criteria that have been adopted are not recognised by NGOs nor by the administration and Government; whoever it may be, they are told to apply it seriously.

Madam, it's surprising that those who want to rent a house for 22 thousand are offering it at 10 thousand. They were saying that the Government hasn't been giving us money for the past year and a half. It's strange that NGOs haven't been receiving their monthly payments for a year and a half. Despite this, why are they still interested in running the shelter house? I would request you that this is the final session of the sixteenth Lok Sabha. As a woman, I appeal to you and to this entire House that for the sake of those girls, the situation of all the children's homes and boys' homes in this country is very delicate. Sexual harassment also occurs in many places. In a way, they face harassment

alongside their work as well. Madam, please form a team. It should be a non-political team that conducts inspections of all the shelter homes. There should be strict laws made for this. I am grateful to you for allowing me the opportunity to address this crucial matter.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M. B. Rajesh, Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, and Shrimati Supriya Sule are granted permission to be associated with the matter raised by Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan.

Those who remain will be addressed tomorrow.

... (Interruptions)

12 40hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

HON. SPEAKER: The matters submitted by the Members under Rule 377 will be placed on the Table. Members who have matters to raise should immediately place them on the Table within 20 minutes. If received on the Table within the stipulated time, they will be considered. The rest will be considered lapsed.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Regarding additional attempts to UPSC Civil Services aspirants

[English]

SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE (JANGIPUR): Due to frequent and sudden changes in the examination pattern of Civil Services Examination conducted by UPSC, the candidates, especially from the Rural India have lost precious years and attempts. The Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) has given advantage to the candidates with education from English medium over candidates from the Rural India.

I would like to draw the attention of the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) to address this difficulty faced by students predominantly from the Rural India by providing two (02) additional attempts to the candidates irrespective of their age and attempt restrictions from the exam cycle 2019 onwards with a preparation period of minimum one year so that they have a fair chance to compete with the other candidates.

(ii) Regarding guidelines for Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): The Government of Tamil Nadu has a strong belief that Social and economic upliftment of under privileged sections of the society would be possible and sustainable only by ensuring their educational progress especially in the field of higher education and hence Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in its true letter and spirit.

I would like to draw attention to the recent revision of guidelines for the Scheduled Castes Post-Matric Scholarship scheme, wherein it has been stated that the fees claimed against the Management quota/Spot admission seat in any institutions / Universities will not be reimbursed with effect from April, 2018. In Tamil Nadu, large number of Scheduled Castes students belonging to poor economic background who are not able to get admission under the government quota on merit, have been

availing the benefit under the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme under management quota seats in self-financing colleges. As a result, the number of Scheduled Castes students joining the Higher and Technical Education Institutions in the State has increased tremendously. In fact, this scheme has largely benefitted the State to achieve a higher Gross Enrollment Ratio of more than 45%. Non-reimbursement of fees for management quota seats under the new guidelines will create a huge setback in achieving the goal of social equity and social justice as it will deny opportunities to the poor Scheduled Castes students in the fields of higher and technical education. This may cause serious resentment and unrest among the Scheduled Castes community.

Another important issue is the sharing pattern between the Centre and State for funding the scheme Presently the expenditure under scheme at the end of the five years (plan) period is taken as the committed liability of the state for the next five years. While the committed liability of Tamil Nadu was Rs. 353.55 crore in 2011-12 with effect from 2017-18, it has risen to Rs. 1526.46 crores. This puts an unbearable burden on the State Government finances for its high performance in the last 5

years. It also results in a situation, where this Central sector scheme will be largely (if not fully) funded by the *State* from its own resources. Therefore, it is requested that in line with other Central Schemes, the scheme may be funded with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and the State.

Further the release of funds by the Government of India to the State Government under this scheme over the years has been both delayed and inadequate. Up to 2017-18the State is yet to receive arrears of Rs. 1579.58 crores from the Government. of India. It is requested that the release of this arrear amount to the State of Tamil Nadu may be expedited, to release the strain on the State Government’s finances.

(iii) Regarding welfare measures for fishermen community of Tamil Nadu

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): India has a total coastline of 7,516.6 Km. There are a total of 4 million fisherman comprising of 8,64,550 families. Presently, India ranks second in the world in total fish production with an annual fish production of about 9.06 million metric tonnes.

The fisheries sector contributes to the national income, exports, food and nutritional security and employment generation As per the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), of the Government of India, the value of GDP from fisheries sector at current prices during 2011-2012 is estimated to be Rs 65,541 crores, which is 4.47 per cent of the total GDP of agriculture and allied sectors.

Each fisherman consumes approximately 1200-1,500 litres of diesel per month with the present subsidy of Rs. 6/litre and they get subsidy only for approximately 300 litres which is not enough. The government is now taking steps to make the

fishermen pay full price for the diesel and transfer the price equivalent to the subsidy to their bank accounts.

During the Cyclone Gaja on November of 2018 which crossed through the delta district of Nagapattinam has affected the livelihood of almost all the fishermen in the delta district, 151 motor boats were completely destroyed, 1066 partly-damaged and 1137 vallams (country boats) were completely destroyed and 1434 vallams were partly damaged and fishing nets have also been damaged.

The fishermen community of Delta district of Tamil Nadu are still recovering from the devastating effects of the cyclone and presently they are not in a position to pay full price for the diesel.

And I have also addressed the parliament last month and requested relief funds for the delta district of Tamil Nadu from the National Disaster Management Fund which has not been granted. So, I kindly request them once again to please grant the relief fund for the people of the delta district so that they can at least make a partial if not full recovery. The following measures

are urgently required to be taken for the welfare of fishermen community of Tamil Nadu: -

(i) The fishermen ‘community of India wants the Government of India to continue giving subsidy on diesel as deduction. while buying the fuel ‘and not through Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) and also the government should increase the subsidy for diesel consumed by fishermen to meet the increasing, price of diesel.

(ii) The Government of India should classify the fishermen community as Schedule Tribes.

(iii) The Central Government should also develop the fishing harbor in Nagapattinam, Nagore, Pattinacherry area.

(iv) The Government of India should take steps for establishing a

Direct Purchase Centre (DPC) for fishes from the fishermen to get a better price in an International Level.

To achieve all this the Government of India should also establish a separate Ministry for fisheries.

(iv)Need to improve BSNL/MTNL mobile/internet services in Nabarangpur Parliamentary Constituency in Odisha and Delhi

SHRI BALBHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): For the last 7-8 months, especially after the Jio phone made inroads into Odisha, the SIM of BSNL/MTNL is hardly working. Most of the time it is not reachable. Whenever it gets connected, the conversation is one way. Whenever, it is both ways, it gets disconnected within seconds. The mobile phone has become a serious source of tension, irritation, time wasting equipment and so on. It is apprehended that the present deficiency in services by the Government company is a pre-act for its disinvestment. I urge the Government to take corrective action in this regard.

(v) Need to waive the loan taken by fishermen of Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): The situation of fishermen in Maharashtra is deteriorating significantly. The lives of poor fishermen, burdened with heavy debts, are in jeopardy. Maharashtra has a 720-kilometre coastline, and for many fishermen living there, the sea is their livelihood. Recently, fishing has decreased due to several reasons. The prices of essential tools and materials for fishing are increasing day by day. There is an increase in the price of diesel, which is causing uncertain prices for fish. As a result, fishermen who own boats are facing significant probleSushri Many fishermen take loans under the National Welfare Scheme for the construction of their boats. Under the National Welfare Scheme, they are charged an interest rate ranging from 9 percent to 15.25 percent. Due to the uncertainty of the cost of many things, it becomes difficult for them to repay the loan. Now, the interest rates on loans provided by banks have decreased, but the interest rate under the National Welfare

Scheme is still very high, which is unfair. The fishing industry has been given the same status as farming, but just as traders are deceiving farmers, fishermen are also not getting guaranteed prices from traders. In this way, fishermen are also facing difficult economic situations similar to farmers.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister that the Government should waive the loans of Maharashtra's fishermen under the National Welfare Scheme.

(vi) Need to develop Kollam Bypass as a four-lane road

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The Kollam Bypass was originally designed as a four-lane road. The land for construction of four lane road was already acquired. Two lane road of Kollam Bypass was constructed and dedicated to the Country. Two lane road is not sufficient for meeting the requirement. In Kerala, road development is delayed due to lack of land. But the land for construction of four lane road for Kollam Bypass is available. This bypass is also crossing two other National Highways. Development of main junctions such as Kallumthazham, Ayathil etc. are also required. Construction of over bridge, underpass, service roads and other developments are essential for the smooth vehicular traffic through the Kollam Bypass.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to initiate immediate steps for construction of four lane road and other developments in Kollam Bypass.

12 41hrs

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

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): I apologise for today, as I am feeling a bit cold, have a fever, and also have a cold. ... (Interruptions) I will not leave even if ten people like you come.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. You gave me the opportunity to speak on the proposal to thank the President's Address. I express my gratitude to the Hon. Speaker and the Hon. President for addressing Members of both houses. However, in this address, all the things that Mr. Prime Minister had said outside or the issues he had raised in the past five years within this House, those very issues—were articulated by Mr. Prime Minister from the mouth of the Hon. President. I have to say that the Parliament, where we all come together to formulate policies, especially during Hon. Prime Minister Modi's five-year tenure... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, please.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Now that you are new and from the BJP, you will speak loudly. ... *(Interruptions)* Newly converted people speak very loudly. I don’t speak much. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please refrain from providing answers to each individual.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, I will begin my speech with a couplet:

"Ye Husn O Ruaab To Theek Hai, Lekin Guroor Kyun Tumko Is Par Hai,

Maine Sooraj Ko Har Shaam, Isi Aasmaan Mein Dhalte Dekha Hai.

Kabhi taaron se jagmag aasmaan mein, sitaron ko toot'te dekha hai."

(Your beauty and charm are fine, but why do you take pride in them, I have seen the Sun set every evening in this sky. What is it that troubles you? Here, nothing is greater than time. I have seen stars twinkle in the sky, witnessed them shimmer and shine.)

But our Prime Minister, Sir, what I have said applies to him because he always speaks his own words and particularly does not heed others' words. This is their habit. His own words are what he deems right. Even if someone else speaks the truth or tries to conceal the truth of history, they attempt to suppress it. The occasion of the President's Address is a moment of great honour and dignity. The government's achievements are conveyed through the address. However, I am very saddened that the

Hon. President's Address attempted to compare the achievements of this Government with the previous Government. Doing so is not dignified for us and is not dignified for the country either. It should have focused on presenting their own ideas. However, using the President's Address for political gains tarnishes this tradition. This indicates the extent to which the current Government is willing to go to protect its declining reputation.

This question is often asked of us repeatedly, and it is said, "What have you done in 60 years?" This is their slogan. Wherever they go, whether it's in public meetings or in Parliament, they used to say "70 years" before, but now they've reduced it to "55-60 years" because they also know that six years belong to the BJP, three years to Shri Morarji Desai, and three to four years to other leaders. Therefore, they have now reduced it to 60 years to ask what you have done in 60 years. They keep saying that. But I want to tell them that according to the preamble of the Constitution of India, Bharat is a democratic republic. This is a secular country. The Constitution of India is supreme. The Constitution of India has granted equal rights to every citizen. However, the BJP Government does not have any respect for the Constitution and constitutional institutions. They have been weakened, and there are daily attempts to curtail their independence. Communal forces are raising their heads, and freedom of speech is also being curtailed. Reservation for Dalits and backward classes is also being phased out. Mr. Javadekar has also given

a statement today. The points for removing reservations in universities have been reduced from two hundred points to 13 points. The Constitution has provided reservations for Dalits, backward classes, and economically weaker sections. This has been taken away from all the universities and colleges. That's why I am saying that this Government is not functioning according to the Constitution. You have now implemented a ten percent reservation, which we also supported. On one hand, you are increasing reservations, but on the other hand, you are taking it away from those who already have it. We have been fighting for four months. This issue was raised in the last session as well, and at that time, Mr. Javadekar assured us that it would be resolved within eight days. I wish to ask why it hasn't been done yet. You brought the 10 percent reservation bill overnight, and here we have the Social Justice Minister as well. On the same day, their unstarred question was also in this House. At half past eleven, they responded that there was no such proposal. In response to the unstarred question on the same day, you replied that there is no proposal to provide reservations to economically weaker sections of the upper caste. I'll hand over that question to you. It's a question from this very House, and it has been published right here.

In the next half hour, the bill arrives. This means that there is no discussion on it even in the Cabinet. Directly, what Mr. Modi says happens, and no one else knows anything about it. ... *(Interruptions)* If it were known... *(Interruptions)*, why would such an answer come for this

unstarred question? Why did it come on the same day, and why couldn't you scrutinise it on the same day? Don't your Ministers see this? I want to ask why you always bring your laws in such a mess, introducing, bringing, passing, and leaving, but not bringing what is necessary. My point is to at least consider others as well. We have always supported good things. Here, among all the opposition members sitting, whenever something good comes up, several acts have been unanimously passed. There may be instances where, without any intent, differing opinions can arise on it. ... *(Interruptions)*

Now, I will present some statistics because Hon. Prime Minister Modi often misleads the youth and questions the generations that have come after independence, asking what they have accomplished in the past 60 years. I will present a brief overview in four or five columns to illustrate what we have accomplished so that you can also remember it easily. If you ever get the chance, please convey this. In the span of 60 years, we have achieved this, The literacy rate was 16 percent in 1951 after independence. By 2014, when we left office, it had increased to 74 percent. So, did it increase or decrease?

Secondly, life expectancy was 32 years initially, and today, in 2007, it is 70 years. ... *(Interruptions)* Previously, the infant mortality rate was 165 deaths per thousand, and today it is 38.

There is a lot of discussion about irrigation. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana... (Interruptions) 'One Drop, More Crop.' So many drops, more crops. Please leave that aside... (Interruptions) We brought the Green Revolution to a country where not a grain of food was available, and people stood in lines... (Interruptions) We prepared irrigation projects in that country... (Interruptions) Madam Speaker, through you, I want to tell them that in the years 1947-51, there were 22 million hectares under irrigation, and by 2014, we increased it to 68 million hectares. At that time, food grain production was 50 million tonnes. We increased it to 138 million tonnes. Milk production (White Revolution) was 17 million tonnes, and we increased it to 138 million tonnes. The road network was four lakh kilometres, and we expanded it to 54 lakh kilometres. The railway network was 54 thousand kilometres, and we extended it to 65 thousand kilometres, which included an increase of 10 thousand kilometres... (Interruptions) There were 500 colleges in this country... (Interruptions) You have studied with that progress. Did you study in college during Mr. Modi's era? Please remain silent... (Interruptions) Madam, there were 500 colleges... (Interruptions) By the year 2014, we had established 37 thousand colleges.

I can still read this list, but I do not want to go into it because they are aware of everything. However, despite knowing it, they say to set it aside. Since the new people are not aware, they keep making their statements to mislead them and keep saying that nothing has been done,

and they ask, "Have you done anything?" implying that nothing has been accomplished. That is always their dialogue... *(Interruptions)* But we have done this, and these are the statistics we have presented before you. These statistics are not mine; I am presenting before you the data from the 2011 Census.

Subsequently, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the Five-Year Plan to ensure the systematic development of our country. That is why, in the Five-Year Plans, he included economic experts, financial experts, professors, and other eminent scholars, and they introduced several plans. Projects such as the Bhakra Nangal Dam, Hirakud Dam, Rihand Dam, Tungabhadra Dam, Nagarjuna Dam, and Tehri Dam, among many others, were implemented. I can list dozens of such examples. All these were initiated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and continued by subsequent Congress governments. However, you do not speak about them. We undertook so many large-scale projects; no one else did.

Besides that, you disbanded the Planning Commission. You brought in NITI Aayog in its place. NITI Aayog, what is it? It has become a superficial institution. This has become a part of the Ministry of Finance. It lacks any independent thinking. If someone keeps their thoughts related to planning in front of them, their words are not considered anywhere. They are using it merely as a small department of the Finance Ministry.

Besides this, you are well aware of the public sector initiatives we brought in to generate employment. Whether it's Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), SAIL, HMT, or Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), we brought in all of these. Even institutions like atomic energy were established by us. Bharat became a part of those countries with satellite launches like Aryabhata, which are still known for their satellite capabilities today.

In the year 1974, Bharat conducted a peaceful nuclear test, which startled the world. During Shrimati Indira Gandhi's tenure, for the first time, a Bharatiya, Shri Rakesh Sharma, was sent into space. Shrimati Indira Gandhi asked him how Bharat looked from there, and he replied, "Saare Jahaan Se Achchha" (Better than the whole world). So, please give us some credit for all the work we have done. What is in your heart? When your heart is filled with hatred and your entire body is filled with hatred, then what can anyone do? Despite all these accomplishments, you still ask what you have done in 60 years. We have done all of this. We saved the country, provided food, gave milk, imparted education, provided water, and gave everything... *(Interruptions)* We will reply to that. When we discuss valid points, you twist the conversation. We will respond when it's our turn to speak. But when we have made so much progress, what have you done? You will only talk about creating confusion or misleading the youth by just clapping.

13 00 hrs

Today or tomorrow, people will reject what you are saying, speaking falsehoods far from the truth... (Interruptions) Madam, I would like to tell you that these people talk about GDP. I will speak in terms of money: in the year 1947, this country's GDP was three lakh crores in monetary value. By the fiscal year 2013-14, it had reached 98 lakh crore rupees, which means if anyone achieved from three lakhs to 98 lakhs, it was the Congress Party who achieved it. … (Interruptions) In 60 years, the Congress Party increased our country's GDP by nearly 33 times. During the Congress government between 2005-06 and 2007-08, Bharat recorded its highest GDP growth rate of 9.6 percent to date. When the global economy faltered in the year 2008, Hindustan's economic situation was so robust that it remained unaffected and continued to progress. These are our achievements. I would like to tell you more. During their tenure, there was an estimated GDP growth rate of around 7 to 7.5 percent. But what they understood was that if it reaches 7 percent, people would say GDP growth is not happening. So, they changed the base of the figures. They changed the base, created new figures, and are trying to show their GDP growth as 8 percent by manipulating and adjusting the numbers. Everyone is becoming aware of this. What are your achievements? How much you exaggerate about them is becoming known to everyone. If this is the GDP growth rate, then I ask, why is unemployment increasing? If this is the GDP growth rate, then why isn't

investment coming in? Madam, furthermore, I would like to say that whether it's basic infrastructure from the ground to the sky, rocket science, combat tanks, from missiles to agricultural produce, wherever you point, it's Congress, Congress, Congress that you will see... (Interruptions) This hard work, sacrifice for the nation, and story of success will be visible to us. We made our place as a self-reliant, capable, and self-respecting country in the world. We strengthened democracy under the Constitution and also defended democracy and the Constitution. ... (Interruptions)

Madam, kindly ask them to remain silent. Now, let's talk about demonetisation. They claim that they also executed demonetisation successfully. Demonetisation led to progress, ended terrorism, and brought back black money. Demonetisation will end corruption. Demonetisation will also put an end to counterfeit currency. All these things happened, and on the night of 8th November 2016 at 8 P.M., Hon. Prime Minister Modi himself came on TV and said that from today onwards, the five hundred and thousand rupee notes will become worthless pieces of paper; they will go into the garbage bins; they will lose their value. But who bore the brunt of this? Who bore the shock of this? (Interruptions) The impact of this was felt by those whose mothers and sisters had saved their hard-earned money by working in rural areas.

The ones who had saved for their children's weddings, building homes, or small events have been hit hard. No wealthy individuals were

affected, nor did it impact their friends. Those who fled with money from here were not affected. Those who exchanged their notes were not affected. Those who had friendships with banks were not affected. The impact fell on farmers, small-scale traders, and labourers. This also led to a reduction in jobs because small businesses have shut down. (Interruptions) These people may not listen to me, but at least you should listen to the prominent economists. What do they say? Dr. Manmohan Singh is a renowned economist in this country, and he also has a significant reputation worldwide. (Interruptions) He said this when demonetisation happened: “It is a monumental mismanagement, failure, and, in fact, it is a case of organised loot and legalised plunder of the country’s economy.” Today, this has been proven true, and thereafter, Arvind Subramanian, who was the former Chief Economic Advisor, said this: “Demonetisation was a massive, draconian monetary shock. In one fell swoop, 86 percent of the currency in circulation was withdrawn. Real GDP growth was clearly affected by demonetisation. Growth had been slowing even before, but after demonetisation, the slide accelerated.” These statements are not mine. These are the statements of economists. He was a government advisor. Bharat Ratna and Nobel Prize winner Mr. Amartya Sen said, “At one stroke the move declares all Indians—indeed all holders of Indian currency, as possibly crooks, unless they can establish that they are not.” That’s what they say. Those who are renowned economists around the world have said this.

(Interruptions) Madam, today in the RBI, are you hearing? Perhaps you are feeling a bit sleepy?

HON. SPEAKER: I am listening peacefully.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, thank you very much. The report belongs to the RBI itself, dated 2nd August 2018. Here are many leaders, finance committees, public accounts committees, estimates committees, and many other committees too. Now, RBI says that 99.99 percent of the money has been returned. Now, where has your black money gone? He said that he would bring back black money. I will give 15-15 lakh rupees to everyone. He told every young person that 15 lakh rupees will be in their pocket. The Congress party looted 80 lakh crore rupees, as said by their friend Mr. Ramdev, so they started doing the same. At the very least, if they had said it, the Hon. Prime Minister should not have said it. He was going to become the Prime Minister because it was in the election manifesto. He had everything; he had the experience of being Chief Minister for almost 13 years. He also started saying that he would put 15-15 lakh rupees in everyone's pocket.

That I will provide two crore jobs every year. ... *(Interruptions)* Despite making such false promises and coming into power, they still...* cannot stop talking. I didn't quite understand that. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam Speaker, it's not just my statement; this is what the

* Not recorded.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance says. Please speak, please stand up... *(Interruptions)*

The Ministry of Agriculture said in a report in November 2018 that farmers faced a lot of difficulties due to demonetisation. ... (Interruptions) Please listen to me. ... (Interruptions) Because farmers faced a lot of difficulties as they did not have money left for fertilisers, seeds, etc. ... (Interruptions) Later, the Government made a U-turn. ... (Interruptions) Later, it was said that if this report was released, it would tarnish the Government's reputation, so immediately change it. ... (Interruptions) Then they made another U-turn, and with that U-turn, they said that no, demonetisation actually helped farmers a lot. On one hand, your report says this, and you yourself say it. On the other hand, if you change it, it's your habit; you are accustomed to speaking. What can you do? ... (Interruptions)

Madam, you mentioned about 2 crore jobs. You spoke about black money. Alright, I have told you about it. After this, I would like to tell you about the figures on how unemployment is increasing. In the fiscal year 2011-12, the unemployment rate was 3.8 percent, and according to a periodic Labour Force Survey by the NSSO, in the year 2017-18, this rate increased to 6.1 percent. ... (Interruptions) The Government had kept this report hidden from the public. Therefore, two members of the National Sample Survey Organisation became disgruntled, and besides the Chairperson, two additional members resigned and left. I am saying

this because your report itself states that unemployment has increased and has grown even further than before. However, you still say that we have provided so many jobs.

The Hon. President mentioned rural skill development in their address, so I want to inform you about how much unemployment has increased in rural employment. According to NSSO data, the unemployment rate among rural youth was 5 percent in the year 2011-12. I would like to read once more that, according to NSSO data, the unemployment rate among rural youth, which was 5 percent in 2011-12, increased to 17.4 percent in 2017-18. ... *(Interruptions)* For rural women, the unemployment rate was 4.8 percent at that time, and it has now increased to 13.6 percent. ... *(Interruptions)* They do not have a shortage of jobs. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Madam, I have a point of order. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What happened? You tell me the number.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Madam, Point Number 275(3). ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Madam, do not allow this. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: What is the point of order in the middle of my speech? ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Madam, this should not be done at the time of speech. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Madam, point number 275(3) states that "The evidence given before a Committee shall not be published by any member of the Committee or by any other person until it has been laid on the Table…" The quota for agriculture that he mentioned, we have not presented that report yet. If they have quoted that, then he is misleading the House. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, either they should apologise or they should expunge all those remarks. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will see. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, at least to date you have two lakh 50 thousand vacancies in Railways in July 2017. On one hand, unemployment is increasing in rural India as well as in urban India, and how many vacancies do you have? There are two lakh 50 thousand vacancies in Railways. In March 2018, there were 55 thousand vacancies in the Post and Telegraph. In January 2018, there were 16 thousand vacancies in Central Universities.

AIR and Doordarshan have 16 thousand vacancies. In January 2018, there are about nine thousand reserved category job vacancies in only five ministries of the Government. There are so many lakh vacancies, yet you do not fill those recruitments. New employment opportunities are not emerging, and you are also not prepared to acknowledge the increasing unemployment. This clearly indicates that encouraging the youth, providing jobs, and increasing the GDP are either beyond the capabilities of this Government or they simply do not wish to do so.

They have made some figures like this; what have they done in EPF and ESI? They said that we have given 55 lakh jobs. Where did you give jobs? Those who were there brought them into ESI and Provident Fund. There is a usual drive there; there is a drive every year. This time, there must have been a stronger drive. This has not been created or generated. This is not new employment. We have enrolled the old employment into EPF, accounting for 55 lakh.

Now the second thing is GST. The entire House supported you for GST, but because of that, it is causing problems everywhere. We had already said to keep the maximum at 18 percent. Don't put it on top of it. This causes problems, but you did not listen. What did you do? In that GST, four-four and five-five different slabs were made. As elections keep coming, Gujarat election came - 'reduce', then came another election - 'reduce', UP election came - 'reduce'. Hey brother, first you increase it, and then later you decrease it. So, we were saying that do not

go beyond 18 percent. Create and maintain just three slabs, and be practical. But no, we do not agree. Because of this, the entire business has come to an end. MSME itself has represented many times. They say that our exports are shutting down because of you. Please fix this, yet they did not listen to it, and no effort was made to help them. Whenever elections come, it decreases during that time, and you keep reducing it for votes.

Madam, we have raised the issue of the Rafale deal many times in this House and discussed it extensively, but there has been no response from them about it. If you at least allowed it, they would be ready for an hour-long discussion on this matter... (Interruptions) Madam, the Prime Minister should address this. He took an entrepreneur with him and got his agreement done, despite the entrepreneur's insolvency, who just filed a 45 thousand crore rupee insolvency petition the day before yesterday. You take away the HAL contract and give it to someone who doesn't even know how to make nuts and bolts. You give the contract to make Rafale fighter jets to such a person. There is a scam of 30 to 35 thousand crore rupees in it. We are saying this, so you should be ready for a discussion here. We will discuss separately. This is not about making a speech and then leaving. How did the contract happen? What happened? What did the President of France say? The way pressure was brought and how it happened. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I request you to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee for this. We have been saying this from

the beginning. I will say this today and continue to say it until this issue is resolved. We will keep fighting on this issue until a solution is found.

HAL has 60 years of experience. … (Interruptions) They are working. ... (Interruptions) You want to defame a reputable institution to justify your point. … (Interruptions) They insult those who work hard to produce spare parts for fighter jets in the country. ... (Interruptions) You support a person who is insolvent. ... (Interruptions) What is this? ... (Interruptions) The Defence Minister is also aware of this. ... (Disruption)

Speaker, I would like to make another disclosure. They submitted an affidavit in a sealed cover to the Supreme Court. …. (Interruptions) What there ... Tell me, what false statement did you say? ... (Interruptions) During the hearing of the Rafale matter, the Government told the court ... that both the CAG and PAC had examined the pricing of the Rafale jets. ... (Interruptions) They said this and later filed a correction application. Why was the correction application filed? ... (Interruptions) Were you not aware that the CAG report had been presented here? Was there any discussion about this in the PAC? Did the CAG present a report acknowledging this price? ... (Interruptions) You that ... * You said that there, meaning you do not pay attention to your own actions. ... (Interruptions)

I just quoted that there was a half-hour discussion in this House on the unstarred question. This is just like how they spoke to the court about things that do not exist ... said to the Supreme Court ... * told and later started to apologise ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: How long is it now?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I want to speak for half an hour more.

HON. SPEAKER: Not half an hour; you finish quickly.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Speaker, now I would like to speak about the Autonomous Institution. ... (Interruptions) These are not my words; a judge upon retiring said that the highest judiciary is being operated like a remote control by some external sources. …. (Interruptions) You know about RBI. … (Interruptions) The RBI Governor continued to resign one after the other, even ... *

HON. SPEAKER: Nobody's name will appear in the record.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: ... * also gone. After this, the NITI Aayog ... * went, the Chief Economic Advisor ... * went, members of the PM Economic Advisory Council ... * went, and two members of

* Not recorded.

NSSO also went home. He sent them all one by one. …. *(Interruptions)* This was about the autonomous body.

Secondly, there is pressure on CBI, CVC, ED, and IT. …. (Interruptions) If no one listens to them or anything does not come under their control, then put the CBI, put the ED, put some other agency, and stop their voices and strangle them. …. (Interruptions) If this thing happens in a democracy, there is nothing worse than that. ... (Interruptions)

I would like to quote in front of you. Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar said, "However good a constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad. However bad a constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are good, it will prove to be good."

Baba Saheb Ambedkar has said this. You at least follow this. Because you quote Babasaheb Ambedkar again and again. He has also been quoted in the speech of our President. Farmers have an issue with this. Mr. Modi had strongly stated in his system before coming to power that he would double the income of farmers and increase their earnings; however, now the growth of the agricultural sector has come down to 3 percent. If you take the average, which was 4 percent in the UPA Government,

now it has come down to 2 percent. You can waive off one lakh ten thousand crore rupees for corporate people; then why can't you waive off the loans of farmers? ...*(Interruptions)* Because if there are rules and regulations in place to run industries, you can waive off one lakh ten thousand crore rupees by giving them preferences, but you do not waive off the loans of farmers. Now elections are coming; you have to give them something; this is a matter of the future. You have not fulfilled any of the promises you made in five years. When you came into power, you did nothing at that time; now when you are desperate to come into power again, you are looking for new ways to achieve that. You will not succeed in this. The farmers have understood that they will not get any benefit. If someone will get some benefit, then the income tax rebate will get it; the rest will not.

One is the subject of the MSP. It is the first time that the cost will be made one and a half times, but I want to tell you that according to a report, they make it by investigating every aspect. One such report is in front of us. I want to point out that during the UPA-2 Government, the average growth of MSP was 11.28

percent, whereas during the BJP Government, it was only 4.91 percent. You can see what the average is... (Interruptions)

The second thing is the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme). There is so much scam in this that any government that comes into power should change it. I am telling you with figures. In 2016-17 and 2017-18, 84 lakh farmers gave up this insurance because they are not going to get anything. ... (Interruptions) From the year 2016-17 to the year 2018, insurance companies got 48 thousand crore rupees, and the claim of the farmers was 28 thousand crore rupees. ... (Interruptions) Directly 20 thousand crore rupees went into the insurance company's account. Went into the pocket of the insurance company. ... (Interruptions) You benefit big companies by making such schemes and leave the farmers. This is robbery in broad daylight. This has to be stopped. New methods will have to be found for farmers. They should get money directly for insurance; such work should be done. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Complete it; otherwise, your second speaker will not be able to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: That is why I am saying this. ... (Interruptions) They will have to explain what they have done in the past five years. ... (Interruptions) They tell everywhere. ... (Interruptions) What they did, what they did not do, and what we did—I am explaining that. ... (Interruptions) I am not bringing figures from elsewhere; I am speaking based on their own figures. ... (Interruptions) People have elected me to speak here, not to speak in public. ... (Interruptions) Our Prime Minister says about rural electrification in every speech everywhere that it has been 70 years since this country got independence and there was no electricity in 18 thousand villages. ... (Interruptions) But according to a report of the Ministry of Rural Development, in July 2018, he said that electricity has not reached five thousand villages. ... (Interruptions) Now you have 15 thousand villages. You have provided electricity to these 15 thousand villages, but there are 6 lakh 50 thousand villages in this country. ... (Interruptions) Out of them, 6 lakh 32 thousand villages were electrified by Congress, and you say about 12 thousand or 13 thousand

villages that I gave electricity to. What is this? … (Interruptions) You look at the figures.

Madam, there was a question today, and at that time when I asked the question, you said no, ask it later. We will bring them when we give the speech. ... *(Interruptions)* So I want to ask, have you forgotten that in 60 years, we have electrified 6 lakh 32 thousand villages? These are all just slogans, and a government of slogans will continue to do just this. ... *(Interruptions)* We are going to work; they are going to make slogans. ... *(Interruptions)* Now let's move on to the law and order situation.

Madam Speaker, you know that there was talk of 'Minimum Government-Maximum Governance,' but what happened in their 'Minimum Government-Maximum Governance'? … (Interruptions) If I read out the list, people will be alarmed at how many villages witnessed lynching incidents—organised lynching in the name of caste, religion, cow protection, and harassment. ... (Interruptions) If a Dalit rides a horse to his wedding, they beat him to death for it, but you do not utter a word about it here. If an 'untouchable' goes to the temple, if

someone does not allow him to go, then you do not take action against him. ... (Interruptions) I will read the events that have taken place since May 10, 2015. You came to protect everyone. You mentioned Dalits, the deprived, the oppressed, and all such noble words. ... (Interruptions) Our colleague Yadav speaks very well; he was a leader of the Socialist Party, is now a leader of the BJP, and has changed his principles. They spent thirty to forty years of their lives over there and have been here for the last fifteen to twenty years. ... (Interruptions) Then, those who seconded this, like Jagdambika Pal, are newly converted. ... (Interruptions) Your words are being adopted very quickly by them. ... (Interruptions) He came here after wandering from everywhere. They also gave a powerful speech. ... (Interruptions) They used so many insults. ... (Interruptions) There were ten years in our government. Before that, he had also become Chief Minister for a day and kept changing parties, but he also strongly criticised the Congress in a powerful manner, praised Shri Modi, and tried to support it by using as many good words of Hindi as possible. ... (Interruptions)

Madam, mob lynching occurred during their time; it had never happened before. There are sporadic incidents everywhere, but they are occurring within institutions. You also warned that whether they belong to the VHP or are cow protectors, we will not tolerate anyone.

But despite what you said, why did it happen, and why does it continue to happen even today? ... (Interruptions) I want to ask this. ... (Interruptions)

Madam, they even hate Gandhi also. ... (Interruptions) They celebrate Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, his birthday, but in Lucknow, when his martyrdom day was on January 30, they put up his photo, put a cut-out ... (Interruptions) Sorry... (Interruptions)... I correct it... (Interruptions) ... (Interruptions) By stopping them there... Wearing a necklace and showing Gandhi getting shot... (Interruptions) Gandhi was shot... (Interruptions) How many people have you arrested? ... (Interruptions) Who have you put in jail? ... (Interruptions) This is a shame on the country... (Interruptions) This is a stain... (Interruptions) Keep a photo of Gandhi... (Interruptions) Keep a photo of the Father of the Nation... (Interruptions) They consider

him the Father of the Nation, but those people... * support them... (Interruptions) So, I want to say that they have no respect for anyone... (Interruptions) They try to trouble everyone... (Interruptions) I want to say something about petrol and diesel... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now you complete... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I will conclude by speaking a little... (Interruptions) Speaker Madam, the prices of petrol and diesel kept falling in the international market, but you kept the same prices as before. When prices were decreasing or increasing, the previous Government kept prices the same to provide relief to people or support them; however, despite the decrease in prices, you did not give consumers the benefit they deserved, and you earned at least nine to ten lakh crore rupees from it. You used that money. Where did it go? I want to ask, why did consumers who have paid money not get relief? You are doing these things; people are unhappy with it. They want that at least in such matters relief should be given when it should be given. You cannot give that. During their tenure, excise duty increased by at least 386 percent, and petrol

prices increased by 126 percent, benefiting large corporate companies at the expense of consumers. … (Interruptions) They have generated a profit of up to one lakh, 10 thousand crore rupees.

I have already mentioned the issue of reservations, but I would like to speak about the Women's Bill. This should happen during your tenure because Prime Minister Modi takes very quick action. The question keeps going on here, but immediately another bill keeps coming here. At least you ask to bring it. Your writ is served, your words are accepted, but you do not ask anything. You ask this... *(Interruptions)*

Earlier, when we used to talk about NREGA, Shri Modi and Shri Jaitley used to make fun of us... *(Interruptions)* He used to say that he will never erase this MGNREGA. This is your living monument. You used to say that... *(Interruptions)*

Now the Government is saying that this is an excellent scheme to remove poverty and increase consumption in villages, but in this year's budget, the allocation for NREGA has been reduced by 14 percent. I want to ask, if this scheme is excellent and at least 15 crore people who were below the poverty line

have risen above it, then why are you reducing this budget?... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): Speaker Madam, since 2014, the allocation for NREGA has been increasing consistently. This time also, there is an allocation of 60 thousand crore rupees. What kind of paper do they have, looking at which they are saying that the allocation has been reduced? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I am not yielding. Madam, earlier people used to get work for a hundred days a year, but today they only get work for 40-50 days. I am saying two percent; you can increase from 59 thousand crore rupees to 60 thousand crore rupees, but proportionately your percentage has fallen by two percent... *(Interruptions)* We already launched the NREGA scheme for poverty eradication.

The Right to Food scheme was implemented. After this, the Right to Information and the Right to Education schemes were started. We initiated all these schemes for the welfare of the people, but they have all been weakened.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge, please conclude your speech.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, there is a lot of talk about “Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao” (Educate the Daughter, Save the Daughter). There is not a word on this in the Hon. President’s address. Around Rs. 644 crore was earmarked for the scheme, but only Rs. 160 crore was released to each State.

Madam, the Lokpal Bill is lying in cold storage. There is not a single provision for the Lokpal Bill. If the recognised opposition does not have a leader, then the leader of the largest party should get the status of the leader of the opposition party... (Interruptions) This is not for me; tomorrow your situation will be the same. Please remember, you were two in number. I read Sushma Ji's speech. She said that our number has gone from two to 116. Shall I show you that speech? ... (Interruptions) They also acknowledged that victories and defeats are part of the game. Mr. Advani was the opposition leader. He got a chance

after her speech. All that has to be amended in the Lokpal Bill is that the opposition party leader or the larger party leader should get the status of the opposition leader. It took four years and nine months to bring an amendment of only two words.

Madam, this Government is a name-change Government. The schemes of the Congress were our Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account, Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme, and their Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. They renamed our Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan scheme. Our Rajiv Awas Yojana and their Sardar Patel National Urban Housing Scheme. Indira Awas Yojana is ours; Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is theirs. Rajiv Gramin Electrification is ours, and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is yours. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is ours; Atal Mission is theirs. The National Project on Management of Soil is ours; the Soil Health Card is theirs. National Agriculture Development Scheme, Organic Farming is our traditional agricultural development scheme. Swavlamban Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana. National Skill Development, Skill Development. Universal Immunisation Program, Mission Indradhanush.

National Livelihood Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyay. This is a name-changing Government... (Interruptions) They say that they have brought a new scheme... (Interruptions) Where is the new scheme? They are all old schemes; their names have been changed... (Interruptions) The rest of our people will speak on foreign policy and other issues... (Interruptions) I would like to speak two quotes from Dr. Ambedkar and Basavanna... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You have summed up everything. No one will speak now.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The Hon. President has quoted Basavanna and Dr. Ambedkar. ... (Interruptions) I will sit down after saying the quotes. ... (Interruptions) Madam, even if you ask me to speak further, I will not speak. ... (Interruptions) I am quoting it because it is for everyone. It’s for you and for me too. Babasaheb Ambedkar had said one thing when he handed over this Constitution to this country; at that time he had said: -

[English]

> "The second thing we must do is to observe the caution which John Stuart Mill has given to all who are interested in the maintenance of democracy, namely, not to lay their liberties at the feet of even a great man or to trust him with power which enable him to subvert their institutions. There is nothing wrong in being grateful to great men who have rendered life-long services to the country, but there are limits to gratefulness as has been well said by the Irish patriot Daniel O'Connell – no man can be grateful at the cost of his honour; no woman can be grateful at the cost of her chastity; and no nation can be grateful at the cost of its liberty."

This is the importance. Just because somebody is a great man, somebody is a Prime Minister and you might have got elected in his name but do not subvert. …*(Interruptions)* Don't be a slave. ... *(Interruptions)* Have your conscience. …*(Interruptions)*

> "For in India Bhakti, what may be called the path of devotion or hero-worship, plays a part in its politics unequalled in magnitude by the part it plays in the politics of any other country in the world. Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul but in politics Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, our Hon. President started his speech with the words of Mahatma Basaveshwara,'DayaveDharmad Mool Vaiya.' When you also go to Karnataka, you speak some or the other words of Basavanna, whatever people tell you. ... (Interruptions) This is a very famous word of Basavanna, which I will say and sit down.

[English]

'Kalabeda kolabeda, husiya nudiyalu beda'

[Translation]

Madam, it means do not steal; do not kill; Do not utter the untruth. That is why, do not lynch. ... (Interruptions) Don't steal in Rafale, and don't lie to farmers. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

'Muniya beda, annyarige asahya pada beda'

'Never be angry.' [Translation] Because they're so angry, right now. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

'Never be angry; never hate others.'

This is said by Basavanna – what you have quoted – and I am quoting, Madam.

'Tanna bannisa beda, idira haliyalu beda'

'Do not boast yourself, or criticize anyone.'

'Ide antaranga sudhi, ide bahiranga sudhi'

'This is the way to cleanse the soul; this is the way to cleanse the body; this is the way to please our Lord Kudalasangama.'

This is what Basavanna said. [Translation] Madam, at least you have quoted Basavanna. ... will go under it.

[English]

‘Do not steal, do not kill, do not utter untruth;

Never be angry, never hate;

Do not boast yourself, do not criticize anyone;

This is the way to cleanse the soul.’

[Translation]

That's all I will say. Thank you so much for giving me so much time. Thank you. I will also request you not to hurt others because of me. I congratulate you for giving me time to speak. By saying this, the Hon. Prime Minister heard everyone very attentively; at least he did not get up. Otherwise, they clapped in such a way that the day before yesterday, when "Modi-Modi" was said, they were playing the table with both hands.

Then I met him one day, maybe the next day or four days ago. I said, "Sir, please show me your hand." I wanted to call First Aid because you were tapping in such a way that your hand did not get hurt. That’s why I asked. I say that thumping, getting

up, shouting, and chanting are other things. Running the country, saving the Constitution, and saving democracy are other things. Thank you.

[English]

***PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED):** I would like to place my views on the motion of thanks to the address of Honourable President of India.

Hon. President complimented the Hon. Prime Minister led Government of India in the various landmark development schemes intended for the emancipation of the poor and the protection of farmers of the country. The burden of millions of poor who were not able to obtain proper healthcare are provided healthcare through the well-conceived Ayushman Bharat Scheme the largest health scheme in the world. The flagship programme of the Hon. Prime Minister to provide every poor family in the country a home by 2022 shows the commitment of the Government of India to provide abode to the homeless. The vision of the Hon. Prime Minister to support the Divyangs, the hapless women and even infants shows the Government of India's total support to the cause of the weak and the marginalised. The Government of India's multi-pronged approach is to help the youth to achieve their life's mission

* Speech was laid on the Table.

results in the stupendous schemes of Start-Up India, Make in India and Stand-Up India, and support to MSMEs. The Mudra loans opened avenues of opportunities for both men and women to embark upon small scale business and industries to fulfil their dreams. The farmers have been provided with many a scheme to help them to lead a comfortable life, the farmers being the backbone of the economy. M.S.P, crop insurance, a plethora of schemes route through the KVKs throughout the length and breath of the country.

The attention given to faster development of infrastructure has created records of all sorts- the fastest ever expression in the realm of development of infrastructure by any Government. Modernisation of 100 cities as smart cities in yet another classic example of Government's visionary developments strides.

The building of Nav Bharat by 2022 in reflected in the conception and implementation of other prestigious projects too like GST, OROP, Bankruptcy Laws, Health Schemes, Jan Dhan Yojana, Digital India, LPG subsidies, Urja Ganga, Look East, Demonetisation, Projects for Minorities, Dalits, Vanavasi all remarkable progressive Ms. Even though DBT was promised by

others, it is Modiji's Government that fulfilled this promise. Through various interventions and innovative practices Ease of Doing Business has become a reality for the first time in India. Now airports, new railway projects, new Highways and new waterways have given an impetus for faster economic growth in such a short period.

New Passport Sewa Kendras, Aadhaar card issued through Post Offices, connecting Indian diaspora by hosting a successful PBD, and sanctioning CGHS at Cochin are all new initiatives of the Government of India.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has been able to build better international understanding with a record-breaking number of Countries.

***DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY):** I would like to place my views on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address today. This is a good opportunity to expose this Government's malafide intentions to polarise and divide the society in order to reap rich benefit in the election year.

As usual, this President's Address, 2014 too is full of promises, rather one should say. It is expected as this is the election year. Hardly two-three months away. If the Government is so concerned about farmers, what are they doing all these 4 and a half years? On the one hand this Government call farmers as the foundation of the Indian economy, and on the other hand, this is very Government took no action to stop farmers from committing suicide across the country due to agricultural and farm distress.

This Government says that it is attempting to find 'permanent solutions' for problems faced by farmers. Permanently transform agriculture system, empower farmers, pull them out of their problems etc.. What the Government has done in the last over 4 years for farmers? Have they doubled the MSP as promised in their manifesto in 2014? By doing nothing to the farming community in the last 4 years, now it says in the President's Address that it is committed to doubling farmer's income by 2022. Whatever little efforts it has taken, would it state how it impacted the farm sector and farmers? Would it explain how it helped

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the farmers in the purchase of equipment and seeds, transporting their produce to the market for sale, ensuring to the farmers promised Minimum Support Price in 2014?

This BJP led NDA Government promised to bring in institutional reforms in the realm of Administrative, Judicial, Police and Electoral Ms. Has it brought any iota of reforms in these sphere? What happened to bringing back black money and setting up of a task force for this purpose? What is the status of Task Force on Black Money, which came into being because of the intervention of the courts? What happened to the revival of National Development Council and Inter-state Council? How many meetings have taken place of these Councils in the last 4 years? What happened to the promise of setting up of agri rail network catering to needs of perishable farm products?

Now, I came to the president's Address of 2019. It stated about poor mother and helpless sister facing financial problem in treatment. Would the Hon. Prime Minister state as to what his Government has done for them in the last 4 years?

Address also mentioned about farmers caught up with anxiety of repaying loans. But the official data says that every day farmers commit suicide in this country. The National Crime Records Bureau bears testimony to this. NDA Government has been indulging in jumlabaaji for the last 5 years while farmers keep committing suicide denting the

image of our country. Now we see the Address shedding crocodile tears and indulge in yet another jumla by talking about farmers.

All the major schemes like Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's Antyodaya, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan wherein the Government claims of more than 9 crore toilets constructed, Ujjwala Yojana dispensing 12 crore gas connections, Suraksha Bima yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana, etc. have not yielded desired results so far and none could see the discerning effect enlivening the lives of poor and downtrodden. This is the reality.

Let me mention Jan Aarogya Abhiyan, 50 crore eligible for availing treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh per year per family. Where is the data and claim of 10 lakh poor already availing benefit under the scheme.

The reality is that poor are dying every day due to lack of proper and basic medical facilities in the country. In 2016, 60,000 under-5 children died. This is as per the World Health Organisation Report (WHO). If we take the current data it is really disturbing. 802,000 infants died in India in 2017, says UN report. What claim this Government is making in the Address? Is it a reality? Citizenship Amendment Bill too is divisive in nature. It is aimed at polarizing the society to mint political mileage. This hidden agenda of the Government would not be allowed to succeed.

This BJP led NDA Government unashamedly claim the moon and did nothing for the poor, downtrodden, farmers, dalits, women, youth, etc, in the real sense of the term. This Government has taken the people of this country, particularly, farmers, dalits and youth for granted. This Government would not be spared.

It is not seen over the last 5 years how BJP led NDA Government destroyed Constitutional Institutions of the country. Meddling and misusing the Institutions like CVC, CBI, IT, EB, etc. has become a norm particularly towards political opponents including our leader, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Be it CVC, CBI, RBI, Statistical institution, Election Commission, and other important instituions of our country has taken a severe beating for worse.

Universities and educational institutions are being saffronised is going on in full swing. Over 700 vacancies in universities are lying vacant since March 2018 but just 2.5% is meant for SCs and zero% for STs. Institutions being systematically captured by RSS. RSS is imposing its agenda, and BJP has been acting as an implementing agency; and Mr. Modi is its executor.

One Human Rights group estimated that more than 97% of killings by cow vigilantes have happened since 2014. Can this Government dispute this disturbing data?

Unemployment is growing. Government is disputing its own NSSO survey report which pegged jobless rate at 45 year high. Is it not shameful? Is it not shameful that two top officials who prepared the NSSO data had resigned?

Government is stating that the NSSO survey has to be approved by the Cabinet, whereas the former Chief Statistician and former Chairperson of National Statistical Commission on record said that Cabinet is not supposed to approve NSSO survey. How disgusting and shameful the Government is functioning?

Media is stymied. Everyone in the media, press, and man with a common sense agrees with this disturbing scenario. According to Home Ministry data, around 40 people were lynched in 9 States in the past one year. This is the data of September 2018.

What happened to Lokpal? What has it done to put in place Lokpal for the past 5 years? The Government has been delaying appointment of Lokpal, CBI director in spite of the Supreme Court asking it to expedite the matter. This Government has shown utter disdain towards the Supreme Court, Parliament.

If at all the Government has done enough for all strata of society, including farmers, dalits, women, youth, unorganized labourers, why should it come out all-please budget now, not in the last 5 years? And

how now 10% reservation for economically weaker sections of general category.

Government has announced Rs. 6,000 in three installments to farmers, which is too meager an amount considering the humungous agriculture and farm distress, suicides by farmers almost every day in different parts of the country.

It is stated in the President's Address that work is being carried out to provide farmers with fair prices for their crops. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 22 crops has been fixed at a price one and a half times higher than the production cost of the crop. It is not mentioned from when the said work would be carried out and when farmers would be provided with fair prices for their crops. What are the 22 crops for which MSP has been fixed at a price one and a half times higher than the production cost of the crop?

I demand for the farmers from the Government that if the Modi Government is so concerned particularly at the fag end of its tenure, it should come up with exemption of tax for agricultural land and mutation fees.

As you know when the title ownership is changed from one farmer to another farmer, they had to pay mutation fee to the land revenue department. Farmers find it difficult to pay mutation fee. Hence, I would suggest to the Government to exempt the farmers from paying tax when

they buy agricultural land and exempt farmers when they change the title ownership from paying mutation fee.

Farmers feed the country. They toil for life. Yet, they are not properly taken care of. Like Government servants, and Members of Parliament, the Government should come out with a pension scheme for the farmers. When they attain the age of 60, farmers should be paid a lump sum of Rs. 1 lakh t least for their service of feeding the country for 30/40 years.'

Insurance scheme should be introduced for farmers so that in the case of floods or drought, farmers come out of the devastation with insurance money and restart their life with dignity.

Likewise, when a farmer dies between 18 and 60 years, his or her dependant or his family should be paid a lump sum of at least Rs. 2 lakh immediately.

Whenever a farmer loses his crop under any eventuality, he should be assisted with compensation without any loss of time so that he overcomes distress, and not tempting to take his own life.

I wish to bring it to the kind attention of the Central Government that our Government in West Bengal under our Chief Minister, inaugurated Khadya Sathi Scheme on January 27,2016. As per this scheme, 7 crore, or almost 90% of the State's population, would get rice and wheat at Rs. 2 per kg.

It is high time, the Central Government, considering huge agriculture distress and farm distress and every day four farmers committing suicide in the country, should adopt the West Bengal government scheme Khadya Sathi Scheme and provide rice and wheat at Rs. 2 per kg.

Likewise that our Government in West Bengal under our Chief Minister, has decided to issue cheques immediately to farmers on their selling paddy at the government's procurement centres. The said project named as 'Dhan din, Cheque Nin' (Giver padday, take your Cheque) would help farmers as they would not have to wait too long for the money to be deposited in their banks. If required, the procurement centres would remain open till 12 midnight.

For this unique scehme to help farmers, this year the West Bengal Government has allocated Rs. 8,039 core for buying 52 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. If required, more paddy would be bought, for which more funds would be released. Why not this unique scheme of West Bengal Government is not emulated by the Central Government with immediate effect?

Also the Government of West Bengal introduced a scheme titled "Sabooj Sathi" for distribution of bi-cycles to the students of class IX to XII in all Government run, aided and sponsored schools. This scheme too should be replicated by the Central Government and distribute bicycles to students of class IX to XII in all Government run and Government aided and sponsored schools.

When it comes to Skill Development, West Bengal stood first in 2013, 2014 and 2016. We are striving hard to ensure skills to those students who can find a job or career if one is not good at pursuing education.

West Bengal Government has come up with the law which ensures that nobody, particularly the corporate snatch the land of the tribals or the tribal area land for any purposes. Why no Central Government legislate a law and end its crony capitalism for the good of the tribals and farmers across the country?

The West Bengal Government has undertaken steps to bring unorganised workers under the umbrella of Social Security Schemes, and allocated Rs. 113 crore for the scheme in seven years. It had merged five schemes into one in April 2017 and

named the scheme as Samajik Suraksha yojana, under the scheme, unorganised workers are getting financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 per annum for any ailment. The other scheme which has benefitted huge number of beneficiaries is Matae parshad Scheme of West Bengal.

With this I conclude.

***SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** I support the President's Address delivered on 31st Jan, 2019. As the clock struck midnight on August 15,1947, the world's biggest democracy was born. India had become an independent nation.

On the eve of that historic landmark, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gave a speech for the ages. India had redeemed its "tryst with destiny," he declared, "to awake to life and freedom."

Nehru's mood that day was triumphant. "the achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity," he said.

Yet he was also mindful of the challenges ahead. "Freedom and power bring responsibility. ... the future is not one of ease or resting, but of incessant striving."

Historians debate and judge India's past. I think it's more fruitful to look to the future. As the writer R.K. Narayan said, "India just goes on." But where to? What will the country look like in the next 70 years?

India in 2087 will not only be the world's biggest democracy, it will also overtake China to be the world's most

* Speech was laid on the Table.

populous country. The United Nations projects that India will have between 1.5 to 1.6 billion people seven decades from now, adding 300 million inhabitants to its 2017 population. Incredibly, those numbers will represent a decline: India would have peaked with a population of 1.65 billion in the 2050s before tapering off.

By comparison China will only have 1.1 billion people in the 2080s, having peaked at 1.45 billion in 2030. The country most likely to rival India in terms of population will be Nigeria, which is projected to swell dramatically from its current strength of 186 million to a billion inhabitants. The world in seventy years will look more Indian and more African.

India will also look richer. According to 'The World in 2050' a report by Price Waterhouse Coopers, India's gross domestic product in purchasing parity terms is expected to overtake the United States by 2040. (China is already #1). India will emerge as one of the world's greatest consumers. Strides will be made on several crucial indicators. Take illiteracy, for example. The country's 2011 census recorded 273 million citizens who were unable to read and write, representing 26% of the population.

This may sound abysmal -- and it is -- but it represents a great improvement. 35% of Indians were illiterate in 2001, and 48% fell into that category in 1991.

The improvements on literacy look set to continue. Between 2003 and 2013, for example, the percentage of schools with toilets grew from 40% to 84% while the institutions with electricity jumped from 20% to 45%. School illiteracy could finally be a thing of the past, or consider poverty. For all the doom and gloom that seems to envelop the world in 2017, World Bank figures show 250,000 people are lifted from extreme poverty every single day. A significant portion of this number comes from India. According to the World Bank, again, 46% of Indians were making less than $1.90 a day in 1993. The ratio fell to 38% in 2004, and 21% by 2011. These trends are almost certain to continue.

Look at disease and healthcare. In 1960, the average life expectancy in India was just 41 years. Back then, the average American could expect to live past 67. Today, Indians can expect to live to 69, and Americans 79. Thanks to massive improvements in hygiene, medicine, and health care, Indians are

now living nearly as long as people in the West. The next 70 years will see a continuation of this trend, as access to drugs and technology continue to be globalized.

Today, only a third of Indians use the internet, compared to 90% of Americans. This too will change. Thanks to a boom in cheap smart phones and mobile data, more than a billion Indians are projected to be online by 2025, representing about 75% of the country's population. Over time, this will have transformational impacts for Indians on a range of issues from education to efficiency, commerce to communication.

But it's not all good news. While Indians in 70 years will undoubtedly be more literate, richer, healthier, and have more access to global technologies, India will also inherit some of the West's biggest headaches.

Indian policymakers have long gotten used to a 'demographic dividend' of young people. But what happens when the 600 million Indians currently under the age of 28 reach retirement age? Who will support them? This is all the more worrying given India's inability to create enough jobs.

Will the traditional Indian model of older people living with their sons and daughter continue, or will India need to build homes for the elderly? Who pays for these homes, and the attendant costs in health care and pensions? What happens to India's growth rate with fewer working age men and women and higher proportion of people to support?

Also on demographics, will India be able to reverse its skewed sex ratio? The early evidence suggests things will actually get worse. India currently has 943 women for every 1000 men - a product of decades of sex selection and abortions, as families vastly preferred baby boys over girls. An even more troubling statistic is that India has a child sex ratio of 919, which means only 919 baby girls for every 1000 baby boys. A skewed gender ratio is baked into India's future. It is a man-made disaster- literally and figuratively that could bring anything from social breakdown to anarchy.

What about climate change? Undoubtedly, one of the dominant themes of the latter 21st century will be how a warming planet wreaks havoc on human civilization. How will India cope? What measures will New Delhi manage to put in

place? India has belatedly emerged as a champion of promoting solar energy and is on track to meet its 2030 Paris Agreement commitments. Yet even those measures may not be enough. A new study in the magazine Science Advances predicts that a cocktail of heat and humidity will cause deadly heat waves in South Asia before the end of this century, potentially impacting millions.

What about communal harmony? The Pew Research Forum estimates that by 2050 India will have the largest Muslim population in the world, surpassing even Indonesia. And yet, as I write this column, India has been witnessing a clear, creeping trend of polarization between Hindus and Muslims, with scarcely believable cases of lynchings and mob violence. How will India come to terms with the reality that it is set to be the biggest home of Islam.

Then there is a foreign policy. Nehru famously set a tone for India in the 1950s and 60s of being "non-aligned" with the great powers. As India has gotten more powerful, this ideology has been abandoned. In 2016, India's Prime Minster, Narendra Modi didn't even bother to maintain the pretence of attending the Non-

Aligned summit. Instead, India has gotten closer to the United States and Japan, and seems to be tussling with its bigger neighbour China. Will this be the new Great Game of the 21st century? If current trends continue, India in 70 years will be at its most globally influential point since the Middle Ages. What will that mean for global culture, for the struggle for resources and power?

And what of human rights? Will India keep on being a home to the Dalai Lama and Tibetan refugees? Will India speak up on regional atrocities? Indeed, will India speak up on the atrocities within in its own borders, from the skirmishes and internet shutdowns in Kashmir to the mutinous parts of its restive northeast?

More questions than answers, of course. But these are all important questions for a still-young democracy to ponder as it embarks on another seven-decade period of growth. Nehru's words remain just as valuable: "freedom and power bring responsibility."

If the first 70 years of India's freedom were about survival, the next 70 should be about putting it strengths to good use for the world at large. That would be India's real tryst with destiny. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

***SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP (JAUNPUR):** I thank His Excellency the President for his address to both Houses of Parliament. In the address of His Excellency the President, many schemes and policies were addressed in detail for the all-round development of the country and in the interest of the country. This year marks the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and 100 years of the tragic massacre at Jallianwala Bagh. I pay tribute to those martyrs. Before the general elections of the year 2014, the country was going through a period of uncertainty; after the elections, our Government took a pledge to create a new Bharat where there is no incompleteness, inefficiency, and corruption in the systeSushri The lives of the countrymen should improve, their troubles arising out of misgovernance should be removed, and public facilities should be provided to the last person of the poor and backward. In the country, electricity, water, toilets, and the ideal of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's Antyodaya have been exemplary.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

The Government has instilled new hope and confidence among the people. The reputation of the country has increased. Effective efforts have been made for social and economic transformation. We have won the love and trust of the country. The scope of rural sanitation has increased to 98 percent, which was less than 40 percent earlier; on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, it has been resolved to make the country completely clean by 2nd October. More than 6 crore gas connections have been given so far under the Ujjwala Yojana for mothers and sisters. Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana for poor families, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan, arrangements have been made for treatment expenses up to Rs 5 lakh for 50 crore poor people of the country. Under Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, 4,900 Aushadhi Kendras have been opened in more than 600 districts so far. Under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, insurance cover has been provided to about 21 crore siblings in the form of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana at a premium of 90 paise per day. In case of any untoward incident, assistance of Rs 2 lakh has been provided under each scheme. The challenge of malnutrition in

women and children is going to end. The National Nutrition Mission has been launched. Mission Indradhanush has been launched for pregnant women. Full immunisation is nearing the target. Hospitals are being upgraded. Wellness centres are being opened in every major panchayat in the country. More than 1 crore 30 lakh houses have been constructed under rural housing schemes. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Government is also providing an interest subsidy of 6.5 percent to the lower-income group. Under Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana, so far, 2 crore 47 lakh households have been provided electricity connections. It is the endeavour of the Government to increase the capital of our hard-working middle class and increase their income from new investment options. Very important work is being done to end social imbalance. The tradition of support camps for differently abled persons has been started. 140 relief camps have been organised. Aids and appliances worth Rs. 700 crore have been provided to 12 lakh persons with disabilities.

Through the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, about one thousand government buildings and more than 650 railway stations have

been made accessible for disabled individuals. The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre has published a dictionary of 3,000 new words for disabled people. To overcome the problem of accidents at unmanned railway crossings, the campaign to eliminate unmanned railway crossings is almost over. For the heinous crime of raping a minor, the Government has made a provision to hang the culprit. The Government is constantly trying to get the law related to triple talaq passed by Parliament to free Muslim daughters from a life of fear and terror. It shows the commitment to grant constitutional status to the Other Backward Classes Commission.

The skill development campaign was launched for the youth. On average, 1 crore youth have been trained in skill development every year. More than 5,000 ITIs, more than 10,000 Skill Development Centres, and more than 600 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras will play an important role in enhancing the youth of Bharat, and loans worth more than Rs. 7 lakh crore have been disbursed under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana without any guarantee. Through Start-up India and Stand-up India, financial assistance has been provided in the

direction of making the youth self-reliant. Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana has been linked with job incentives. We have worked towards building the Eklavya Model Residential School and 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas. Atal Tinkering Labs are being set up. Under the youth-centric Khelo India campaign, efforts are being made to identify and nurture talented sportspersons. Women have benefited the most from the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. Under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana, 6 crore women are associated with self-help groups. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 22 crops is one and a half times more than the cost of the crop to reduce the cost of cultivation, provide a fair price for the crop, provide a market, and add new means of income to the agriculture sector. Soil health cards have been distributed. 99 incomplete projects are being completed to provide water for irrigation. Crops are being insured under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The Best to Wealth campaign is being run. The Blue Revolution is providing modern fishing trawlers to fishermen. People living in the Digital India rural areas also get full benefits of e-governance. Therefore, 16 thousand Gram

Panchayats have been connected with optical fibre. Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in about 40 thousand Gram Panchayats. The Government is developing an online platform called e-Marketplace. The Jan-Dhan Yojana has boosted the confidence of the poor with banking facilities. The direct benefit of MGNREGA has started going to the bank account through DBT. The Benami Property Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act have been enacted to prevent economic offences. The people of the country should benefit from playing a decisive role in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. A defence corridor is being built. Vande Bharat Express will also be provided with state-of-the-art facilities. 19 airports are being developed. It is also setting up the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. Under the Smart City Mission, modern facilities are being developed in 100 cities. The surgical strikes have introduced a new policy and a new method. The demand for One Rank-One Pension for retired soldiers has been fulfilled.

I request the Government that all of us members should express our gratitude to His Excellency the President for the President's Address. I also thank the Hon. President.

[English]

***ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKER (SOUTH GOA):** I thank the President of India Shri Ramnath Kovind ji for his address to the joint session of the Parliament.

In 2014 the Government led by Shri Narendra Modi Ji assumed the office and as we enter the election year. One could notice the great initiatives taken by the Government towards its making a New India.

The policies and programmes envisaged and executed by this Government are here to stay. It's no more Garibi hatao but it's Garib Kalyan. It's not 20 point programme but it's Housing for all. It's not power shortage but it's Saubhagaya Yojana. It's not arbitrary allotment of coal mines but it's 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 reality. Roads, Ports and Airports have become nerve centres of growth of aspiring Indians and young entrepreneurs

* Speech was laid on the Table.

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 INDIA, PM KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA have motivated and 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 farmer's income various schemes such as PM Fasal Bima Yojana, PM Sinchai Yojana and Soil Health

Cards etc. have been initiated and effectively executed reaching to cores of farmers.

Education has gained utmost importance with starting of additional IIT's, IIM's etc., adapting the curriculum suiting to changing times, scholarships etc. welfare of security forces & Orders security tips 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 SC, OBC and ST 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 Government.

Hon. Rastrapatiji 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. RashtrapatiJi for his address.

[Translation]

***SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU):** I support the Address of the Hon. President. It is reflected in the President's Address that the Central Government is taking the country on a new path of economic development at a fast pace as per the promise of "Sabka saath, Sabka vikas" [Inclusive support, Inclusive growth]. The poor, downtrodden, exploited, and deprived farmers, workers, and youth of the country are at the centre of this inclusive economic development of the Government. From Jan Dhan to Jan Suraksha and Ujjwala Yojana to Digital India, the Hon. President has mentioned the changing picture of the development of the country in his address.

In his address on demonetisation, GST, farmers' issues, triple talaq, and the Rafale deal, the Hon. President said, "My Government dreamt of a new Bharat. Before the 2014 elections, the country was going through uncertainty, but my Government resolved to build a new Bharat as soon as it came to power. This year, our country will set a decisive direction for a strong, self-

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reliant, and prosperous New India of the 21st century. This year will be the biggest celebration of democracy in the form of general elections. Bharat is going to further strengthen its power by inducting a new generation state-of-the-art fighter aircraft, Rafale, in the Indian Air Force in the coming months after a gap of decades."

Our forces and their morale are a symbol of 21st-century Bharat's strength. My Government has not only fulfilled the demand for One Rank-One Pension pending for four decades but has also paid arrears of more than Rs 10,700 crore to 20 lakh ex-servicemen. Changing Bharat has demonstrated its new policy and new custom by carrying out surgical strikes on terrorist hideouts across the border. Last year, Bharat joined a select group of countries that have nuclear triangle capability.

Last month, the Government released a special coin on the occasion of the Prakash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. It is also a matter of happiness for all of us that my Government has taken a historic decision to build the Kartarpur Corridor.

Under the 'Namami Gange Mission,' projects worth Rs 25 thousand 500 crore have been sanctioned so far. By closing

dozens of big drains falling into the Ganges, stopping industrial waste, and setting up several sewerage treatment plants along the cities, my Government is actively engaged in the campaign to make the Ganga clean.

In 2017-18, more than 12 crore 30 lakh people in the country have travelled by air. Under the 'UDAN scheme,' 12 lakh seats have been made available to the people at a lower price. Due to this, today even an ordinary family person is getting the opportunity to fly in an aeroplane.

My Government believes that Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and the entire Eastern Bharat have the potential to become the new growth engine of the country. The Government is continuously giving emphasis to strengthening the infrastructure related to railways, highways, waterways, and airways in Eastern Bharat. Nineteen airports are being developed in Eastern Bharat. Of these, five airports are being built in the North-Eastern States. Construction of Pakyong Airport in Sikkim and Veer Surendra Sai Airport in Jharsuguda in Odisha has also been completed.

Bharat is now the second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world. Under Make in India, Asia's largest MedTech Zone is being set up in Andhra Pradesh.

GST is creating an honest and transparent business system in the country, which is benefiting the youth of the country immensely. This arrangement has made it easier for traders to do business anywhere in the country and has reduced their difficulties. My Government has continued the process of reforming GST, keeping in mind the suggestions being received from the business world. The new law of the 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' has resulted in the direct or indirect settlement of Rs 3 lakh crore of banks and debtors so far. My Government has auctioned coal mines by developing a transparent system and safeguarding national assets.

With the extension of Direct Benefit Transfer, an amount of more than 6 lakh 5 thousand crore rupees has reached the beneficiaries in the last four and a half years. Due to this, now about 1 lakh 10 thousand crore rupees are being saved from falling into the wrong hands. The Government has also removed about 8 crore such names from the list of beneficiaries who were

not really there, and many middlemen were looting public money under fake names.

While 3.8 crore people had filed their returns before the year 2014, now more than 6.8 crore people have come forward to file income tax returns. Today, the taxpayer is confident that every penny of his is being spent honestly in nation-building.

My Government took strict action against black money and corruption and decided to set up an SIT on black money. The demonetisation decision was an important step in the government's campaign against black money and corruption. This decision hit the parallel economy of black money, and the money that was outside the system was linked to the economy of the country. Under the ‘Benami Property Act,’ the ‘Prevention of Money Laundering Act,’ and the law against those who flee after committing economic offences, action is being taken to confiscate property worth more than 50 thousand crore rupees.

Due to the 'Jan-Dhan Yojana,' today bank accounts of 34 crore people have been opened in the country, and almost every family in the country has been connected with the banking system. Today, 88 thousand crore rupees deposited in Jan Dhan

accounts are a testimony to how these accounts have changed the way they save.

In 2014, only 59 Gram Panchayats in the country had access to digital connectivity. Today, 1 lakh 16 thousand gram panchayats have been connected with optical fibre, and Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in about 40 thousand gram panchayats. In the year 2014, when the price of 1 GB of data was around Rs 250, now it has come down to Rs 10-12. Similarly, the cost of talking on mobile has also come down to less than half.

My Government has taken a historic decision to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 22 crops to more than one and a half times the cost of the crop. In addition, the availability of high-quality seeds for farmers has been ensured. They said, "On behalf of the entire House, I extend my greetings to the farmers of India, our providers of sustenance." My Government is tirelessly striving day and night to double the income of the farmers in our country. Understanding every need of the farmers, the Government is committed to finding permanent solutions to their probleSushri

To ensure that working women have sufficient time to properly care for their newborns, maternity leave has been extended from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.

The greatest beneficiaries of the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana' have been women. Out of the 15 crore Mudra Loans disbursed across the country so far, 73 percent have been received by women entrepreneurs. Under the 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana,' approximately 6 crore women are associated with Self Help Groups. Such women's self-help groups have been provided with loans exceeding Rs. 75 thousand crore by my Government.

To enhance opportunities for high-level professional education, the Government is establishing new educational institutions, including 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 14 IIITs, 1 NIT, and 4 NIDs.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana,' which facilitates credit for professional and business requirements, loans worth more than Rs. 7 lakh crore have been disbursed to the youth without any guarantee. More than 15 crore people have directly benefited by availing loans under this scheme.

In the year 2014, there were 8,300 unmanned level crossings in our country. My Government has undertaken a campaign to eliminate unmanned railway crossings, and now almost all such crossings have been eradicated.

My Government has worked towards using a unified symbolic language for persons with disabilities. The Central Government has adapted nearly 100 of its websites based on the needs of persons with disabilities.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan,' our Government has provided for annual medical expenses of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family for serious illnesses to 50 crore impoverished individuals in the country. In just 4 months, more than 1 million impoverished individuals have availed of treatment under this scheme.

Many of our mothers, sisters, and daughters used to fall ill due to smoke from the stove. The health of the entire family was affected, and most of their time was spent gathering fuel. For such sisters and daughters, my Government has provided more than 6 crore gas connections under the 'Ujjwala Yojana' so far. Despite efforts over many years, by the year 2014, our country

had only 12 crore gas connections. In just the past four years, my Government has connected a total of 13 crore families with gas connections.

The Hon. President stated, "Our country is building an inclusive society based on morality that aligns with Mahatma Gandhi's dreams. Our country is advancing with the ideals of social and economic justice laid out by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constitution. More than nine crore toilets have been constructed in the country. As a result of this public movement, the coverage of rural sanitation has increased to 98 percent, which was less than 40 percent in the year 2014. Our Government has successfully aimed to provide fundamental facilities to everyone."

In conclusion, I warmly welcome and wholeheartedly support the various schemes and programs introduced by the Hon. Prime Minister and mentioned in the speech by the Hon. President, aimed at realising the dream of a Golden Bharat.

[English]

***SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (JORHAT):** I thank the Hon. President of India for the Address delivered to the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.

Our Government led by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji led our country towards the fastest growing country in the world in the last only four years.

Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narender Modi Ji introduced India newly as a super power in all corners, which our country lost its importance in the Congress regime. By celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi we can create a new chapter among the new generation. By introducing Toilets for all by Swachch Bharat Abhiyan in the backward places of Assam, it touches and gives a new dimension to our society. By introducing `Ujjwala Yojana' people are benefited a lot which is remarkable. By introducing Ayushman Bharat Yojna, now people are getting the benefit. I hereby request our Government that it should be extended to the people who are poor but left out from the survey.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

By introducing “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojna”, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Jewan Jyoti Bima Yojna, National Literacy Mission, by establishing AIIMS, PMAGY give benefits to the people which would not have happened if Modi Ji were not be the Prime Minister.

Hon. Prime Minister Modi Ji introduced `Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojna’ which is a programme which touches the hearts of the poor people who did not get power even after independence. Congress regime did not care for the people who were deprived from getting power.

We the people of Assam are very much happy that our government conferred Bharat Ratna on the Late Dr. Bhupen Hazarika along with other remarkable personalities of India. Only BJP led government can think of that. I on behalf of the people of Assam thank the Hon. Prime Minister for taking this decision. Before the Late Atal Bihari Bajpayeeji gave importance and conferred Bharat Ratna on the Late Gopinath Bordoloi which the people of Assam still remember.

We the people of North East especially from Assam thank the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji as in the last 4 years he opened big projects which were not completed during the Congress regime. “Gas Cracker” project in Dibrugarh, Dhola Sadiya Bridge in Tinsukia, Bogibeel Bridge in Dibrugarh, RGIPT in Sivsagar, Super-speciality Hospital in Sivsagar, extension of four lane to upper Assam which is made possible only in Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji’s regime. Extension of NRL in Assam is a remarkable work done by our Prime Minister.

Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji himself visited many times Assam and other states of North East which created unity among the people. Before we the people of Assam elected Prime Minister of India, but it was a great loss for us.

Countless schemes and reforms have been taken in the regime of our beloved Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji. Hon. President rightly stated that all the projects, schemes and programmes of the Government in his speech. I thank the Hon. President for his speech.

[Translation]

***SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON):** I support this Vote of Thanks. Due to the government's consistent efforts, our country has progressed in every sector over the past four and a half years. Whether it's about the improvement of public health or the economic development of the country, whether it's the domain of foreign policy or questions related to national defence.

We all know that through his address, the Hon. President presents a report card of the government's past actions and outlines the policy agenda that will be implemented in the coming year, informing the nation and the Parliament. Our Government is moving forward with the motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" (Collective efforts, Inclusive growth) without compromising on appeasement.

Under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi, our Government has instilled new hope and confidence in the people over the past four and a half years, while enhancing the country's prestige. Today, we are moving forward in the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

direction of building a new India. The Government is working to fulfil the aspirations and ambitions of people from all sections of society. Under the leadership of Hon. Modi Sir, our country is building an inclusive society based on morality that aligns with Gandhiji's dreams. Our country is advancing with the ideals of social and economic justice laid out by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constitution. Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, more than nine crore toilets have been constructed. As a result of this public movement, today the coverage of rural sanitation has increased to 98 percent, which was less than 40 percent in the year 2014. Many of our mothers, sisters, and daughters used to fall ill due to smoke from the stove. The health of the entire family was affected, and most of their time was spent gathering fuel. Under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji, his Government has provided more than 6 crore gas connections under the 'Ujjwala Yojana.' In my Lok Sabha Constituency alone, nearly 10 thousand Ujjwala Yojana gas connections have been distributed in the town of Jalgaon. Despite efforts spanning decades, by the year 2014, our country had only 12 crore gas connections. In just the past four and a half years, the Government, under the

leadership of Hon. Modi ji, has connected a total of 13 crore families with gas connections. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan, provisions have been made for annual medical expenses of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family for serious illnesses for 50 crore impoverished individuals in the country. In just 4 months, more than 1 million impoverished individuals have availed of treatment under this scheme.

Under 'Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana,' 4,900 Jan Aushadhi Centres have already been opened in more than 600 districts. These centres are providing more than 700 essential medicines at significantly reduced prices. For a premium of just one rupee a month under 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana' and 90 paise a day under 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana,' as many as 21 crore poor brothers and sisters have been provided with insurance coverage.

New AIIMS are being established from Madurai in Tamil Nadu to Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir and from Rajkot in Gujarat to Kamrup in Assam. To address the shortage of doctors in villages, over the past four years, 31 thousand new seats have

been added in medical education. Over the past four and a half years, under the government's 'Gramin Awas Yojana,' construction of more than 1 crore 30 lakh houses has been completed, whereas prior to the year 2014, in just five years, construction had been completed for only 25 lakh houses. Under Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana, so far, 2 crore 47 lakh households have been provided electricity connections. India is now rapidly progressing towards a situation where every household will have electricity, ensuring that no family is forced to live in darkness. Under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi ji, our Government is diligently working with full vigour to eradicate the challenge of malnutrition among poor women and children. To address the conditions responsible for malnutrition and to assist those suffering from it, the Government has launched the National Nutrition Mission.

The Government is providing skill development training to 1 crore youth every year, and under the Mudra Yojana, loans amounting to Rs. 7 lakh crore have been granted to the youth without any collateral. Every parent dreams that their sons and daughters receive a good education and progress in life. To

expand opportunities for high-level professional education, the Government is establishing new educational institutions, including 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 14 IIITs, 1 NIT, and 4 NIDs. Understanding every need of the farmers, the Government is making concerted efforts to provide permanent solutions to their probleSushri The Government's foremost priority is to provide farmers with greater convenience and assistance throughout the entire process, from purchasing agricultural equipment and seeds to reaching and selling their produce in the market. The Government is working to increase farmers' income. The MSP for crops has been increased by 1.5 times. Insurance is being provided at a reduced premium in case their crops fail.

Under the Jan Dhan Yojana, 34 crore accounts have been opened. These Jan Dhan accounts have eliminated the role of middlemen. These accounts have become the foundation of economic transformation. In these accounts, deposits amounting to Rs. 88 thousand crore have been collected. The number of income taxpayers has increased from 3.8 crore to more than 6 crore. Changes have been made in GST based on suggestions. GST is creating an honest and transparent business system in the

country, which is benefiting the youth of the country immensely. This arrangement has made it easier for traders to do business anywhere in the country and has reduced their difficulties. The Government has made a crucial decision to impose the death penalty on perpetrators of heinous crimes like rape against minor girls. Furthermore, it is also making efforts to ensure a life free from fear for Muslim women affected by Triple Talaq. Our armed forces and their morale are symbols of India's capabilities in the 21st century. The surgical strikes conducted by this Government have emerged as a new policy initiative. Under the Hon. leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi, our Government has not only fulfilled the four-decade-long pending demand for One Rank One Pension but has also disbursed arrears exceeding Rs. 10,700 crore to 20 lakh ex-servicemen. The inclusion of Rafale jets in the Air Force fleet will enhance their strength.

The Government has successfully fulfilled every promise made to the citizens during the elections, one by one. Be it the expansion of railway services or the implementation of Metro Rail Projects in various parts of the country. Be it the

development of National Highways or the improvement of transportation facilities. Be it the field of space or the development of missiles. In every sector, the Government is achieving new milestones and deserves congratulations.

On this occasion, I request the Government's attention towards the following issues in my rural Parliamentary Constituency, urging sympathetic consideration and prompt action for their appropriate resolution:

1. The Central Government must expedite the allocation of funds for the Padalsare Project in the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, which has received CWC clearance and should be included in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana at the earliest. Additionally, the pilot project for constructing a rubber dam using new technology on the Girna River in my region has been pending for the past 5 to 6 years and has recently received technical and administrative approval from the Maharashtra Government. It is now essential to obtain approval from the Central Government for these projects and expedite their implementation by allocating the necessary funds promptly.

2. There is an urgent need to commence the construction of National Highway 211 between Dhule and Chalisgaon in Maharashtra without delay.

3. I am grateful to the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, for including the section of National Highway 6 passing through Jalgaon City. This stretch has deteriorated significantly, causing severe traffic congestion for the general public for hours. An allocation of more than Rs. 100 crore has been made to initiate the tender process for repairing this highway and starting the work promptly.

4. Keeping in mind the expectations of the general public, a 100-bed naturopathy hospital should be established in Jalgaon District.

5. There are a large number of plastic units in Jalgaon that manufacture various plastic products. A plastic park should be established here for the development of the plastic industry.

6. A textile park or cluster should be established in Jalgaon to foster the development of existing textile mills and related industries. This initiative will promote economic

growth and increase employment opportunities for the youth in the region.

7. In our Jalgaon District, there is a substantial production of bananas, mangoes, and oranges. Therefore, to ensure better prices for fruit-producing farmers and to facilitate their processing, along with establishing processing industries, a food processing training centre should also be set up here. This will provide training to small entrepreneurs in processing techniques, thereby enhancing their income sources and increasing employment opportunities in the region.

8. A paramilitary training centre should be established in Jalgaon.

9. I would like to express my gratitude to Hon. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj for fulfilling the demand to establish a passport service centre in Jalgaon.

10. Under the Digital India program, the India BPO Promotion Scheme is being implemented, and I urge for operations to be initiated in Jalgaon as well under this scheme.

With these words, I extend my congratulations and support to the significant initiatives undertaken by my Government over

the past four and a half years for the benefit of the common citizens of our country.

***SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR):** The Hon. President mentioned in his address that today India's voice is heard with respect on global platforSushri The United Nations declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in recognition of India's initiative; today, this day is celebrated worldwide with great enthusiasm. It is a matter of pride for all of us that India is leading the global solar energy revolution today. Last year, the inaugural assembly of the International Solar Alliance was successfully hosted in Delhi.

The Central Government is strengthening comprehensive development across every sector of India. Similarly, my Government had announced a package of Rs. 80 thousand crore for the development of Jammu and Kashmir. Out of this package, approvals exceeding Rs. 66 thousand crore have been granted for various projects related to infrastructure, healthcare, and education in Jammu and Kashmir. After a gap of many decades, the Indian Air Force is preparing to welcome, in the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

coming months, its new generation of ultra-modern fighter aircraft, Rafale, and strengthen its strike capability. Our armed forces and their morale are a symbol of India's strength in the 21st century. My Government has not only fulfilled the demand for One Rank-One Pension, pending for four decades, but has also paid arrears of more than Rs. 10,700 crore to 20 lakh ex-servicemen. Alongside this, India has introduced its 'Nayi Neti aur Nayi Riti' (New Policy and New Approach) by conducting surgical strikes on terrorist positions across the border, showcasing its evolving strategy. Last year, Bharat joined a select group of countries that have nuclear triangle capability.

This month, the Government has issued a special coin to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh ji. It is also a matter of happiness for all of us that my Government has taken a historic decision to build the Kartarpur Corridor.

Under the 'Namami Gange Mission,' projects worth Rs. 25 thousand 500 crore have been sanctioned so far. By closing dozens of big drains falling into the Ganges, stopping industrial waste, and setting up several sewerage treatment plants along

the cities, my Government is actively engaged in the campaign to make the Ganga clean.

In 2017-18, more than 12 crore 30 lakh people in the country travelled by air. Under the 'UDAN scheme,' 12 lakh seats have been made available to the people at a lower price. Due to this, today even an ordinary family person is getting the opportunity to fly in an aeroplane.

My Government believes that Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and the entire Eastern Bharat have the potential to become the new growth engine of the country. The Government is continuously emphasising the strengthening of infrastructure related to railways, highways, waterways, and airways in Eastern Bharat. Nineteen airports are being developed in Eastern Bharat. Of these, five airports are being built in the North-Eastern States. Construction of Pakyong Airport in Sikkim and Veer Surendra Sai Airport in Jharsuguda in Odisha has also been completed.

Bharat is now the second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world. Under Make in India, Asia's largest MedTech Zone is being set up in Andhra Pradesh.

GST is creating an honest and transparent business system in the country, which is benefiting the youth of the country immensely. This arrangement has made it easier for traders to do business anywhere in the country and has reduced their difficulties. My Government has continued the process of reforming GST, keeping in mind the suggestions being received from the business world.

With the extension of Direct Benefit Transfer, an amount of more than 6 lakh 5 thousand crore rupees has reached the beneficiaries in the last four and a half years. Due to this, now about 1 lakh 10 thousand crore rupees are being saved from falling into the wrong hands. The Government has also removed about 8 crore such names from the list of beneficiaries who were not really there, and many middlemen were looting public money under fake names.

My Government took strict action against black money and corruption and decided to set up an SIT on black money. The demonetisation decision was an important step in the government's campaign against black money and corruption. This decision hit the parallel economy of black money, and the money that was outside the system was linked to the economy of the country. Under the ‘Benami Property Act,’ the ‘Prevention of Money Laundering Act,’ and the law against those who flee after committing economic offences, action is being taken to confiscate property worth more than 50 thousand crore rupees.

Due to the 'Jan-Dhan Yojana,' today, bank accounts of 34 crore people have been opened in the country, and almost every family in the country has been connected with the banking system. Today, 88 thousand crore rupees deposited in Jan Dhan accounts are a testimony to how these accounts have changed the way they save.

In 2014, only 59 Gram Panchayats in the country had access to digital connectivity. Today, 1 lakh 16 thousand gram panchayats have been connected with optical fibre, and Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in about 40 thousand gram panchayats. In the year 2014, when the price of 1 GB of data was around Rs. 250, now it has come down to Rs. 10-12. Similarly, the cost of talking on mobile has also come down to less than half.

My Government has taken a historic decision to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 22 crops to more than one and a half times the cost of the crop. In addition, the availability of high-quality seeds for farmers has been ensured. They said, "On behalf of the entire House, I extend my greetings to the farmers of India, our providers of sustenance." My Government is tirelessly striving day and night to double the income of the farmers in our country. Understanding every need of the farmers, the Government is committed to finding permanent solutions to their probleSushri

The greatest beneficiaries of the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana' have been women. Out of the 15 crore Mudra loans

disbursed across the country so far, 73 percent have been received by women entrepreneurs. Under the 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana,' approximately 6 crore women are associated with Self Help Groups. Such women's self-help groups have been provided with loans exceeding Rs. 75 thousand crore by my Government.

To enhance opportunities for high-level professional education, the Government is establishing new educational institutions, including 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 14 IIITs, 1 NIT, and 4 NIDs.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana,' which facilitates credit for professional and business requirements, loans worth more than Rs. 7 lakh crore have been disbursed to the youth without any guarantee. More than 15 crore people have directly benefited by availing loans under this scheme.

In the recent Winter Session, Parliament passed the historic 103rd Constitutional Amendment, providing reservation benefits to the economically disadvantaged sections of society. This initiative aims to bring justice to those young men and women in the country who were feeling deprived due to the curse of poverty.

In the year 2014, there were 8,300 unmanned level crossings in our country. My Government has undertaken a campaign to eliminate unmanned railway crossings, and now almost all such crossings have been eradicated.

My Government has worked towards using a unified symbolic language for persons with disabilities. The Central Government has updated nearly 100 websites based on the needs of persons with disabilities.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan,' our Government has provided for annual medical expenses of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family for serious illnesses to 50 crore impoverished individuals in the country. In just 4 months, more than 10 lakh impoverished individuals have availed themselves of treatment under this scheme.

Many of our mothers, sisters, and daughters used to fall ill due to smoke from the stove. The health of the entire family was affected, and most of their time was spent gathering fuel. For such sisters and daughters, my Government has provided more than 6 crore gas connections under the 'Ujjwala Yojana' so far. Despite efforts over many years, by the year 2014, our country had only 12 crore gas connections. In just the past four years, my Government has connected a total of 13 crore families with gas connections.

The Hon. President stated, "Our country is building an inclusive society based on morality that aligns with Mahatma Gandhi's dreams. Our country is advancing with the ideals of social and economic justice laid out by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constitution. More than nine crore toilets have been constructed in the country. As a result of this public movement, the coverage of rural sanitation has increased to 98 percent,

which was less than 40 percent in the year 2014. Our Government has successfully aimed to provide fundamental facilities to everyone."

In conclusion, I warmly welcome and wholeheartedly support the various schemes and programs introduced by the Hon. Prime Minister and mentioned in the speech by the Hon. President, aimed at realising the dream of a Golden Bharat.

***DR. YASHWANT SINGH (NAGINA):** I hold my thoughts on the Hon. President's Address. In his address this time, the Hon. President shed light on the achievements of the NDA Government, including the entire term from 2017 to 2018 alongside the current year. I shall proudly state that the address by the Hon. President is far more substantial and impactful compared to the work undertaken by any previous Government. Before the year 2014, Governments in the country did work, but their priorities were different, primarily because corruption was prevalent in those Governments. The absence of corruption in any department of this Government over the past five years is a commendable step. The primary focus of this Government has been the utilisation of the country's resources for the benefit of all. The Government, under the Swachh Bharat Mission, has provided toilets to nine crore underprivileged individuals, thereby not only preserving the dignity of poor mothers and sisters but also preventing diseases like diarrhoea and cholera among the poor; as a result, more than three lakh lives have been saved. Under the Saubhagya Yojana, efforts have been made to

* Speech was laid on the Table.

provide electricity to 2 crore 47 lakh households in the country and bring those who were previously deprived into the mainstream. With the aspiration that every home should have a roof, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has commendably facilitated the construction of over one crore thirty lakh houses in rural areas and several lakhs in urban areas, demonstrating significant achievements. Through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, training has been provided to more than one crore youth, and under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, loans totalling more than Rs. 7 lakh crore have been disbursed, benefiting 4 crore 26 lakh people to engage in self-employment. Under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana aimed at women's empowerment, loans totalling more than Rs. 75 thousand crore have been disbursed to empower over 6 crore women, fostering self-reliance and enhancing their journey towards self-sufficiency.

The government's initiative to double farmers' income includes distributing more than 17 crore Soil Health Cards, ensuring 100 percent neem-coated urea availability, completing 71 out of 99 pending irrigation projects to provide water for

irrigation, and promoting micro-irrigation and solar pump schemes. These commendable steps have brought significant changes in the lives of farmers. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, by ensuring farmers are protected from natural disasters at minimal premiums, is a significant step towards relieving farmers from stress and uncertainties.

Demonstrating equality among the general populace by striking a blow against black money through demonetisation has significantly increased the number of income taxpayers in the country, marking a substantial beginning. The implementation of GST in the country has realised the concept of "One Nation, One Tax, One Market." Now businesses are conducting trade with ease and convenience. The rapid construction of national highways, the development of new airports, and the construction of waterways have propelled the country swiftly, elevating it to the 77th position in the Ease of Doing Business rankings, up from 65th place internationally. Today, the country's military is strong, benefiting from One Rank One Pension (OROP). Today, India is advancing towards building a powerful nation. There have been significant improvements in every sector, laying a

strong foundation for a glorious India in the times ahead. I support the Hon. President's Address with these very words.

[English]

*__DR. K. GOPAL (NAGPATTINAM):__ I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for having laid the foundation stone for establishing New AIIMS in Madurai. I am also appreciating Government's "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi" to extend direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year in three installments to farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares is announced. But in high price index day to purchase fertilisers, seeds etc. this six thousands rupees should be given in single installment/maximum two installments.

It is sorry to say for natural calamities, the farmers will get a small % of interest waive in bank loan, but in last one year farmers of South India had to face a great loss in agriculture for natural calamities. So full interest of bank loan of farmers should be waived off.

Fishery and Animal husbandry both are same as agriculture, so without interest bank loan should be given to this sector upto

* Speech was laid on the Table.

one lakhs with a condition upto lower middle class financial group. But in this budget, there is no such decision, hence this help please be extended. In my Nagapatinam constituency a large sector of people is involved in sea fishery, but due to purchasing boat, fuel & nests etc, they have to take private loan on high interest rate, so they are being exploited by private money lenders without getting sufficient profit for their hard and life risk labour. Some times, they are also harassed and arrested by Sri Lankan Navy, then their families has to face very much problem to collect their bread. So Government should take immediate positive action and provide some good amount to solve these probleSushri

Individual extended tax benefit also demands good feelings of Government towards middle class family but above five lakhs, 20 % tax should be relaxed upto 8 lakhs as 10%.

The Swaminathan Commission recommended that farmers should be given a minimum support price which may be one & half time more than the cost of production, but there is no such type of promise from Government in this budget.

Government is spending so much money through Ujjala etc., but Government should take immediate decision for online Portability for changing LPG dealer from any dealer to another dealer as per choice of customer, then one healthy competition will be grown up between all LPG dealers to serve better to best service to Customers.

In case of handloom sector, it is time to provide substantial relief to the weaving community by designing appropriate scheme and also to bring handloom products under 0% GST.

I would request Central Government to immediately withdraw the permission granted to Karnataka to prepare DPR for Mekadatu Project. The Central Water Commission did not consider the genuine and justified objections from Tamil Nadu.

Central Government should think about offering "Bharat Ratna" in honour of Dr. Anadurai and Dr. Jayalaitha who were most popular Chief Ministers ever in Tamil Nadu.

***DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR):** I would like to place my views on motion of thanks for the Address which Hon. Rastrapati ji has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on January 31, 2019.

Hon. President in his Address at Para 28 did mention about the Citizenship Amendment Bill. I quote "Mindful of the prevalence of injustice and deprivation in the society, my Government has been working towards reforming the legal system so as to ensure social and economic justice. The Citizenship Amendment Bill will help in the securing of Indian citizenship by those victims who were persecuted and were compelled to seek refuse in India. These people cannot be blamed since they were the victims of circumstances".

Now, immediate withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 is the need of the hour. Manipur students bodies, CSOs and elderly women of Ima Market of Manipur protested at Jantar Mantar on 30th of January 2019 demanding the withdrawal of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 (CAB) which was hurriedly passed by the Lok Sabha on

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the last day of Winter Session after JPC had submitted its nonunanimous report on the previous day. Amidst boycott by the principal opposition party, the Indian National Congress (INC).

Even on the day of passing the Bill there were complete upsurge in the entire northeast. If this Bill is not withdrawn immediately the fall-out will be very dangerous and situation will be out of control. I strongly condemn the action of Delhi Police arresting and manhandling of our elderly women protesters without a single woman Police person.

My party INC and almost all political Parties in Manipur have rushed to the Capital Delhi for lobbying for the withdrawal of the Bill. If the Bill is passed in its present form there will arise a huge demographic challenge in the Northeast in general and Manipur in particular.

Manipur was a Nation State before it lost its independence to the British in 1891. Manipur regained its independence with the lapse of British suzerainty in 1947. Manipur did have its own constitution and its first election of the State Assembly was held in 1948 under principle of adult franchise. The kingdom of

Manipur, the erstwhile princely state as it was known then was very stable and peaceful. During this time Manipur did have a permit system for entry into and exit from Manipur, which was then recognized by the Government of India in 1948. Then came 1949, when the Maharaja of Manipur was summoned to shillong, the capital of Assam and was made rather forced to sign an infamous Manipur Merger Agreement (MMA), 1949. This could well have been termed as annexation of Manipur. This MMA was rejected by the then Manipur State Assembly. From then onwards, Manipur was made rather put as a Part-C State under the Constitution of the Union of India.

Then in 1950, the permit system for entry into and exit from Manipur, which was then recognized by the Government of India in 1948, was abolished by the then Chief Commissioner of Manipur. What a tragedy! From that time onwards, there were huge influx of outsiders into the state of Manipur resulting thereby a captive economy of the State and big impact on its demography. This MMA 1949 was never ratified by the Parliament of India.

It will be interesting to remember that at that point of time, there were only three States, viz., Assam, Manipur and Tripura in that part of the country. Had Manipur and Tripura were allowed to join the Union of India as full-fledged States at the time of their merger with Union of India, the history of Northeast India would have been completely different and many a problem these two tiny States face now might have not appeared at all. What a tricky situation and shall we blame the lady luck?

During this time, an autonomous district of Naga Hills of Assam was conferred statehood in 1963. This was perhaps the fruit of Naga rebellion by the Naga insurgents under the leadership of Mr. Phizo. May be, thinking that insurgency pays, a new generation of insurgency movements in these two States of Manipur and Tripura started in the late 60s. this is now the history.

Then in 1972, after a long struggle for statehood, both Manipur and Tripura were given statehood. But it was too late. Even then, the Government of India could have restored all that these two Sates did have before they got merged with the union

of India. But unfortunately, that did not happen. The demand driven attitude rather policy of the Government of India does more harm than good. This attitude has to be changed completely to bring these Border States at par with the rest of the country. This can happen only if the principle of co-operative federalism is practiced in its true meaning and understanding.

If the Citizenship Amendment Bill is passed in its present form once again, there will arise a huge demographic challenge in the Northeast in general and Manipur in particular. So, the people of Manipur now start talking of demanding the pre-merger status of Manipur, an erstwhile Nation State. Hence, I strongly urge upon the Union Government to immediately withdraw the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 in the best interest of all concerned.

Another important issue is the law and order situation in that part of the country. The law and order situation there is still a matter of grave concern. In my State, the Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958 has been being promulgated since 80's, and here Army is engaged in counter-

insurgency operations under the Act. This Act provides immunity to the army from being tried without the prior permission of the Union Government.

Under this Act, the State of Manipur has seen many orphans, widows, parents who do not know whereabouts of their missing children. Rapes, fake encounters, custodian killings are rampant. In spite of the recommendations of various committees, conferences, UN bodies to repeal the Act, the Government of India is still shy to repeal this draconian law. However, the Government of Manipur has lifted AFSPA from the seven Assembly constituencies under Imphal Municipality.

I am always for the immediate repeal of this AFSPA. Time has come for this draconian Act to go. I do very sincerely urge upon the Union Government please repeal this Act immediately for the sake of humanity.

Lastly, being in the Border state, I do sincerely wish that our relations with neighboring countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka would continue to grow from strength to strength and particularly relations with Myanmar

through our Look-East policy (now Act East Policy) should be able to catalyze and improve.

Finally, the claims made by his Government are on the contrary and the commitments made are in the vacuum. However, in the best established tradition of parliamentary democracy, I do support the motion. Jai Hind.

***SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI):** It gives me immense pleasure to express my views on the Motion of Thanks for the President's Address 2019. I wish to remember and pay my respect to our inspirational leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA before I speak.

I am glad that our Hon. President has mentioned the efforts taken by the Government to build an inclusive society based on ethics and principles. Our nation is moving ahead guided by the ideals of social and economic justice as enshrined in the Constitution by Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. I wish to mention the efforts of our mercurial leaders Puratchi Thalaivar M.G. Ramachandran and Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA in saving the social and economic justice in Tamil Nadu. I wish the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Government would respect and honour the untiring efforts of Puratchi Thalavi AMMA and confer up on her the highest Civilian Award, Bharat Ratna immediately.

The Hon. President has emphasized for an inclusive and modern development of our country, it needs to be ensured that not a single family is deprived of fundamental needs. Lack of toilets had forced crores of Indians, especially our daughters and daughters-in-law to lead an undignified and unhealthy life. Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, more than 9 crore toilets have been constructed out of which more than half crore toilets were constructed in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu has excelled well in implementing the Swachh Bharat Scheme.

The Hon. President has lauded the efforts of the Government which has provided more than 6 crore cooking gas connections under the Ujjwala Yojana. This has to be extended to the remotest corner of the country so that no woman in the country should suffer due to lack of cooking gas connection.

The Hon. President praised the Government for launching the "Ayushman Bharat Yojana" last year. Under the world's biggest health care scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya

Abhiyan', 50 crore poor are eligible for availing treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh per year per family in case of a serious illness. In a short period of four months, more than 10 lakh poor have already availed free treatment from hospitals under this scheme. This scheme has been successfully implemented in Tamil Nadu under the Chief Ministers Health Insurance Scheme implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu working in the lines of Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA.

The endeavour of Government has also been on reducing the burden of out of pocket expenses on medical care for the poor and the middle class. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana', 4,900 Jan Aushadi Centres have already been opened in more than 600 districts. More than 700 different medicines are being dispensed at low cost in these Centres. This scheme was also already implemented in Tamil Nadu by our visionary leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA as "AMMA Marunthagam".

The Hon. President has appreciated the efforts of the Government for reducing the cost of cardiac stents which has resulted in an annual saving of about Rs. 4,600 crore to the poor

and middle class. Reduction in cost of knee replacement has led to annual saving of about Rs. 1,500 crore. The facility of dialysis free of cost to those suffering from kidney diseases has resulted in a saving of more than Rs. 2,000 per session for the poor patients with renal failure. In this connection I would like to mention the great efforts taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in Organ Transplants, particularly cadaver liver.

To alleviate the challenge of malnutrition among poor women and children the National Nutrition Mission for persons suffering from malnutrition and to eliminate the factors responsible for malnutrition, 'Mission Indradhanush' has been launched by the Government to provide immunization facilities to children and pregnant women living in remote and tribal areas. Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA has launched the comprehensive scheme for pregnant women in Tamil Nadu by giving Pre and Post delivery care with Delivery kit for every new born baby in Government hospitals and PHCs in Tamil Nadu.

The Government has set a target that by 2022 no family would remain homeless many wondered how this would be

possible. While completing the houses under the earlier scheme, the Government has also fast -tracked the construction of houses to fulfill the backlog of eligible beneficiaries and provide them a new house. I urge the Government to provide adequate additional funds to Tamil Nadu for the construction of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Under 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana', the Government is also giving interest subsidy of 6 and a half per cent to the persons belonging to low income group. According to an estimate, an individual taking a home loan of Rs 20 lakh for 20 years would get a benefit of about Rs. 6 lakh. This needs to be implemented for all the lower income people in the country.

With this I conclude my speech.

Thank You.

*SHRI THANGSO BAITE (OUTER MANIPUR): I would like to extend my thankfulness to the Hon. President's Address in the Parliament in respect of a number of items, achievements highlighted in the speech. It is however, the Government failed in addressing a number of points as under.

With regards to the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016, the people of the North Eastern states of India i.e, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya etc. strongly objects the passing of the bill.

It is however, the Government is retreating it's commitment to pass the said bill as one of the important policy of the present Government. It may be worth mentioning that before the introduction of the said Bill in Lok Sabha, delegation from Manipur, Assam and even Mizoram apprised the Central Government about the difficulties and problems about to be faced the people of the North Eastern states.

Inspite of all such attempts, the Bill was passed in Lok Sabha in winter session of Parliament. Consequent on that, the people of North eastern Region have launched different forms of agitation in front of Parliament which had never happened

* Speech was laid on the Table.

before it appears that the bill is likely to be passed in Rajya Sabha also at any moment that is the apprehension of the people of the North East.

This kind of Government attitude towards the minorities of the North Eastern states clearly implies that their voice and sentiments were not attended and generates even a sense of self alienation among the youths.

The President stated that Government is taking up serious efforts to identify talented sports persons from different corners of the country. However, the Government also failed to mention any positive steps for materialization of the recently approved Central Sports University of Manipur which is the first of its kind for the promotion of sports in the country.

In regard to the implementation of 7th Pay Commission, the Government failed to understand that the extension of 7th Pay Commission only to the Central Government Employees which they deemed a landmark achievement is deplorable. A number of states where resources are limited particularly in the state of Manipur till date, is not in the position to implement the 7th Pay

Commission despite endless agitation from State Government employees.

The Government failed to address such problem of State Government. This kind of irregularities and imbalance extension of facilities towards some states is the main reason attributed to imbalance in development as a whole.

***ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI):** I would like to place my views on the motion of thanks for the President's Address. Many of the claims made by the Hon. President in his address are hallow and far from the reality. Though the Government has claimed that the unemployment has been reduced during their tenure, in reality, the number of quality employment has been reduced considerably. The unemployment among educated youth, especially technocrats has been increasing. The unemployment among the rural people has also been increasing due to various reasons attributed to poor implementation of the schemes implemented by the Government, inefficacy of such schemes and prograSushri

* Speech was laid on the Table.

The Government miserably failed to address the issues related to the welfare of the people living in economic and social lower strata. Though the Government has made big claims regarding the construction of the houses for the poor, electrification of villages, on ground these programs didn't make much differences or rather improvements in the living conditions of the targeted groups. The Government has claimed achievements in the area of infrastructural developments especially railways. Though the Angamaly Erumeli- Sabari Railway Project has been sanctioned and commenced 19 years before, the railway could complete only 7 kilometers of Angamali- Sabarimala new BG railway line project (116 KMs) sanctioned through the pink book of 1997-98, has been forwarded to railway board by Chief Administrative Officer CN/ERS on 14/9/2017. Utilization of an amount of Rs. 229.99 crore to Angamali-Sabarimala new BG railway line project through the 2018-19 union budget allocation depends up on the approval of revised estimate. Due to the absence of sanction to the revised estimate of Angamali-Sabarimala new BG line project, an amount of Rs. 213.59 crore has been lapsed in 2017-

18 budget year. 85 KMs long area from Angamali railway station to proposed Ramapuram railway station has been notified after the sanctioning of proposed new BG railway line project and boundary stones have been laid by railway and revenue officials. Thereafter boundary stone laid, land's owners could not pledge or sell their land for treatment, education of marriage of their children. They are not permitted to construct building in the alignment area. Even though land owners and people living in notified area as well as boundary stone laid and re-laid area support arrival of Angamali-Sabarimal new BG railway project are fed up with the undue delay in getting fund for their land to construct railway line. Hence, I request the kind intervention of the Government in this matter.

So as in the case of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The Government has allocated funds for PMGSY but it didn't launch the 3rd phase of the Yojana till date. The allocation under the PMGSY is very less to the State of Kerala compared to the total allocation. Despite repeated requests and demands from the members of Parliament from Kerala and the State Government, the Central Government has not been paying

attention to the same. The undue delay in announcing the 3rd part of the PMGSY has resulted in development paralysis especially the construction of roads to establish rural connectivity.

Though the Government has claimed achievement in Mudra and other loan schemes meant to ensure the economic development for professional and business requirements, the same has not been reached to the needy people due to the negative attitude of the Banks and its employees. A large number of aspirational business men and professionals have been denied the credit facility under the Mudra and the other schemes and programs connected therewith. There are procedural and other problems with the implementation of the MGNREGA, the demands for including important sector like farming, dairy, poultry etc... under the MGNREGA has not been accepted. The less allocation of funds and delay in disbursing the wages to the workers were not an exception but a regular phenomenon. Therefore urgent intervention and restructuring of the scheme for ensuring the welfare of the beneficiaries with emphasis to productive outcome is required.

Though the Hon. President has mentioned many developmental activities and welfare schemes for the marginal people, it is very unfortunate that , there is no mention about the agonies of the people living in the flood hit areas in Kerala. The State of Kerala had witnessed unprecedented torrential rain and consequential flood in August 2018. The loss of the people living in the flood affected area is very huge and the whole State is in the process of recovering from the disaster. Also there is no mention in the President's Speech on the issues faced by the people living in the Idukki Parliamentary Constituency due to landslides, heavy flood and other issues related to natural calamities. Also the assistance provided by the Central Government to the State of Kerala was very inadequate. There is no fund has been allotted for the reconstruction of the village and rural roads which are fully destroyed in the flood in Kerala.

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 5 years to the disadvantage of the marginal and small scale farmers, the

indigenous people and other stake holders. The MoEF & CC has reissued the draft notification of declaring Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in the Western Ghats under the provisions of the Environment Protection Act ,1986 (EPA). The High Level Working Group (HLWG) had identified 13108 sqkm spreading over 123 villages in Kerala to be qualified for declaring as ESA in Kerala. After conducting ground truthing, the State of Kerala has recommended including an area of 9993.7 sqkm as ESA and the same has been accepted by the Central Government while issuing the original draft notification on 10-03-2014. In furtherance of the directions from the MoEF&CC, the State has rectified the anomalies in the earlier proposals and submitted a technically full proof proposal to include 8656.46 sqkm as ESA in the Western Ghats in the State of Kerala. Though the state of Kerala has submitted its report and recommendations, the same has not been incorporated in the draft notification.

Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) has a greater attention in recent days in Kerala due to the straying of wild animals in the crop fields and human casualties due to carnivores. Crop damage by wild animals is one of the major problems faced by

the marginal farmers in Kerala. Wild pig, Asian elephant, Indian porcupine and sambar were the major crop raiders recorded in the homesteads and plantations. Places like Chinnakkanal, Bisonvalley, Marayoor, Kuttampuzha, Mankulam etc. in my constituency are gripped by elephant attacks with human causalities too. Hence I urge upon the Government to conduct carrying capacity studies and contain wildlife below carrying capacity and excess must be culled out. The legal protection of wildlife shall be strictly restricted to forest only. The crops as well as the human life should be insured and adequate compensation should be given to the victims on time. Fatal accident scheme should be given to the victiSushri

The cultivators of cash crops like tea, rubber, coffee and pepper in the country are in great distress due to the fluctuations in the market price, low productivity and dip in market price due to indiscriminate import by taking advantage of ASEAN a agreement, South Asian Free Trade Agreement and India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. This issue may also be addressed.

Before concluding I may quote the preamble of the Constitution "The people of India having solemnly resolve to

constitute India into a sovereign socialist, secular, democratic republic to secure to all its citizens justice, social economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, believe, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation". We, all Indians irrespective of their cast, creed, place of birth, faith etc... are bound to uphold the Constitution and thereby ensure the peaceful living of all Indians. I am afraid that our Constitution itself is in danger, it is our duty to protect and uphold the Constitution for ensuring the rights and liberties of every citizens for that we will have to work together and it is the need of the hour.

Thank You.

[Translation]

***SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH (SURAT):** Today, I support the proposal to extend gratitude for the Hon. President Sir's Address.

When the people of the country entrusted the current Government with power, there was an atmosphere of empty coffers, insecurity, uncertainty, and disillusionment, all waiting for their expectations and ambitions to be fulfilled. The issue of Rafale is being stirred up today, but a statement from the Defence Minister of that time, indicating that the country did not have money to purchase aircraft for security, is now going viral on people's mobile phones.

Decades after Independence, the Hon. Prime Minister had to promise the nation, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, to provide homes, toilets, domestic gas, and electricity to their homes. Those who are in opposition today used to make fun of our aspirations, but the country believed that those whom we have entrusted with power would fulfil our aspirations. Five years later, the joy of aligning with the aspirations of the nation

* Speech was laid on the Table.

is evident, especially in the actions, thoughts, and systems of the Hon. Prime Minister. His mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" (Collective efforts, Inclusive Growth) is transforming into everyone's trust.

We are going to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of the respected Mahatma Gandhi this year. Those who, immediately after Independence, had called for the dissolution of the Congress Party, it is the responsibility of the present Government to fulfil the aspirations of the common man standing on the last rung of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals. The Government has endeavoured to embody this philosophy through its programs and actions, achieving a measure of success; however, there are those who fail to grasp that Gandhiji considered these ideals as his legacy.

Shri Rahul Gandhi, under his leadership, does not hesitate to resort to anti-national and derogatory accusations against the current Government, especially against Hon. Shri Narendra Modi. The leader of a party who stands in defence of those who chant slogans such as "Bharat Tere Tukde Honge" (India will be divided) has Members of Parliament who openly disrespect the

national language, yet they feel no shame or remorse in doing so. It has become fashionable for the Opposition to insult Hindu beliefs and Hindu culture in Hindu society. The country is observing how, during elections, those who constantly insult Hindus wear sacred threads over their shirts to mislead people. However, a parliamentarian from Kerala tweeted words that undermine Hindi, Hindus, and Hindustan. I request my Government to take cognisance of such words being spoken against Hindi and Hindustan. Appropriate action should be taken because such actions also violate the oath taken as a Member of Parliament.

The Opposition, who claim to speak for women's dignity, feel proud and delighted to oppose our government's efforts towards women's empowerment and safety. When the Government made efforts to ensure security for Muslim women through legislation against Triple Talaq, they started searching for reasons to oppose it, from Parliament to the streets. However, when people witnessed supporters of their former Chief Minister pulling a woman's scarf at a public gathering, it became clear to the public what Shri Rahul Gandhi and his party

think about women's safety, just as they misled the public on Rafale. A party that cannot respect Bharat Mata, how will it respect women?

Our Government started thinking about the health of the poor and middle class when we initiated the Swachh Bharat Mission. Continuing that effort, we expanded the coverage of toilets in every household and progressed further by establishing Jan Aushadhi Centres to provide good quality and affordable healthcare through cheaper medicines. The beginning of the Ujjwala Yojana brought relief to our poor sisters in villages who were facing difficulties cooking food. This initiative is on track to achieve its objectives within the stipulated timeframe. Coupled with these efforts is the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, often referred to as the "gem" among these schemes, where beneficiaries need only to verify their identity to access healthcare benefits for their families. This has allowed them to see the Government stand by them in their times of hardship, such as providing assistance for dialysis for kidney disease and determining the amount for knee transplant operations. These efforts in the healthcare sector have been diverse and impactful.

With just 1 rupee, Suraksha has provided security to millions of families across the country.

Our Government is committed to building New India with determination. The country has, for the first time, received a Prime Minister who, in 5 years, has not taken a single day off from his office and works for 18 hours a day. Those who oppose him are people who disappear for many days in a year without the country knowing where they are. However, the country is wondering who will lead us forward. Today, the entire Opposition is attempting to deceive the unity of 2019; they are unable to present any issue to the country other than defeating Hon. Mr. Modi. In today's circumstances, where the current Government has lifted the country from poverty and helplessness to a position of development comparable to other nations in the world, the citizens of this country have established a distinct identity. What plan does the Opposition have to place India ahead in the series of developed nations in such circumstances? What is their program? The Opposition is unable to provide any concrete address for that.

In such circumstances, I have confidence that the people of the country, for their own welfare and in honour of Bharat Mata, will reject the supporters of division and show them their rightful place. Acknowledging the clarity of the current government's actions, its genuine intentions, and unwavering leadership under Hon. Narendra Modi, the nation will entrust the helm securely into his hands for the coming years. In these circumstances, I support the proposal to express gratitude for the gracious address of the Hon. President.

***DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):** I hold my views on the proposal to express gratitude for the Hon. President Sir's address.

- I have full confidence that under the successful leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, our Government has played a crucial role in areas such as good governance, poverty alleviation, industrial development, social and economic transformation, environmental conservation, rural development, international relations, employment creation, agricultural welfare, non-conventional energy, climate change, and more.
- Whether it's the field of tourism, new social initiatives, human resource development, energy and environmental conservation and management, financial discipline, resource mobilisation, or improvements in management systeSushri Hon. Prime Minister Modi has demonstrated his vision, planning ability, leadership, and remarkable efficiency in all sectors.
- I have always believed that any ambitious plan requires a vision and mission. Success depends on how effectively these two can be coordinated. Over the past four and a half years, our

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Government has established a distinctive coordination between these two aspects, enabling the realisation of the dream of building a prosperous nation.

- We take pride in being at the forefront of the world's fastest-growing economy, with an average growth rate of 7.3 percent over the past five years; simultaneously, we have succeeded in becoming a focal point for global investments.
- There has been an unprecedented success in controlling inflation by stabilising the inflation rate to as low as 4.7 percent.
- The country boasts a record-breaking foreign currency reserve of 405 billion dollars, reflecting the success of our economic policies.
- Recently, Harvard University's Centre for International Development stated in its report that in the coming decade, the Indian economy will remain at the forefront of rapidly growing economies worldwide. The report mentions that there has been significant improvement beyond expectations in India's production capacity.

(Context: May 4, 2018, Economic Times)

- This Address by the Hon. President sheds light on the Government's policy priorities and forthcoming economic plans in a purely objective manner. This provides a comprehensive framework for the Government's social and economic agenda.

- Hon. President's address has made it clear that India is emerging rapidly as a new economic powerhouse on the global stage. Today, India has become the world's 6th largest economy.

- I vividly remember that when the BJP Government was formed in 2014, there was an atmosphere of uncertainty and disillusionment not only in India but across the world. These lines eloquently characterise our successful Prime Minister, who guided the nation towards progress amidst the extremely challenging circumstances of 2014, akin to the meaningful steps taken by Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee -

Obstacles come, let's come

Reduce the gloom of the surrounding doomsday,

Pavon Ke Niche Angarein,

Sir Par Barse Yadi Jwalayein,

Nij Hathoon Mein Hanste Hanste,

Aag Lagakar Jalna Hoga,

We will have to walk in step.

(Embers under their feet, If flames were to rain upon their head, Laughing in my own hands, They must burn by setting fire.)

- After four and a half years, today India presents a new hope, aspiration, enthusiasm, and a fresh zeal on the global stage. Hon. Prime Minister Modi has taken the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" (Collective efforts, Inclusive growth) and effectively communicated a sense of new hope and energy into the hearts of every citizen.

- Economists from top global financial institutions have likened India to an emerging epicentre of growth. A centre that, due to its extraordinary economic growth rate, is attracting everyone towards itself in the global arena. Efforts are now underway to implement the core principle of *Sabka Saath*, *Sabka Vikas* (Collective Support, Inclusive Development) even to the farthest corners of society.

- Today, I am feeling extremely proud as India's contribution to the world GDP has increased from 2.6 percent in 2014 to 3.3 percent.

- According to the latest reports, the Government has created new opportunities for savings while reducing the burden of taxes and maintaining control over inflation rates. It is noteworthy how the tax cuts provided in the budget by our successful Minister of Finance have been appreciated.

- I remember last year when Mr. John Chambers, Chairperson of the USA-India Strategic Partnership Forum, emphasised the necessity for Hon. Prime Minister Modi to be allowed to fulfil his vision for India's impactful growth.

I wish to state that the Government is committed to the holistic development of all, guided by the principle of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah - may all be happy, may all be free from illness. Development should reach every last person in the country, and they should be included in the mainstream of social and economic development. The skilled financial management of the country's economic policies is a

topic of discussion worldwide. Not only our nation but the entire world recognises the prowess of our financial acumen.

- As a result of this inclusiveness, today India has surpassed France to become the world's sixth-largest economy.
- The return of one lakh crore rupees by companies due to fear of insolvency and the bankruptcy code is in itself a highly significant achievement.
- Under the leadership of our successful Hon. Prime Minister, the Government has ensured that there will be no shortage of resources for development.' The departments and ministries that have performed well have been provided with additional resources. The Government has allocated funds for ambitious schemes that have a direct and significant contribution to the country's development, clearly prioritising objectives.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, benefits have been extended to more than 21 crore individuals with low incomes. Under this ambitious scheme, more than Rs. 3100 crore has been distributed.

- I would like to inform my Opposition colleagues that due to our robust economic policies, our fiscal deficit, which was 4.5 percent in the fiscal year 2013-14, had decreased to 3.5 percent by 2018-19.

- The tax revenues increased by 16.8 percent in 2018-19. If we compare the period from April to October of the previous year, there has been a growth rate of 19.5 percent, which is a significant achievement in itself.

- Where cleanliness exists, there resides the presence of God. Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, more than 9 crore toilets have been constructed across the country. In this, the coverage of rural sanitation, which was 40 percent in 2014, has now increased to 98 percent.

- If we had constructed toilets at the pace of our predecessors, it would have taken us more than 16 years, which is approximately four times longer than what we have achieved now.

- It is our Government's priority to ensure that the country reaches the pinnacle of social and economic progress. With emphasis on better infrastructure management, we have built the

fastest-moving vehicle in the country. Whether it is the country's largest sea link, biggest tunnel, Metro Projects, gauge conversion in railways, construction of new airports, connecting through new air routes, or building new waterways, our Government has successfully scripted a new story of development everywhere.

- Under the Smart City Mission, world-class modern facilities are being developed in over 100 cities across the country, which is a record in itself.

- When I was on a trip to Europe, I informed my friends that we transport the entire population of many small countries in our trains every day, additionally, 10 percent of our country's population travelled by air last year, including individuals wearing slippers. Meanwhile, the number of passport offices, which was 77, has increased to 400 today.

- Our Government has been committed to cleaning the Ganga from the very beginning. As of today's date, projects worth more than 25 thousand 500 crores have been sanctioned for this mega campaign. Which presents a vivid picture of our deep faith in Mother Ganga.

- The world-class event at Prayagraj, the place of holy confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, under the leadership of the Hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Yogi Adityanath, is a shining example of the coordination of tradition and modern management by our Government.

- In the year 2014, the cost per G0B0 was Rs. 269 for making Bharat fully digital, which has now decreased to Rs. 19 by the year 2018. This notable shortfall of Rs. 250 is a living testimony to Bharat's success in the field of digital technology.

I want to present some statistics that reflect the efficiency of our Government.

- If we conduct comparative studies across various regions, we will find that the number of airports has increased from 65 to 100 in the last four and a half years.

- In the year 2014, the amount for road construction was 32,483 crore rupees, which has increased to a record 1.16 lakh crore rupees in the year 2017-18.

- It is a matter of great joy that in the year 2013-14, the pace of road construction in the country was 12 km per day, which has now reached a record of over 27 km. When discussing rural

roads, it is 69 K0M0 in 2013-14, which has increased to 134 K0M0 per day in 2017-18.

- There was 55 percent connectivity in the country till March 2014, which has reached a remarkable level of 91 percent today. Connecting pilgrimage sites in the country, 900 km of roads have been constructed at a cost of 12000 crore rupees under the Char Dham Mahayojana. As of August 2018, 90 bridges have already been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 7000 crore.
- Under the same project, a list of 1.72 lakh new old bridges and structures is being prepared.
- The number of train accidents was 118 in the year 2013-14; while making significant progress in rail safety, it has been reduced to 73 accidents. In the fiscal year 2014-15, 2926 km of railway tracks were renewed, while today, this figure stands at 4405 km.
- In the past four and a half years, 140 camps have been organised, during which equipment has been distributed to persons with disabilities. During this period, equipment worth more than Rs. 700 crore was distributed to approximately 12

lakh individuals. Additionally, the other challenges faced by persons with disabilities were also addressed.

- About 1000 government buildings and 650 railway stations have been made accessible by the Government in the last four and a half years under the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan.

- Bharat has given a new direction and leadership to the whole world to protect the environment and tackle the dangers of climate change. The first General Assembly meeting of the International Solar Alliance was not only successfully held, but 71 countries also signed the Framework Memorandum of Understanding.

- Our Government has been of the view that Bharat can achieve social and economic progress only when our borders are secure. By fulfilling the decades-long demand for One Rank One Pension, our Government has disbursed over Rs. 10,700 crore to 20 lakh ex-servicemen across the country.

- While remaining vigilant about our defence requirements, we have entered into agreements with global superpowers in the field of defence; additionally, under the Make in India initiative,

we have ensured domestic manufacturing, thereby taking significant steps towards military self-reliance.

- While strengthening internal security and equipping our police forces, we have also achieved record success in integrating the youth into the mainstream of development in Naxalism and Maoist-affected areas.

- Our Government has given special attention to the fact that space technology should be used for the people today. I am very happy that with the hard work of our scientists, Bharat (ISRO) has set a world record by launching 104 satellites along with 6 other countries. By the year 2022, ISRO is working day and night under Mission Gaganyaan to send three people to space. I have full confidence that in the coming four years, we will be able to proudly declare that, like Russia and the United States of America, we have sent our astronauts to space.

- Today, the United States of America is a global leader because it is home to some of the world's best and most prestigious universities. The Government is setting up new higher educational institutions to make Bharat an economic and social superpower. In the country today...

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Kendriya Vidyalaya and 62 Navodaya Vidyalayas are being established. The number of fellowships has been increased by 25 percent while promoting research in the country. Apart from this, Eklavya Residential School and 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established in every tribal taluka. 5000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been set up to promote innovation to improve the standard of education.

- Today, the system of transparency, accountability and responsible monitoring that we have established in our economic policies has yielded pleasant results. We have overtaken the United States of America as the largest foreign investment destination in the world. I would like to mention here that in the last five years, 239 billion dollars in investment has come to Bharat. For the first time in the last 20 years, we

have outpaced stalwarts like the United States of America and China in terms of foreign investment over these past five years, marking a significant achievement.

- In its report, the Economist and UOBOS Investment Bank have stated that foreign investment in Bharat over the next five years is projected to reach a record 75 billion dollars.
- This is nothing short of a pleasant surprise for Bharat, which is longing for investment.
- We have jumped thirty places in the Ease of Doing Business index. ... And decisive steps have been taken for Corporate Bond Market development.
- It is a matter of great pride and joy for all of us that today the country is at the 77th position from the 130th position.
- In world history, this is possibly the first time that a country has made such significant progress as a result of economic Ms.
- In order to connect the backward, poor and downtrodden people of the country with the mainstream of economic development, accounts of 33.30 crore people have been opened in which 80 thousand 674 crore rupees have been deposited.

- While all these account holders get health insurance facilities up to one lakh, they get overdrafts up to five thousand rupees.

- Direct account transfer has resulted in savings of more than Rs. 90 thousand crore, which is a living example of transparency and financial discipline of the Government.

- In our electoral campaign, Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has, under the Ujjwala Yojana, provided clean fuel to our mothers and sisters in impoverished families across the nation by distributing gas to six crore 36 lakh 54 thousand people in 715 districts. The goal is set to open three thousand Jan Aushadhi Centres to make generic medicines available to poor people. This will not only help in controlling pollution but also protect the poor women of our country from eye diseases.

- Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Banaras said "*Our nation, our Government, our banks are all for the poor*. " In fact, every word of it is reflected in the schemes of the Government.

- We were accused of having demonetisation and GST have a negative impact on our Indian economy. In an attempt to

spread misinformation, it has been suggested that the progress of our nation has halted; however, I wish to state unequivocally that this assertion is entirely erroneous. The economic policies of our Government are based on the integral nationalism of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, and then we advocate empowering and strengthening the States. In the words of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, The human group living in Bharat and having a sense of compassion towards it is a mass... Their life system, art, literature, and philosophy are all Indian culture; hence, this culture is the basis of Indian nationalism. India will remain united only if there is loyalty to the culture. ... When the philosophy of the rulers of the country, their values, and their rites are so great, then there is no question of bias with anyone on caste, creed, religion and social aspect.

- World economic experts are comparing Bharat to a shining centre. Efforts are now underway to implement the core principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas (Collective Support, Inclusive Development) even to the farthest corners of society. Our opposition colleagues accuse us of bias to create obstacles in the path of development, but I wish to convey to my

colleagues that our Government is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that the benefits of the Government's welfare schemes reach every individual in the nation. Be it the Jan-Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Saubhagya Yojana, or Mudra Bank Yojana, we have made efforts to connect every citizen of the country with the mainstream of economic development, and we have also had success in it.

- More than 7 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned to more than 14.5 crore people to end unemployment and develop new enterprises in the country. The most heartening thing is that 76 percent of the beneficiaries are women, and 50 percent belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

- Commencing the initiative on November 20, 2016, the Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Modi pledged to ensure a roof over every individual by 2022. 1.53 crore houses have been constructed by the Government under this scheme. The construction process is being monitored through space technology and information technology by providing assistance through direct transfer to the accounts of beneficiaries. These

houses have access to toilets, LPG connections and clean drinking water.

- I am extremely happy and proud to say that the Fourth Industrial Revolution is playing a decisive role. Today we have become the second largest country in the world in manufacturing mobile phones. Asia's largest technology zone has been established in Andhra Pradesh. In view of the defence requirements of the country, two world-class defence corridors are being set up in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, which is a remarkable achievement in itself. All modern facilities will be provided in Vande Mataram Express, the country's largest high-speed train.

- Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the country initiated the Make in India campaign on September 25, 2014, with the aim of ensuring production in Bharat across 25 sectors, emphasising the Swadeshi Movement. Under this scheme, it is planned to encourage domestic production in various sectors, including space, defence, media, logistics, and aviation.

- Innovative efforts like Vibrant Gujarat, Happening Haryana, Magnetic Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand Investors Summit are promoting Make in India. Bharat jumped 32 places in the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum and has improved by 19 places in the Logistics Efficiency Index. Today, while new opportunities have been created in Bharat due to Make in India, the country is known as the global design and manufacturing hub due to skill development.

- The Government is committed to making the country the global capital of skill development under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

- More than 13 thousand training centres have been opened in Bharat for skill development, in which training is being imparted in 375 trades.

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana in the country, more than one crore youth will be trained for skill development.

- A road is being constructed in Uttarakhand, known as the 'All-Weather Road,' at a cost exceeding 12000 crores, which is a commendable step.

- Under the UDAN Scheme, 19 new airports have been constructed in the Eastern Bharat region, out of which 5 are located in the Northeast. The people of the border and inaccessible areas will get a lot of convenience from these airports.

- All railway lines in the North-East have been converted into broad gauge. The Government is making efforts to improve rail connectivity in the North-East for which work is underway on 15 new rail lines. The total cost of these works is Rs. 50,000 crores.

- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a visionary and great thinker of independent Bharat, stated, and I quote, *A nation is a group of people who live with a goal, an ideal, and a mission and see a particular land as their motherland. If either the ideal or the motherland disappears, a nation cannot be possible.*

- I am drawing the attention of the Government to various aspects of the Indian economy because today we stand

at a turning point in history from where we see the best of Bharat being built. After demonetisation and GST, all kinds of allegations were levelled against us.

- The intentions of our opposition friends, who described GST and demonetisation as a waste of business, were dashed when the public did not come under their illusion. The overwhelming public support received by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in various States of the country is, in fact, strong support for the economic policies of the Modi Government.

- The World Bank, in its report to the meeting recently said that demonetisation and GST have played the role of a catalyst in the Indian economy..

- Due to the economic reforms in the present Government, we see the results, which seemed unimaginable. Moody's Investors Service has upgraded Bharat's credit rating from BA1 to BAA3, a development that has occurred after 13 years. Moody's has acknowledged the government's economic commitment, citing falling inflation and a declining deficit in the Indian economy.

- While all this has been possible due to GST, demonetisation, digitalization and Aadhaar linkages, it is a happy result of our government's efforts to strengthen financial institutions.

- It is the result of our efficient economic policies that this year our direct tax collection has reached Rs. 12 lakh crores. While the target for FY 2019-20 is 13.80.

- The tax has been accepted without any scrutiny in 99.54 percent of the cases in the country.

- Our Government has given this exemption to middle-class people by giving an exemption of up to five lakhs to individual taxpayers. Further, there will be a rebate of Rs. 50 thousand in lieu of Rs. 40 thousand as a standard deduction so far. The move will benefit over three crores of taxpayers. Now bank interest up to 40 thousand rupees will be exempted, as earlier this amount was 10 thousand rupees.

- In order to promote indigenous cattle breeds in the country, Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog has been established for the protection and promotion of Gau Mata. Our Government has allocated Rs. 750 crores under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

- Under the P0M Shram Yogi Maan Yojana, a pension of Rs. 3000 will be given to workers in the unorganised sector after the age of 60 years. For this, a contribution of only 100 rupees per month will be required. Approximately 10 crore workers will benefit from this scheme.

- According to the membership records of the EPFO, employment has been provided to two crore individuals over the past two years. All this has been made possible under the rapidly increasing growth rate, which has created an environment conducive to the country's development.

- There has been a historic increase in the number of registered enterprises. Since the implementation of GST, over one crore enterprises have been registered, whereas only 66 lakh enterprises were registered from Independence until now.

- With the implementation of GST, toll collection at State borders has been eliminated, saving significant time for trucks and providing tremendous benefits to the logistics sector.

- India has been liberated from the era of inspector raj. There is no longer any scope for unnecessary interference by any individual in this system.

- Everything from filing returns to refunds is done online.

- The Government has always respected public sentiments while successfully addressing the challenges arising from the implementation of GST and establishing a transparent, accountable system across the country in line with the fundamental principles of GST. It is the sensitivity of our Government and commitment to the common citizen that we have made positive changes in GST rates from time to time.

- Where we have reduced the price of essential insulin for diabetes patients from 12 percent to 5 percent, we have also reduced the GST rate on exercise books and notebooks from 18 percent to 5 percent. The GST rate on biogas is 5 percent, while the rates on various types of processed food items have been reduced from 18 percent to 12 percent.

- The GST rate on printing and job work on leather has been reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent. The GST rate on computers and school bags, benefiting students, has been reduced from 28 percent to 18 percent. Most commonly used

items by the general public are taxed at a GST rate of 5 percent.

● Under this ambitious scheme, each farmer will receive 6,000 rupees per year in three installments. This assistance will be given to those farmers who own up to two hectares of agricultural land. Under this scheme of 75,000 crore rupees, 12 crore farmers will benefit.

● Under the visionary leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, our Government is committed to ensuring electricity reaches every household in the country. Under this initiative, a plan has been devised to bring electricity to more than four crore households currently without access to power.

● Until 2014, around 2.5 crore families had to live in darkness. Our Government has set a target to provide electricity to every household by March 2019.

● To ensure electrification in all villages across the country, electricity has been provided under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

● Under this crucial scheme, electricity connections have been provided in remote, border, and challenging terrain

villages, achieving 100 percent electrification in 597,464 villages by our Government.

● If we prioritise the government's initiatives, the highest allocation is being directed towards the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, which is focusing on subsidising urea for the benefit of farmers. This demonstrates that our Government is fully committed to ensuring an uninterrupted supply of fertilisers for the welfare of the country's farmers, who are the providers of food security.

● By the year 2022, we are committed to doubling the income of our farmers.

● The government's decision to provide farmers with one and a half times the cost of their crops has instilled new energy and enthusiasm among the country's farmers.

● Neem-coated urea has been introduced to control the black market of urea, ensuring ample availability of urea to farmers in sufficient quantities.

● For the first time, institutional credit in the agriculture sector has been allocated a substantial amount of 11.68 lakh crore rupees.

● Farmers affected by natural disasters will receive a two percentage point interest subsidy on loans, and if they repay their loans on time, they will receive an additional three percentage point interest subsidy.

● Livestock and fish farmers borrowing loans through the Kisan Credit Card will receive a 2 percent interest subsidy.

● The Kamdhenu Yojana has been initiated for livestock farmers.

● To increase farmers' income, the MSP for 22 crops will be determined to be at least 50 percent higher than the cost of production.

● Our Government has introduced transparency for the first time in providing resources for the quality and safety of rail services. In the fiscal year 2018-19, a provision of one lakh 48 thousand 528 crore rupees was allocated for the railway sector.

● An international-level institute is being established in Vadodara to train world-class human resources for the railway sector in the country.

● Our Government has, for the first time, selected 600 railway stations for redevelopment purposes.

● The country will acquire 700 locomotives and 1,200 waggons.

● More than 4,000 km of new rail tracks have been commissioned.

● I was recently on a trip to European countries. I told my European friends that we transport many more people by rail in a single day than the population of several European countries. It is known that more than 2.0 crore people travel daily on Indian Railways.

● The roads of any nation are its lifelines. For the progress, development, and prosperity of a nation, it is crucial to strengthen its highways, especially the national highways. Economic revolution in the country is only possible when our roads are in good condition.

● Under Bharatmala Phase-1, a new comprehensive program with multi-modal integration has been formulated for the national highway sector, amounting to 5 lakh 35 thousand crore rupees.

● Under the Setu Bharatam Project launched in 2019, a fund of 20 thousand 800 crore rupees has been allocated to build railway overbridges and underpasses to eliminate railway crossings on national highways for safer roads.

● I am pleased to note that in my home State of Uttarakhand, an all-weather road spanning approximately 900 km is being constructed, connecting the Char Dham pilgrimage sites at a cost of 12,000 crore rupees.

● While an expenditure of 32,483 crore rupees was incurred in the year 2013-14, it was increased more than threefold to one lakh 16 thousand 324 crore in the year 2017-18.

● The average speed of rural road construction, which was 69 km per day in 2013-14, has now reached 134 km per day.

● Today, under the promise of affordable air travel for every citizen, the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Scheme has been launched.

● It is a matter of great joy and pride that while there were 75 operational airports in the country after Independence, an additional 25 airports have been added since then.

● It is being provisioned to facilitate a one-hour journey at just 2,500 rupees to enhance regional connectivity, ensuring better utilisation of underutilised and lesser-used airports.

● India has emerged as the third largest aviation market in the world.

● For the first time, citizens of the country are travelling in aeroplanes instead of AC coaches of the train.

● In the past three years, there has been an increase of 18 to 20 percent in passenger traffic.

● Our Government is committed to using hydroelectric power for national development.

● In the last 30 years, five national waterways were developed, whereas in the past four years, 106 additional waterways have been developed. Under the Sagarmala Project, work is being carried out on more than 500 projects involving investments of over 8 lakh crore rupees.

● The capacity of all major ports in the country has improved significantly, and the average turnaround time has improved significantly.

● From April to December 2017, the average turnaround time for all ports improved from 73 to 65 hours.

● Comparison with the previous year shows an increase of 11 percent in the operational surplus of major ports.

● Our Government is committed to rural development and believes that the development of villages and consequently the nation can be achieved through the empowerment of women. 27 thousand 584 crore rupees have been allocated for women and child welfare.

● A record expenditure of 60 thousand crore rupees has been allocated for MNREGA. I understand that the intention of the Government was to allocate the highest funding in this scheme with the aim of alleviating poverty.

● Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, our Government is well aware that a healthy India is essential for building a better India. To realise the vision

of a healthy India, it is essential that we take care of the health of the people of the country.

● Under Ayushman Bharat, we have provided health insurance to 50 crore citizens, offering the world's largest health protection cover.

● In the direction of establishing one medical college in every three parliamentary constituencies, 24 new medical institutes have been established in the country.

● Knee replacement has become more affordable in the country. The operation costing one and a half lakh rupees can now be conducted for just 54 thousand rupees under our Government.

● Admission to medical education has been ensured in a transparent manner under NEET.

● The Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana has proven to be a lifeline for the poor, as generic medicines are being made available at affordable rates under this scheme.

● Under the leadership of our successful Hon. Prime Minister, the Government has ensured that there will be no

shortage of resources for development. The departments and ministries that have performed well have been provided with additional resources. The Government has clearly set priorities for the country's development and allocated funds for ambitious schemes that have a direct and significant contribution to the nation's progress.

● The expenditure on the country's development plan indicates that the nation is progressing rapidly and shining brightly on the global stage like a brilliant star.

● Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, during his visit to Banaras, said, “Our nation, our Government, our banks are all for the poor." In fact, every word of it is reflected in the schemes of the Government.

● We were accused of having demonetisation and GST have a negative impact on our Indian economy. There has been an attempt to mislead people into believing that the country's development has stalled, but I want to assert that this is completely false. Our government's economic policies are based on P. O. Deendayal Upadhyay's concept of Integral Humanism, and we advocate for empowering and strengthening the States.

In the words of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, "The human group living in Bharat and having a sense of compassion towards it is a mass... Their life system, art, literature, and philosophy are all Indian culture; hence, this culture is the basis of Indian nationalism. India will remain united only if there is loyalty to the culture. ... When the philosophy of the rulers of the country, their values, and their rites are so great, then there is no question of bias with anyone on caste, creed, religion, and social aspect."

- Economic experts of the world are comparing India to a shining centre. Efforts are now underway to implement the core principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas (Collective Support, Inclusive Development) even to the farthest corners of society.

- I am drawn to various aspects of the Indian economy because today we are at a historical juncture where we are witnessing the building of the greatest India, the pinnacle of excellence. After demonetisation and GST, all kinds of allegations were levelled against us. Development policies have become a satire. In Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, the public has shown immense support and endorsed Prime Minister Modi's development-orientated thinking. I was actively involved

in the Gujarat election campaign, where our opposition friends were propagating that GST and demonetisation were disastrous steps for business. Their plans fell through when the public did not buy into their misconceptions. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has received overwhelming public support for the economic policies of the Modi Government.

● I want to tell my friends that due to our strong economic policies, our fiscal deficit, which was 4.5 percent in the fiscal year 2013-14, has come down to 3.5 percent by 2018-19.

● The tax revenues increased by 16.8 percent in 2018-19. If we compare this year's April to October period with the same period last year, there has been a growth rate of 19.5 percent, which in itself is a significant achievement.

● I wish to state that the Government is committed to the holistic development of all, guided by the principle of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah - may all be happy, may all be free from illness. Development should reach every last person in the country, and they should be included in the mainstream of social and economic development. The adept financial management of the country's economic policies is

being discussed worldwide. Not just the country, but the entire world is recognising our financial acumen.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a visionary and great thinker of independent Bharat, stated, and I quote, "A nation is a group of people who live with a goal, an ideal, and a mission and see a particular land as their motherland. If either the ideal or the motherland disappears, a nation cannot be possible."

● Expressing gratitude for today's speech by the President, I would like to draw Hon. Prime Minister's attention specifically towards the enchanting land of Uttarakhand, where there are immense possibilities for development in every sector. Uttarakhand, the sacred land of India, is a source of pride for the nation, and I humbly request your special attention for its comprehensive development.

● Special strategies are needed for agriculture and horticulture to bring about social and economic changes in Himalayan States including Uttarakhand. Financial packages are required to establish special missions under which special attention can be focused on increasing production, storage, processing, and marketing in organic farming and horticulture.

● I want to demand from the government that steps should be taken towards giving an industrial package to the state to bring the industrial development in Uttarakhand back on track. The industrial package provided by the Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the year 2003 yielded positive results in the State. However, prematurely ending this package halted the pace of development there completely. I propose that in matters of resource allocation, we should align closely with the North-Eastern States, considering our similarities in challenges and geographical conditions.

● As is known, in the year 2013, there was a devastating flood in the Kedarnath Valley, causing immense hardship to the local residents who could not escape its impact. The socio-economic life of the regional people was completely destroyed by this horrific tragedy. Where thousands lost their lives in this disaster, the tourism industry, considered the backbone of the region's economy, suffered severe damage. A loss of approximately 12,000 crore rupees has been estimated solely in the tourism sector. The Asian Development Bank has estimated damages to infrastructure exceeding 1,800 crore rupees. Today,

the situation is that a similar situation has prevailed in the area even after two years. Hon. Minister, Prime Minister, and you have had a close association with the land of Kedarnath. The Prime Minister's initiation of the reconstruction of the Kedarnath Temple is inspiring great enthusiasm throughout Uttarakhand. You have a close relationship with Kedar Bhumi. Even after the disaster, you came especially to Uttarakhand to participate actively in relief efforts.

● My request is for an economic package to be provided for the integrated development of the entire Kedarnath Valley and other disaster-affected regions. Special steps should be taken to revive the tourism industry in this region, along with forgiving farmers' debts. For this, it would be appropriate for the Central Government to prepare a special package. I am fully confident that the Government will consider my demand sympathetically so that the pain endured by the suffering public can be alleviated.

● I humbly request the Minister to allocate funds in the upcoming budget for the following organisations.

- As the Government is aware, strategically, Uttarakhand state is rich in biodiversity. Here, there is extensive potential for pharmaceutical education and research. The establishment of a pharmaceutical education and research institution in the IDPL campus (NIPER) will prove to be a milestone. Since the Indian Institute of Ayurveda is also established nearby, collaborative use of expensive resources can be utilised effectively for pharmaceutical development. NIPER, IDPL, and AIIMS together can provide an education- and research-orientated ecosystem. Furthermore, as is known, the entire Himalayan region, including Uttarakhand, is a central hub of biodiversity with immense potential in its medicinal plants, horticulture, and forestry. In this context, there are strong possibilities for pharmaceutical research and production based on medicinal plants here. There is a need to focus on indigenous research and products in the country today. The proposed institution should conduct in-depth research on the following subjects:

- Scientific research methodologies,
- Tropical Medicines
- Clinical research

- Medicinal Plant Research
- Manufacture and marketing of herbal products
- I respectfully request the Government to establish a herbal research institute in the Haridwar region, owing to the vast potential of medicinal herbs in the Himalayan region. The establishment of this institute will foster entrepreneurial development in this specialised field within the region. The establishment of any new institution would require land and new buildings. If it is affiliated with AIIMS Rishikesh or Ayurveda University, it will definitely help in creating a conducive environment for research and education.
- In the budget for the fiscal year 2014-15, the Minister of Finance allocated 100 crore rupees for the Himalayan Studies Centre. The approval of this unique and innovative institution based in the Himalayas was widely welcomed across the country. I firmly believe that the proposed institution to be established in Uttarakhand will play a crucial role in structurally developing in alignment with the complexities of Himalayan ecology. Unfortunately, progress in establishing this institution has not proceeded as expected. Even after more than a year has

passed, the definite outline of this initiative is not yet apparent to us.

● If a coordinated development plan had been implemented for Kedarnath, Jammu & Kashmir, and Nepal, a significant reduction in loss of life and property could have been achieved. Developed countries experience significantly less economic damage from disasters of similar magnitude. In such a situation, it is imperative to urgently establish a Himalayan Study Centre in the country.

● The Himalayas serve as a water tower for the entire Indian subcontinent, directly providing food security to around two hundred million people.

● Hon. Minister, I humbly request you expedite the establishment of a Himalayan Study Centre, considering the region's strategic importance and sensitivity. Connecting it with all domestic and international Himalayan research institutions will enable realisation of sustainable development aligned with Himalayan ecology.

● I wish to draw the government's attention to a crucial irrigation scheme in my constituency, which has been pending

for quite some time. Haridwar district is renowned nationwide for its agricultural production. The completion of this irrigation scheme will benefit hundreds of villages across my parliamentary constituency, including Jhabreda, Kaliyar, Bhagwanpur, and Haridwar, improving the economic condition of farmers and boosting agricultural production in the region. Therefore, I urge the Government to expedite the construction of the ambitious Ikbalpur Canal Project in Haridwar district, with a budget of 600 crore rupees allocated to my parliamentary constituency.

- As is known, the Eco Task Force is a joint initiative of the Indian Government's Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Defence, aimed at protecting environmentally sensitive areas and raising awareness among local communities about environmental conservation from a strategic perspective. Furthermore, this is an excellent means to ensure honourable resettlement for our brave soldiers who have dedicated their entire lives to serving the nation after their retirement.

- Currently, the Eco Task Force has deployed four battalions across Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Jammu &

Kashmir, leaving an indelible impact on environmental conservation as well as the social and economic lives of the regions. I believe that additional battalions of the Eco Task Force should be immediately established for all Himalayan states of the country. No other organisation possesses the expertise, capability, and operational skill required for environmental protection in remote and highly challenging areas as the Eco Task Force does. This will provide our former soldiers with respectable employment opportunities both physically and mentally in these States. I believe that in order to enhance transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in establishing the Eco Task Force, an effective action plan should be developed to coordinate with State Governments. This plan should facilitate mutual cooperation between forest department officials under state Governments, forestry universities, and agriculture department officials. This collaboration can lead to more productive efforts in environmental conservation.

- I would also request that local citizens, forest panchayats, and voluntary organisations be included in the awareness

activities of the Eco Task Force to give concrete shape to the concept of regional coordinated development.

● I am fully confident that necessary actions will be taken to establish battalions of the Eco Task Force in all Himalayan states to address the strategic, sensitive, and rehabilitation needs of soldiers in the Himalayan region.

● Haridwar is the capital of yoga, spirituality, and faith for the entire world. In the presence of the sacred Ganga, millions of people from across the country and abroad come here on various festivals and during the Kumbh Mela, out of devotion. People spend millions to gain information about the Ganga. In such a situation, an international museum based on the Ganga should be established in Haridwar.

● Today, our Hon. Prime Minister has united the entire world for yoga. International Yoga Day is celebrated globally on June 21. Today, 177 countries are connected with yoga, and there is a global attraction towards yoga, which is a living example of India's growing influence.

● Haridwar is not only the gateway to the Devbhoomi Uttarakhand but also the spiritual capital of the world. Rishikesh

and Haridwar are centres of faith and the venues for the world's largest religious and spiritual fair, the Kumbh Mela. Additionally, they serve as the entrance to Rajaji National Park, a centre for Ayurvedic medicines, and the heartland of socio-economic transformation for the entire Uttarakhand. During festivals, approximately 25 to 30 lakh devotees from around the world visit daily. Millions of people come to Haridwar to bathe in the sacred Ganga on various festivals. Lakhs of people start their Punya Yatra from Haridwar as the gateway to the Char Dham Yatra.

- Due to the lack of transport infrastructure in the Haridwar area, there is a jam for hours. It takes hours to reach Haridwar from Rishikesh due to the jam. During festivals and the Kumbh Mela, the situation worsens, causing significant inconvenience to tourists and locals alike. In such a scenario, the introduction of a metro/monorail between Haridwar and Rishikesh will not only strengthen the transportation system in the area but also help establish it as an excellent tourist centre on the world map.

- When the state of Uttarakhand was formed in 2000, there was strong opposition to including Haridwar and Udham Singh

Nagar in Uttarakhand. I am extremely pleased that, through my tireless efforts, the then Prime Minister, the late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, paved the way for these two districts to be included in Uttarakhand. Today, when I see my dreams blossoming and flourishing in Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar, I feel immense joy and pride. The wave of development that has flowed through these two districts in the past five years has been unprecedented since independence.

● In my parliamentary constituency of Haridwar, millions of people are employed in government, semi-government, and SIDCUL's private industries, which is a remarkable achievement in itself. In the past five years, the direct individual benefits received in the Haridwar Lok Sabha constituency have surpassed those received in the past 70 years.

● Be it the Jan Dhan Yojana, the Ujjwala Yojana, the electricity connection scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, the distribution of equipment to the differently-abled, or the interest-free loans to poor farmers, millions of people have benefited from these central schemes.

● The following significant schemes have been implemented in the Haridwar region:

● Rs. 12,500 crores have been allocated for the Char Dham Yatra route.

● For the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag railway line, an amount of Rs. 16,500 crores has been approved.

● An economic assistance of Rs. 24 crores has been provided from the Prime Minister's Discretionary Fund, enabling timely treatment for the poor, destitute, and backward class people.

● The Jolly Grant Airport is being expanded at a cost of Rs. 500 crores.

● The Deoband-Roorkee via Jhabrera railway line has been approved with a cost of Rs. 900 crores.

● After Varanasi, Haridwar is the second city in the country where, for safety reasons, the electrical lines are being placed underground at a cost of Rs. 600 crores.

● The Indian Government's company GAIL has allocated 600 crores to extend gas pipeline networks to every household in Haridwar, like drinking water.

● Several hundred crores have been sanctioned for more than 9 bridges on the highway between Bhagwanpur and Haridwar.

● A tunnel has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 90 crores on the Roorkee-Dehradun national highway near Dot Kali in record time, benefiting millions of commuters in that area.

● The Ministry of Railways is constructing 6 overbridges in the Haridwar region, benefiting millions of people in areas such as Iqbalpur, Dhadhera, Roorkee, and Laksar.

● Several thousand crores are being spent on the Roshanabad, Biharigarh, and Haridwar-Dehradun national highways.

● In my parliamentary constituency of Haridwar, several thousand crores have been allocated under the ambitious Namami Gange scheme for Ganga cleanliness.

● Under the MP Local Area Development Fund, tasks amounting to Rs. 14.5 crores have been completed, and projects worth Rs. 9.5 crores are proposed.

● Under the Pradhan Mantri Amrit Yojana, 2.5 lakh people have benefited.

● Under the Ujjwala Yojana, more than one lakh gas connections have been allocated against a target of 1.75 lakh gas connections in Haridwar.

● Several crores have been approved for the construction of the Haridwar-Purquazi national highway.

Once again, I would like to thank the Hon. President for his address and express my hope that, with the foresight, dedication, hard work, and commitment of our Government, the vision of a prosperous and supreme India envisioned by the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be realised. It is our great fortune that under the esteemed leadership of the Prime Minister, India is once again on the path to becoming a world guru. With these lines from our esteemed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's poem, I would like to conclude my speech:

Saugandh Mujhe Is Mitti Ki,

Main Desh Nahin Mitne Dunga.

Main Desh Nahin Jhukne Dunga.

Wo Jitne Andhere Layenge,

Main Utne Ujale Launga.

Wo Jitni Raat Badhayenge,

Main Utne Suraj Ugaunga.

Is Chal Fareb Ki Aandhi Mein,

Main Deep Nahin Bujhne Dunga.

Saugandh Mujhe Is Mitti Ki,

Main Desh Nahin Mitne Dunga.

(I swear by this soil, I will not let the country perish. I will not let the country bow down. The more darkness they bring, the lighter I will bring. The more the night they're going to spend, The more suns I will rise. In this storm of deceit and treachery, I will not let the lamp extinguish. I swear by this soil, I will not let the country perish.)

Thank you.

[English]

***DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** This is the most wonderful five years India has seen since independence. Hon. Rahstrapati ji has narrated several developments taken place in last five years.

I would like to add that India is the first country, the Modi Government has taken a clear and strong stand against so-called "Ponzi" cryptocurrency Bitcoin which was quoted at 13000 dollars has gone down to 3000 dollars in just few months. The Hon. Finance Minister has come out openly and stated Bitcoin/cryptocurrency is a Ponzi. The Reserve Bank and the Government of India has gone on record that it is illegal in India.

The Government's commitment to curb the Ponzi scheme is needed to be acknowledged. The new Act would be a further step in that direction. I suggest for more steps to finish the so-called Bitcoins/Cryptocurrency scheme and it would be welcomed. The Government appointed Committee must come out with final report and recommend that it is illegal, ponzi, used

* Speech was laid on the Table.

for money laundering and gambling. The so-called Cryptocurrency is nothing but a scam and indulging in Cryptocurrency must be declared criminal offence.

With regards.

[Translation]

***SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA (JUNAGADH):** The Hon. President's address was an expression of the nation's hopes and aspirations and the steps taken in that direction. Through his speech, the Hon. President emphasised how far we have come in achieving our goal of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" [Inclusive support, inclusive growth], and in support of the motion, I would like to say a few things in this House.

As mentioned in the Hon. President's address, this year marks the 70th anniversary of Constitution Day. This Government has resolved to create a 'New India,' a nation where no one goes hungry and where everyone has access to basic healthcare and education. Over the past four years, we have witnessed rapid growth in India's economy.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Our Government does not believe in merely announcing new schemes to grab headlines and deceive the public. Our Government has performed at the grassroots level and created headlines through its actions.

Where discussions of corruption were prevalent since 2014, now "Ayushman Bharat" is being talked about. We are well aware that the cost of treating illnesses is a burden for poor families. To address this, our Government launched the "Ayushman Bharat Yojana" last year, and as part of the 'Jan Aushadhi Project,' over 4,900 Jan Aushadhi centres have been opened in more than 600 districts across the country, with more than 700 such centres providing medicines at very low prices. This is the pace at which the Government is working. Direct Benefit Transfer is also reaching the poor without any hindrance, resulting in the Government gaining immense trust from the citizens. Improving the lives of every individual is the core mission of this Government.

I would like to point out that an attempt is being made to politicise the issue of farmers. The Government is making efforts to double the income of the country's farmers, a initiative

of its kind undertaken for the first time by any Government. Understanding the needs of the farmers, the Government strives for permanent solutions to their probleSushri This is a priority for the Government.

Under the Ujjwala Yojana, we have provided more than 6 crore gas connections to households so that the health of our mothers, sisters, and daughters is not affected by the smoke from traditional chulhas (stoves). So far, over 6 crore gas connections have been provided under the Ujjwala Yojana.

In the past four years, more than 1 crore houses have been constructed. In contrast, only 25 lakh houses were built in the five years before 2014. The work is for the welfare of the country and should not be subject to any political agenda.

Today, railway lines are being rapidly expanded, port development is being prioritised, gas pipelines are being laid, and fertiliser plants that were previously shut down are being restarted. Millions of homes are being equipped with toilets, and new employment opportunities are being created. The Government will expand gas pipeline-based industries in several

cities of eastern India under the 'Urja Ganga Project,' costing nearly 13 thousand crore rupees.

Whether urban or rural, the Government is striving to strengthen foundational infrastructures related to health. The Government has initiated the Saubhagya Scheme to connect homes with electricity and has endeavoured not only to stop wastage of time but also to prevent misuse of funds.

India is now rapidly moving towards a situation where every household will have electricity and no family will be forced to live in darkness. After decades of efforts, by the year 2014, there were only 12 million gas connections in our country. In just over four years, this Government has connected a total of 13 crore families with gas connections. The benefits of Government schemes are reaching the general public, as originally intended. From fulfilling the basic necessities of life for the poorest of the poor to promoting cleanliness through healthcare, education, kitchen gas, and much more for public welfare.

A significant step has been taken by the Government against black money and corruption. The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has made business easier in every part

of the country. Compared to 3.8 crore people in 2014, more than 6.8 million people have come forward to file income tax returns. Today, taxpayers believe that their money is being spent honestly for nation-building. Only this Government is capable of making such decisions and accomplishing so much within a limited timeframe. Under the Jan Dhan Yojana, more than 31 crore bank accounts have been opened, and more than 18 crore poor people will benefit from the health insurance scheme. The steps taken by the Government have also changed people's way of thinking. The Jan Dhan Yojana has increased the self-confidence of the poor. Now, a poor labourer can carry his bank account with him. This Government has the ability to become a new 'development engine' for the country, and I cannot deny the facts presented by the Hon. President in his speech.

In the past four and a half years, our Government has worked towards the social and economic development of society. This Government is developing the country with the vision of our New India. Mahatma Gandhi spoke about 'Young India,' and our former President Pranab Mukherjee spoke about 'New India.'

No one can deny the fact that under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is becoming stronger. I can confidently state that under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, India will soon emerge as an economic and social superpower. A tremendous economic transformation has taken place, and the comprehensive approach to development adopted by the Government will propel this country to greater heights. The Government is creating a policy environment that is predictable, transparent, and fair. I am fully convinced that the era of change has begun. From despair to hope, a ray of hope has been ignited by the vision of our Hon. Prime Minister.

A vision that brings smiles of satisfaction, respect, and honour to every Indian face, but to achieve this, each of us must contribute to nation-building and keep our dreams of a united India alive.

With this thought, I express my gratitude to the Hon. President for his address delivered jointly to both Houses in the combined sitting on 29th January 2019.

Thank you very much.

[English]

***SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** I wish to pay my respect and reverence to our leader Pruatchi Thalaivi AMMA before I place my views on the Motion of Thanks for the President's Address 2019.

The Hon. President has listed several important landmark achievements of the Government but also forget to mention about certain critical needs of the productive and high income generating States like Tamil Nadu.

The Hon. President has emphasized that by providing electricity connection to every household, the Government is illuminating the life of each person. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana', 2 crore and 47 lakh homes have been provided electricity connection. The Union Government should provide all the necessary support for power producing states like Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu though a power surplus state has been suffering from the power shortage to cater the needs of several industrial corridors and central government establishments in Tamil Nadu. The Government has to allocate more power to

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Tamil Nadu keeping in view of the additional power demands in the coming years.

The Hon. President has praised the Government for working hard towards realization of the dreams and aspirations of all the sections. The effort of the Government is to increase the income of the hard working middle class and provide avenues for investment to further augment their incomes. In reality the MSMEs and SMEs in the country are suffering a lot because of the tough norms for payment of GST immediately after the billing. The SMEs are caught sandwiched between the payment of Bank interest and GST even before the realization of their amount from the customer.

We are all aware that if our Divyang persons are provided assistance to ameliorate their physical difficulties, they can achieve new heights on their own. After formation of my Government in 2014, following the vision of Atalji, efforts were made with full sensitivity to solve the problems of Divyangjans. In the past four-and-a-half year the Government has been organising 140 camps on an average every month where Divyangjans are receiving assistive equipments. During this

period, assistive equipments worth Rs. 700 crore have been distributed to about 12 lakh Divyangjans in a fully transparent manner. This is really laudable one, but comparing to the total divyangjan population in the country the efforts taken by the Union Government is very small, lot needs to be done. For this there should be a micro level reddressal system so that divyanjan in every village gets support either through the Central schemes or Schemes of the State Governments or even the camps organized by NGOs supported by CSR funding from Corporate PSUs and Private companies.

The ordeals faced by Divyangjans at railway stations and bus stands while commuting at public buildings, public places have to be erased. I am happy to note that the Government under "Sugamya Bharat abhiyan' has made about 1,000 Government buildings and more than 650 railway stations fully accessible to Divyangjans. Children using sign language in one Sate had to face considerable difficulty due to different types of sign languages while visiting other Sates. In many instances multiple sign languages are being use within a State. Taking note of their difficulty, the Government started working on a uniform sign

language for Divyangjan applicable throughout the country. A dictionary for the Divyangjan with 3,000 words has already been published by the Delhi-based Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre and the work on another dictionary with 3,000 new words is in progress. In addition, the Central Government has made about 100 websites compliant to the needs of Divyangjan. Through the enactment of 'The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016', the Government has provided them with equal opportunity in education, social security and employment. This is a remarkable achievement.

Tragic accidents at unmanned railway crossings have for years been a subject of discussion in our country. This subject has also been raised many times in the Parliament. In 2014, unmanned crossings in the country numbered 8,300. The Government undertook a mission to eliminate unmanned railway crossings, which have now almost been done away with.

Our citizens have to frequently deal with natural calamity of one kind or the other. Every year, there are floods in some districts and drought in others. The Government is fully focused on the management of natural disasters, and the financial

assistance has been more than doubled so that relief work can be performed with full capacity. But the recent cyclonic storms in southern States particularly in Tamil Nadu, the physical efforts taken and financial support provided by the Centre for relief and rehabilitation works is very much less and wanting. The genuine request for the financial support from the Government of Tamil Nadu is mostly unaddressed. This is really sad and the people of Tamil Nadu deserve more from the Centre given the fact that Tamil Nadu is the major contributing state to the central exchequer in the country.

Youth are the greatest strength of our nation. India has the largest number of young people in the world. Under the Kaushal Vikas Abhiyan, in the last four years, on an average one crore youth are being trained every year in different skills. In the coming days, more than 15,000 ITIs, 10,000 Kaushal Vikas Kendras and 600 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Kendras, will play a critical role in developing the skill-set of the country's youth. The role of State Governments in the implementation of this scheme is very crucial.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDARAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI): Hon. Madam Chairperson, on behalf of the Shiv Sena Party, I rise to speak on the President's address, which has been brought forward here for debate. Madam, this is a constitutional and traditional practice.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please. What is happening here?

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Madam, the budget session begins; before that, the Hon. President addresses both Houses. The President's speech accounts for the government's business. I have a slight doubt in my mind. Was the budget session that took place a full-fledged budget or an interim budget? As far as I have read, in the 70-year tenure, interim budgets have been presented 14 times due to upcoming elections. During the tenure of any election, an interim budget is presented to pass expenditures in the House. However, this year's circumstances are distinct. I feel this year's interim budget is like a full budget.

The Hon. President has mentioned all the government's schemes in his address. We also believe that the NDA Government received a very good mandate. As per the rules, the opposition did not even get the opportunity to appoint their

leader. We were very happy during the initial phase of our tenure as a partner of the NDA, but unfortunately, despite being an alliance party, the treatment we receive is akin to what is often referred to as stepmotherly treatment. Consider this Lok Sabha's tenure to be over. There are four working days left in the session, after which the announcement of elections will be made. But I consider it my duty to appreciate the positive aspects. The inaugural declaration of our Prime Minister was 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' [Inclusive support, inclusive growth]. We were together at that time, and we are together today, but why does the situation arise where we have to question whether we will be together tomorrow? It’s something to think about. In our Lok Sabha, we have 18 members, and we have three representatives in the Rajya Sabha. I do not want to dwell on what has happened with us. People on both sides are aware of this matter. Why have we been declining since the initial mandate?

13 58hrs (Dr. P. Venugopal *in the Chair)*

I believe this is a time for introspection. We have done good work, but we have also made mistakes that we should question

ourselves about. This is the experience we have been taking so far. Our colleagues here sincerely wish to stay together in the future. Today, in our Rajya Sabha, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut mentioned when someone asked him why he is still in the Government. He gave a very good response that we are not in the Government; we are in the NDA. When Hon. Shri Atal was there, Shri Advani was still there, the late Shri Pramod Mahajan was there, Shri Gopinath Munde was there, and our Hindu Hriday Samrat Shri Balasaheb Thackeray was there. It was a philosophy of Hindutva on which we came into the NDA. We have been supporting the Government. But it is necessary for you to introspect on whatever situation we are facing.

14 00 hrs

Elections have just taken place in three states. It is also important to consider what happened, what we gained, and why. Even if there are mistakes alongside good work, it is necessary to rectify those mistakes. Unfortunately, we have not gained much experience so far, but efforts are being made to improve. Efforts should definitely be made. There were some things for sure when our Government came; then our Hon. Prime Minister

gave the first slogan, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' [Inclusive support, Inclusive growth]. I have spoken about it. The 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' was a well-conceived slogan, and accordingly, work began on it. It has come out in the President's speech that 40% of toilet construction work was done before the year 2014. There has been a 98% increase in it during our tenure. There has certainly been an increase; there are figures for it, but it is also necessary to see if toilets are being used for toilets or not. Whenever we go to villages, we see that it becomes difficult to use toilets due to the lack of water in homes. Our farmer brothers use it to store grains. You will have to accept this; it's a fact. Until we provide them with adequate water facilities and monitor them properly, it will not be beneficial. This is why we have made this demand, as it is the cause of many illnesses. The objective is good and necessary. Besides this, our mothers and sisters had to sit in the open, which was a matter of disgrace, so it is also necessary for that. If a scheme has been introduced, its monitoring should also be done. What is the problem? It should be seen. Unfortunately, this is not happening. The discussion of Ujjwala Yojana is going on. Large boards are placed above

every petrol pump. Gas has been provided to 14 crore families. Whether these figures are correct or wrong, I do not want to delve into. But my experience is that there is also a tribal area in my constituency. Sometimes we distribute gas cylinders through our Forest Department or through petroleum companies. First, the gas cylinder is available. Second, the gas cylinder is not available, or there are no conditions to take them. This also needs to be seen... (Interruptions) If we provide gas cylinders and stoves, we need to ensure whether they are being used or not. In many places, our observation is that it is not being effectively implemented. Whether our colleagues like it or not, I don't know, but this reality is known to those who travel in rural areas. I commend 'Ayushman Bharat,' which is the best scheme in the world. Our country is the country of the poor. Sometimes I say that India is a poor country of rich people.

It sounds a bit strange to hear that India is a poor country of rich people. When a list of 50 wealthy individuals is made in the world, India typically has ten people on that list. This means the world perceives India as a wealthy country. However, in our country, there are a select few wealthy individuals, while the rest

are poor, who struggle to afford even two square meals a day. They do not have access to good clothing, cannot afford to educate their children, nor do they have proper shelter over their heads. I believe it is essential to pay attention to these issues as well.

Through Ayushman Bharat, I have seen a glimpse of hope for our poor country. However, I must emphasise that I consider it the world's best scheme if implemented correctly. Every family will receive a facility for treatment worth five lakh rupees every year from the government to deal with illnesses.

It has also been mentioned in the speech of our President that more than ten lakh families have benefited from this in just four months. If this benefit continues, it will alleviate a significant issue faced by our poor families, I believe. The point is that under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, only one rupee per month, totalling 12 rupees annually, provides insurance coverage of two lakh rupees in 12 rupees, or 90 paise per day, which amounts to 333 rupees if a family contributes annually. If the head of the family dies or becomes disabled for any reason,

the family will receive two lakh rupees under both schemes. The scheme is good, but I haven't seen it implemented properly. However, if it is implemented correctly, we will definitely consider it very good.

Hon. Chairperson, I wish to place one issue before the House, which I consider very important according to my perspective or for the country. In his address, our President stated that demonetisation was a defining moment in the government’s war on corruption and black money. I have a strong objection to this. If our President supports demonetisation or speaks in favour of it in writing, I believe it is absolutely wrong. This is because we announced during the elections that we would bring our black money back. I perceive it as undisclosed income. If big people keep their money abroad to save on taxes, I consider it black money. But in our country, every business operates under a parallel economy. Here, there are large farmers who have 50 or a hundred acres of land, and they have to pay labour in cash, not with checks or by depositing it in their accounts. Those labourers working in building construction have to be paid daily or weekly, necessitating the

holding of cash. Here, small shopkeepers have to pay cash for buying grain from village to village. Those who work in small industries also have to pay in cash. Thus, everyone is required to maintain physical currency in this manner.

They also have to keep cash on hand, so should we consider this as black money? The President, in his address on the night of 8th November 2016 at 8 o'clock, stated that the five hundred and one thousand rupee notes would be withdrawn from circulation. The value of whatever cash everyone had was reduced to zero. As a result, our economy, which was running parallel, faced severe disruptions; neither could the farmer pay his labourers, nor could the small trader pay the farmer who buys grains in his village, nor could the building construction worker pay his labourer. Small industries faced such a situation that they closed down, and this had an impact even on their linkages with large industries.

How this cycle was rotated is evident, and to this day, the country has not been able to recover completely. I did not appreciate this at all; what is wrong must also be acknowledged. One of our Cabinet Ministers mentioned that when we win,

some people take the credit, but when we lose, why don't they say that it was because of them? Similarly, if a mistake was made, it was our mistake, and we should accept it. If there is a mistake, then it is a mistake. Last month, in the Rajya Sabha, in response to a question, Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley himself admitted that there were some mistakes and some haste. He accepted it. Then why did this come up in the President's speech? Praising him is also a very big thing.

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, is the BJP boycotting the Shiv Sena? Only about 10 BJP Members are present. They are the Ruling Party.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions) ... *

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: We have had this behaviour with them. They have always spoken next to us. ... *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray, do not disturb him.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: I want to tell Sougata Ray that when Hon. Shiv Sena Chief formed the Shiv Sena, we didn't ally with BJP to come into power. They formed their own party on their own terms, and our party president, Shri Uddhav, is reiterating the same; we can walk alone, and we will. Therefore, we have never cared about who is with us and who is not. Our Shrimati Mamta is a very good example. The thing is, when we were also in Hon. Shri Atal's Government, we had 15 members. There were four ministers among them; one was the Speaker. We also do not want to compare. But some plans are needed for this country so that when one side is affected by famine, there is a loss due to rain on the other side, so the river connectivity plan was started by our revered Shri Atal. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Sir, today everyone's speech has been completed. Now there are three or four selected parties left. Should we hurry? Today, the budget is not scheduled for presentation. The budget discussions will commence on Monday; tomorrow is Friday, and everyone typically departs by one o'clock. Why worry when we are here with you? They are not with them; they are with you.

They also formed a committee. Our former colleague Shri Suresh Prabhu was made its Chairperson. The aim was very good, like our Hon. Shri Nitin Gadkari, who has done very good work in road development across the country. Even today, everyone appreciates his every question. This river connectivity is just like that. If we want to, through river connectivity, the whole country will get water for farming and drinking water. Where there is damage due to rain, it will be prevented. Due to the drought, the loss is due to the country. Our farmer brother will not commit suicide. This should also be kept in mind. For years, we have heard, when we read the paper, the first thing

that comes is that today two farmers have committed suicide, and three farmers have committed suicide. This does not reflect well on our nation. This should also be kept in mind. Hon. Chairperson, there are other matters where we initially encountered challenges through skill development initiatives. This plan was given to the NGO. Every young man who is unemployed and who comes for training also announced a stipend of two and a half thousand rupees. But unfortunately, we experienced that this was the one that used to make a register, call the unemployed, keep 500 rupees in their pocket, and take thirty days of signature. Training was absent. Now there is a little change coming in it, which experience came now. The goal was also to get a job or self-employment. If they want self-employment, then our Hon. Prime Minister announced the Mudra Yojana. The scheme providing 10 lakh rupees without collateral security is very commendable. All public sector banks have been assigned a target. What has been our experience? In a DBDC meeting, we observed and experienced that... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please try to conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: I will conclude my remarks with this final point.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There are a number of Members. I have got a long list of Members.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Yes, I will conclude. When we see that the targets given to banks often result in loans being granted to the family members of borrowers who are already repaying properly, just to meet these targets. In reality, the unemployed do not benefit from this. Hon. Chairperson, I am concluding. If every scheme is not implemented properly, there is a need to create a mechanism for monitoring them; I place this demand before you. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

*SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK (KOLHAPUR): Toilets have been constructed but whether Government has checked that proper sanitation infrastructure is also made. The condition of public toilets made even in the Constituency of Hon. Prime Minister lacks maintenance. The infrastructure made is not used by public as there is no proper sanitation infrastructure.

Government has started the Ujjwala Yojana to provide gas connections to poor in the country but a large number of families having this connection are not able to purchase the cylinder for refilling and are forced to use old methods of cooking again. The LPG dealers are not able to supply the cylinders due to short supplies.

The Government has started Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana and opens 4900 Jan Aushadhi Centres in the country. The centres are very few in proportion to requirement. These centres are very far away and the medicines prescribed by doctors are unavailable at these centres. A number

* Speech was laid on the Table.

of reports have come that the medicines are blackmarketed by these centres.

The farmers are distressed in the country and a large number of farmers are leaving farming every year. This is not good for our country. Government has spoken about doubling the farmers income but has done nothing in this regard.

Crop insurance is being provided to farmers under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' to safeguard them from potential crisis due to crop damage but claim is not settled due to lots of technical conditions in it.

Cyber crime is increasing day by day in the country but no proper policy has been implemented for stopping it. A large number of poor people are seeing their hard earned money slipping from their hands.

[Translation]

***SHRI ALOK SANJAR (BHOPAL):** In the motion of thanks on the President's address, the unprecedented initiatives and schemes of the Government led by Hon. Mr. Modi have been highlighted. I am also pleased to inform you that the Government's cleanliness campaign has been widely discussed in the country, and today the entire nation is involved in this campaign. Happiness truly comes when we see everyone ready to admonish those who create dirt and litter. A close examination of the President's address reveals many rays of hope illuminating the speech. Today, those poor, economically weaker mothers and sisters are happy because not only is their health improving, but they are also saving time by not having to cut wood in the forest or stand in line for kerosene.

It is clear from the address that the country is moving in a new direction. Under the leadership of Hon. Modi, the Government has not only curbed corruption since 2014 but has also made every effort to uproot it entirely. It is a matter of pride that under the Jan Dhan Yojana, accounts have been opened for

* Speech was laid on the Table.

almost 34 crore people, and today the country sees that the maximum benefit of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has been availed by the poor mothers and sisters of the country. In the past, we heard many speeches from previous Governments for the poor brothers and sisters, but the words spoken vanished into thin air; in contrast, the Modi Government has efficiently brought the promises to reality on the ground. This is also exemplified by the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, which have provided insurance cover to 21 crore poor people.

One of the most important points mentioned in the President's address, which is being praised everywhere, is the "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Yojana." Through this scheme, over 5000 Jan Aushadhi centres have been opened or are in the process of being opened in more than 600 districts across India. Today, more than 700 medicines are available at very low prices to the poor and the general public.

The president's address detailing the achievements of the Modi Government demonstrates that the current Government is truly working to realise the dreams of Pandit Mr. Deendayal

Upadhyay. Today, the policies and programs of the Modi Government have proven that poor and middle-class families are happy; workers, the exploited, the suffering, and the deprived are standing on their own feet with dignity; farmers are moving towards a prosperous life; and small businessmen are encouraged. The Government has taken meaningful steps for the country's differently abled people, which is being praised everywhere. The increase in employment in rural areas is another significant achievement of this Government. The address mentioned the "National Nutrition Mission" for people suffering from malnutrition, which will undoubtedly benefit tribal and other areas. Under the "Khelo India" campaign, economically weaker and talented athletes across the country will be identified and will bring glory to their families, states, and nation at national and international levels.

In conclusion, I commend the Modi Government and the Hon. President's address for spreading the ideology of Mr. Deendayal Upadhyay among the masses.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Dinesh Trivedi

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARAKPUR): I am deeply grateful to you. I am thankful to my party and our leader, Mamata Banerjee, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important issue. Sir, before I start, I would like to inform you that we have got about 40 minutes or so. I am going to speak for 25 minutes. So, I will appreciate a little bit of patience from your side. Sir, having said that, I am very grateful to the Hon. President for his effort in addressing both houses, as this is a long-standing tradition. It is a British tradition, as it is called - 'The Monarch reads the speech of the Queen.'

Under Article 87 of our Constitution, the government's policies are addressed, but it is delivered by the President. Why am I bringing this up? I say this because our constructive and truthful criticisms are directed not at the President's address, but at the Government. I want to clarify this point. I also want to say that the Prime Minister always says to judge us, let the house function, and bring all our shortcomings to light. It is in that spirit that I wish to speak today. Shri Kharge has both increased and eased our difficulties. He increased our difficulty by

presenting the truth that we also faced. I also wanted to talk about the same points. He eased our dilemma because I believe that while his perspective might be different, everyone on this side of the house would agree with his statements. That's how I see it. I do not wish to repeat those points. … (Interruptions) The truth is always the truth; it does not belong to Congress or TMC, but to the common people. I was very happy that the Hon. President talked about the 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He talked about the Constitution... (Interruptions) Shri Anurag, it seems that you were so demoralised by Shri Kharge's speech that you left the field... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Shri Kharge himself has left the field... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: You mentioned Guru Nanak ji, Shri Gandhi, and Shri Ram Manohar Lohia, and spoke about ethics... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Anurag ji, please sit down. Do not disturb the Hon. Member.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: I understand that when he said this, when the Hon. President said that prior to the 2014 General Elections, the country was passing through uncertainty. To this day, I still do not understand what the uncertainty was. Was there no Government, was there no parliament, was there no constitution? Yes, the Constitution is certainly being undermined now. This phrase is completely beyond my comprehension: 'What was the uncertainty?'

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: You increase your understanding.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Hon. President spoke about New India, about a new era for our country. I wish to speak at length on this, but a little later. I want to speak extensively about your New India. This country belongs to great leaders like B. R. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Pandit Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Rajendra Prasad, Govind Ballabh Pant, K. M. Munshi, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, and many others.

SHRI BHARTRIHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Who is Gopalacharya?

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Please allow me to continue. This is a country of these great personalities. When our Constitution was being framed, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan said something noteworthy: “The spirit of India.” He said that committing suicide is the biggest crime. But the bigger crime is getting away from the spirit of India. I believe that today we are deviating somewhere from that spirit of India. Shri Kharge began his speech with poetry.

This country belongs to our great poet. This country belongs to Rabindranath Tagore. This nation is associated with our esteemed sage, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. This country is rich in diverse philosophies. One such philosophy, which might be applicable here, concerns the passage of time.

Mati kahe kumhar se, tu kya ronde mohe

Ek din aisa aayega, main rondi tohe

(The clay tells the potter, "What do you tread upon me for?

(One day will come when I will trample upon you.")

It’s all a matter of time. Shri Piyush mentioned a certain movie. In the same vein, I would say, as Shri Kharge has already said much, I do not wish to repeat it. Recently, a movie named 'Manikarnika' was released. The picture depicted is historical reality. During the British era, what did the British do? They would intimidate and threaten you. They would intrude into your homes and say that you must support us; otherwise, we will attack you. Today, the situation is the same. Today, we are reminded of Rani of Jhansi because this historical picture is about her. Who was the individual known as the Queen of Jhansi? She was an ordinary woman chosen by the people to defend Jhansi. What did you do? You continued to attack, insisting that we would deploy the CBI behind you and the ED behind you, asking you to bow down and join us, or else we would attack, and you did this. What happened a few days ago in Bengal? The British Government used to do this with the common people. Then what happened? There is also a Rani of Jhansi in Bengal, whose name is Mamata Banerjee. Mamata Banerjee said, "They can cut my head, but they can't bow it down." This is today's Rani of Jhansi, who is not a queen but an

ordinary woman. She has shown that no matter how much you attack us, we are not afraid because the people are with us.

Sir, you started saying that 'good days' will come. We haven't heard about these 'good days' for a long time. Where did this slogan of 'good days' disappear to? Today, the public is angry. There are four things that will send you back to where you came from in the next election. What are these four items/things? One of them is that you implemented demonetisation. As it was said, at half past seven in the evening, the Prime Minister announced, as the Mughal emperors used to do, that today 86% of your currency is cancelled. If I say this, then I will not be wrong to say that you have made beggars of them. You made them stand in line, put a ration on their money, and many poor people died in it. Who is responsible for their blood? On that day, Shrimati Mamata Banerjee told me to leave the talk of 'good days' because their bad days have now started, because Mamata ji knew very well what trouble the common people were going to face.

Sir, the second issue that will consume you is unemployment, the agricultural crisis, and ruining the economy

of this country. If you want to know how the Government is being run and how schemes are being implemented, look at the schemes in Bengal, whether it's 'Kanya Shri,' 'Rupa Shri,' 'Yuva Shri,' 'Shiksha Shri,' or 'Krishi Shri.' We have the best healthcare scheme. You talk about your health schemes. But here in Bengal, the 'Swasthya Sathi' scheme has been established by us. Today, anyone can get free treatment.

Sir, I won't dwell on that further. Keeping my point ahead, I would say when you mentioned unemployment, I want to point out that today unemployment has reached an all-time high. Today's unemployment rate is higher than the rate of forty years ago. [English] Today, the rate of unemployment is 6.1 percent, which is much more than four decades of unemployment put together. The ILO World Employment and Social Outlook Trend says that 77% of Indian workers would be vulnerable and 18.9 million people would be unemployed by this year, which is 2019. The MSMEs and traders have registered a huge decline. According to the CMIE survey, 3.5 million jobs were lost due to demonetization. The impact on the labor force was even much

more significant. While the job losses were at least 3.5 million, the reduction in the labor force was to the tune of 15 million.

[Translation]

I will now come to demonetisation, about which much has already been said. I will only briefly talk about this because the Hon. President has made a mention of it. It is said that one of the aims of demonetisation was to fight fake currency. According to the RBI data, I am saying this with respect to RBI data. This means that more than 5 lakh and 22 thousand currencies were fake, and more than that. The RBI has also highlighted in its Annual Report of 2017-18 that the value of banknotes in circulation has increased by 37.7 percent. Sir, I don't want to go into details on this, but I want to say that your entire demonetisation has failed. More than 25 million people, a number greater than Australia’s population, have applied for about 90,000 vacancies in the Railways. What does this signify? Take as many fake figures of GDP as you want, but your unemployment has reached its peak. 25 million applications have been received for 90,000 jobs.

Sir, right now, four thousand graduates have applied for 14 sweeper jobs. Your Economic Survey reveals that in the last four years, the level of real agricultural GDP and the real agricultural revenue has remained constant at 1.9 percent. You are talking about doubling income, but you have not implemented the Swaminathan Commission's report. Mamata Banerjee has already tripled the agricultural income in our Bengal. When she comes to Delhi, it will be known who can really manage the farmer.

Sir, I would like to say that today democracy is in danger. Institutions of democracy have been compromised. Sir, let's bring it to Parliament. Why did you bulldoze all the legislation? Here activities take place. Why does a man go into the well? We all do not like that we should go into the well and create disruption. This Constitution is like the Gita for us; it is everything for us. When you amend this Constitution, when your Cabinet meeting is held on the night of January 7 to reserve 10 percent, the next morning on the 8th, the Constitution Amendment Bill is placed before us immediately after Question Hour. Where is the justice in this, and whose democracy is this?

You have considered it a temple; we also consider it a temple. When you came, you bowed your head, but what is the reality? You did not give us a chance, but you did not give the common people a chance either, so you have completely violated the Parliament bill.

Coming to the judiciary, “democracy is in danger.” We are not making this statement. On January 12, 2018, four senior-most judges are saying, “The way the courts are being run, if it is run like this, democracy would be in danger.” And it is also saying this. During the news conference, Justice Gogoi told the journalists that the move was partly because of concerns over the death of Justice Loya. This has been reported. What happens? At half past midnight on Wednesday, October 25, what does the Delhi Police do? It says, “The Delhi Police cordoned off the Lodhi Road building.” Meaning, in the middle of the night, Delhi Police surrounds the CBI main complex. Why are they surrounding it? Because you are planning to remove their number one, the CBI. It is reported, why do you want to remove them? You have no constitutional validity to remove them under any such provision. But the reports suggest

that perhaps they wanted to take some severe action regarding the Rafale deal. You removed them in the middle of the night, so where is the democracy in this? Please tell us this.

They know all about the pressure on the media. What happens? The CBI officer dealing with the Chanda Kochhar case was transferred after filing an FIR. Why does the transfer happen? Because our friend Arun Jaitley tweets on the 22nd and says it was wrong; don't investigate this so quickly. “Professional investigation targets the guilty and protects the innocent. It secures convictions and furthers public interest. One of the reasons why our conviction rates are poor is that adventurism and megalomania overtake our investigators, and professionalism takes a back seat.” The same thing happened in Bengal; professionalism took a back seat. Your intentions were highly inappropriate. Whatever comes in front of you, you want to keep good figures, and you send everyone home. You say, My way or no way or highway. You talk about Raghuram Rajan, Urjit Patel, Arvind Subramaniam, and Arvind Panagariya; I don't want to report it.

Sir, I will take 10 minutes. You always talk about the Mahabharata; you always talk about Lord Shri Ram, the Mahabharata, the Ramayana, and Lord Ram. Recall a scene where Kaikeyi told King Dasharatha that you must fulfil the two promises you made. One promise is to send Lord Ram to exile and place Bharat on the throne, so what did he say?

"Raghukul riti sada chali aayi

Pran jaye par vachan na jaye

("The tradition of Raghu's lineage has always endured, Even if life departs, but the promise does not waver.)"

[English]

What happened to the promise of ₹15 lakhs that you made? Just talking about Lord Ram doesn't solve anything. For you, Lord Ram may only be in Ayodhya, but for us, Lord Ram is in every particle, in every breeze, in every drop of water. I believe he resides within every individual.

Now I come straight to what you are saying about the new India. With this statement, I will conclude my remarks. Your concept of ‘new India’ is about destroying democracy; your

‘new India’ is about destroying institutions; your ‘new India’ is about destroying the Constitution of India; your ‘new India’ is about sabotaging the new generation; your ‘new India’ is about creating fear; your ‘new India’ is about finishing federal structure; your ‘new India’ is about ‘my way or no way’; your ‘new India’ is about ‘me’ and not ‘us’; and après nous, le déluge (After me, a deluge will come). This is your concept of ‘new India.’

Further, your ‘new India’ is about unemployment; your ‘new India’ is about the agriculture crisis; your ‘new India’ is about the largest NPAs; your ‘new India’ is about destroying RBI to CBI and institutions to Constitution; your ‘new India’ is about destroying and not recognizing the norms of Parliament; your ‘new India’ is about bulldozing Bills in the Parliament without discussion; your ‘new India’ is about ‘farzi’ data; your ‘new India’ is about pseudo patriotism; your ‘new India’ is not to follow raj-dharam; your ‘new India’ is to divide and misrule; your ‘new India’ is to distort the secular values of Swami Vivekanand, Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Dr. Ambedkar, Netaji, Maulana Azad, Kabir, and Tulsidas; your ‘new India’ is

against the ethos of ‘vasudhaiva kutumbakam’; your ‘new India’ means destroying our Ganga-Yamuna tehzeeb -- where there is Ghalib, there is also Meera, Mohammad Rafi, and Lata Mangeshkar; your ‘new India’ means destroying the youth; your ‘new India’ is about the lowest farmers’ income of 1.9 percent; your ‘new India’ is about farmers’ suicide; your ‘new India’ means 77 percent of Indian workers are out of the workforce; your ‘new India’ means MSMEs are out of business; your ‘new India’ means not achieving the objectives of demonetization; and your ‘new India’ is the biggest ‘jumla’ for the 2019 election, whereas your ‘jumla’ for 2014 was ‘Achhe Din’. Please understand that you can fool all people some time; some people all the time; but not all people all the time.

[Translation]

I will conclude my statement by saying that your expiry date has ended, your talk has ended, and people are displeased with you. For us, the desire for revolution is now in our hearts; let's see how much strength is in the arms of the murderer. 2019 -- BJP finish!

[English]

***SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE):** I wish to pay my respect and reverence to our leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA before I place my views in the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address 2019.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana', which facilitates credit for professional and business requirements, loans worth more than Rs. 7 lakh crore have been disbursed to the youth without any guarantee. More than 15 crore people have been benefitted and over 4 crore 26 lakh first time borrowers have started their business under this scheme. I wish to mention that Tamil Nadu stand first in the country in utilizing the Mudra Loan Scheme.

Under the 'Start Up India' and 'Stand Up India', the Government has provided financial assistance to make the youth self-reliant. As a result, many youth in Kongu region started industries but not getting enough support from the Banks or Central Government for them to sustain and grow. But in reality

* Speech was laid on the Table.

there are many lacunae in this job creation front. This needs to be addressed .

The Hon. President has mentioned that the Government has linked creation of jobs with tax incentives under 'Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana'. Under this scheme, when a young person gets a new job, the EPS and EPF contribution of 12% payable by the employer is being paid by the Government for the first three years. More than 1 crore youth have already benefitted from this scheme. This is very much welcome. On educational front the Hon. President has mentioned that the Government is establishing new educational institutions to provide increased opportunities for professional education of the highest standard. 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 14 IIITs, 1 NIT and 4 NIDs are being established. All these institutions need to be expedited. The Government should start an IIT and IIM at Coimbatore very soon.

It has been decided to enhance the amount of scholarship and fellowship by more than 25% to encourage research activities in the country. In addition, efforts are being made to further strengthen the foundation of the education system by

opening 103 Kendriya Vidyalayas, Eklavya Model Awasiya Vidyalayas in all talukas having a majority of tribal population and 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas. But even after several requests for more KV schools in Tamil Nadu, the Government is not increasing the KV schools in Tamil Nadu. I request the Government to look into this issue and increase the number of KV schools in Tamil Nadu.

The Hon. President has emphasized that the Government is following a multi-dimensional approach to improve the quality of students. To secure the future of the country, it is imperative that children still studying in schools get full opportunity to transform their flight of imagination into concrete reality. The Government is setting up more than 5,000 'Atal Tinkering Labs', for taking ideas to innovation. This is not enough and every school must have Atal Tinkering Lab on its own shape the innovative mindset of the students.

The Government is making efforts to identify talented sports persons from different corners of this country under the youth centric 'Khelo India' programme. Transparency in selection process has boosted the morale of our sportspersons. But the

sport infrastructure and training facilities are not on par with international standards. Therefore, I urge the Government to pay more attention towards the creation of best possible sports infrastructure and training facilities particularly in the Tier-II and Tier-III centres in the country. Also there is a need for providing our sportsperson the adequate physical training and fitness regimes to be on par with international sports standards. Then only they can be able to match and compete in international sports events. Our sports talent should be identified from young age, and the programs like "Catch Them Young" need to be encouraged throughout the country.

The Hon. President has listed several important landmark achievements of the Government but also forget to mention about certain important needs of the productive and high income generating States like Tamil Nadu.

The Hon. President has mentioned about our great Saint Thiruvalluvar who has said *Iyattralum eettalum kaattalum kaatta, Vaguttalum vallad arasu,* that is, a well governed State is one where there is adequate growth in assets and services, where assets are well distributed and protected, and all citizens get

their fair share. The Government should heed to this advice of the Thiruvalluvar cent percent to protect the interests of all citizens.

The Jan Dhan Yojana of the Government is not merely for opening new bank accounts; not only ushering in economic inclusion of the poor, it is also increasing their self-confidence. So far 34 crore bank accounts have been opened in the country because of 'Jan Dhan Yojana' and almost every family is now connected to the banking system. It is only because of the Jan Dhan scheme that wages from MGNREGA, benefits from different insurance schemes, scholarships, pensions and most other Government benefits are being credited directly into the bank accounts of the poor through DBT.

It is very true that the Jan Dhan accounts have succeeded in eliminating the middlemen between the Government and the poor. Jan Dhan Yojana is playing an important role in facilitating cost effective digital transactions in the country. As a result, the whole world has taken note of this step towards financial inclusion in India. As a result of the expansion in Direct Benefit Transfer in the last four and a half years, more

than Rs. 6 lakh 5 thousand crore have been directly transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries. The Centre should have adequate consultations with State Governments in identifying the beneficiaries of Central schemes and also include the names of the waitlisted beneficiaries selected by the State Governments.

***SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):** I am sorry to point out that in India's Capital majority of Ministries are in a shambles and untidy, particularly, Shastri Bhavan where the Law Ministry and its offices are located.

Under Ujjwala Yojana the Government has provided 13 crore new gas connections but available natural gas pipe network is very poor. It can strengthen laying of pipelines to provide CNG to many consumers and save on LPG cylinders.

Ayushman Bharat Yojana is no doubt the biggest health care scheme. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Abhiyan, 50 crore poor are eligible for availing treatment up to 5 lakh per year family in case of serious illness. But for diabetes the Glucometer strips are priced at Rs. 25. The manufacturing cost of the strip is just Rs. 2 only.

Regarding Hepatitis B, there is a need to give wide publicity so that people can be made aware of its seriousness. Noted Bollywood actor, Mr. Amitabh Bachchan had been made a brand Ambassador for educating the public about its impact on the health of a citizen.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Under Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana, 4900 Jan Aushadhi Centres have already been opened in more than 600 districts. I welcome it. But in Mumbai suburban railway stations, at least, one Jan Aushadhi Centre should be opened at each railway station.

Under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana as many as 21 crore poor brothers and sisters have been provided with insurance coverage. I also welcome it. In rural areas, it becomes difficult for the people to get insurance coverage because the procedure is very lengthy and if possible it should be one page form and a single window system should be open to process these applications.

I thank the Government for launching the National Nutrition Mission for persons suffering from malnutrition and to eliminate the factors "Mission Indradhanush" has been launched by the Government to provide immunisation facilities to children and pregnant women living in remote and tribal areas. It would be better if people living in slum areas of Mumbai and refugees living on footpaths are covered under this mission.

I would like to point out that Mumbai doesn't have an AIIMS. Mumbai dividing two districts Mumbai sub-urban and Mumbai District. The population are Mumbai sub-urban is double of Mumbai city. Where number of hospitals are limited. There is a lot of land at the disposal of the Central Government and it would be better if an AIIMS is set up in Mumbai sub-urban.

The Government has set a target that by 2022 when the nation celebrates 75th anniversary of its independence, no family would remain homeless. It is a good thinking. But in Maharashtra there are lots of people who are homeless. The Government of Maharashtra is doing a very good work by rehabilitating slum dwellers the Central Government gives 'No Objection Certificate" a lot of people could be rehabilitated on this land. The Central Government should not hesitate to give NOC to achieve the target by 2022 that no family remains homeless.

Under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana" the Government is giving to an individual a home loan of Rs. 20 lakh for 20 years and he would get a grant of about Rs. 6 lakh. Considering the

high cost of inputs like steel and cement it is sufficient. It should be increased to Rs. 40 lakhs for 30 years.

Regarding providing electricity connection to every household, the Government is illuminating the life of each person and the Government is claiming that every village has been electrified. But I would like to inform the Government that there is no electricity in AAREY colony, Goregoan East, Mumbai and Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Reserve Forest, where Tribal people live there is no electricity. The Government should pay attention to it which is in Mumbai-27 in my Parliamentary Constituency.

The Government is working hard toward realisation of the dreams and aspirations of all the sections. It further says that by decreasing the burden of income tax and keeping rate of inflation under control, Government has created new opportunities for expanding the savings of the middle class. In this connection, our Party has suggested to decrease the burden of income tax to Rs. 8 lakhs from Rs. 5 lakhs as proposed in the interim budget. Hope the Government would accede to our request.

The Government is concerned about Divyang brothers and sisters and efforts are being made to solve their probleSushri In this connection, I want to suggest that in Mumbai suburban trains a lot of Divangjans are commuting in trains to reach their workplaces. The Government should provide escalators on every platform at all the railway stations in Mumbai for their convenience.

The Government says that they undertook a mission to eliminate unmanned railway crossings, which have now almost been done away with. But there are still many unmanned level crossings in Maharashtra. When the railway gate is closed, there is a huge traffic jam. Once the railway gate is opened after the train passes, there is a huge traffic jam. In order to overcome this problem, I request the Government to have railway over bridges for smooth flow to traffic and to reduce the number of accidents.

Every year, there are floods and drought in the State of Maharashtra. We have 720 km coastline where fishermen are residing and go for fishing. They do get intimation of natural disasters well in advance with the existing machinery. The Government of India had sanctioned a Doppler weather radar

with the latest technology sometime back but it is yet to be installed. I urge upon the Government to install it immediately so that fishermen could get advance and accurate weather information.

Regarding the Kaushal Vikas Abhiyan only a preliminary meeting was held in Mumbai. I must tell the Government that this Abhiyan has become a total failure not only in Mumbai suburban districts but in the entire Maharashtra State. My suggestion is that the Government should involve public representatives in this Abhiyan to make it more pro-active.

Under the Pradhan Manti Mudra Yojana which provides credit facilities for professional and business requirements, the Lead Bank unnecessarily asks for more documents and adopts delay tactics to sanction loans. My suggestion would be to open a single window system and provide a simple application form.

I welcome the decision of the Government to link creation of jobs with tax incentives under "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana". The EPS and EPF contribution by the employer in respect of a young person when he gets a new job, is being paid by the Government for the first three years. But

what about earlier contributions deducted by the employer in respect of workers and not remitting the same to the Government's Provident Fund. The Government should penalise such employers with a heavy penalty.

In my 27-West Parliamentary Constituency, there are a large number of Central Government organisations and employees staff quarters. There has not been a single Kendriya Vidyalaya. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to sanction a K.V. for my Parliamentary Constituency forthwith.

I welcome the decision of the Government to set up more than 5,000 "Atal Tinkering Labs" for taking ideas to innovation. These labs should be set up in remote and rural areas instead of focusing only in urban and semi-urban areas.

I also welcome the decision of the Government to identify talented sportspersons from various corners of this country under the youth centric "Khelo India" programme. Under this programme, an effort should be made to include traditional games like Kabbadi and Kho-kho, etc. The Government should reserve more posts in Government establishment for

sportspersons; and teams should be formed as per Government department wise.

For strengthening women entrepreneurs in small and medium enterprises, the Government has made it mandatory for the major Government companies to purchase 3 per cent of their material from the enterprises owned by women entrepreneurs. I wholeheartedly welcome it. But I want to suggest that the Government should earmark some space for women entrepreneurs at the railway stations, Government offices and hospitals to market their products.

[Translation]

***SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI):** I want to tell the Government that in 2014, you made big promises to the people and showed big dreams, and people handed over the Government to you with great expectations. But unfortunately, you did not fulfil the promises made to the people; instead, you created a lot of troubles, which halted the progress of the country.

During the last four years, the price of everything has skyrocketed, breaking the backbone of the common man. The price of petrol and diesel is continuously increasing. The price of gas cylinders has doubled. The train fare has been increased repeatedly.

The Government came promising to end corruption, but it has failed to fulfil this promise. New incidents of corruption are coming to light. Demonetisation did not bring back black money, but ordinary people had to endure difficulties and lost their lives. However, the Government has failed miserably in curbing corrupt people.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

This Government had promised to provide jobs to two crore people every year. But unfortunately, this promise of the Government has also proved to be false, as unemployment has increased in the last four years as much as it has not in the previous 42 years, and this is what the Government's unambiguous report, which has been published in the newspapers, is saying.

The Government had promised to bring back black money from abroad and deposit 15 lakh rupees in people's accounts. Black money did not return, but people like Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya surely escaped with the country's white money, and the Government kept watching the show.

Good days did not come, but bad days have certainly come for the poor. The Government had promised to bring good days for the people. But unfortunately, the wait for good days is about to end after nearly five years. Yes, bad days have definitely come for the poor. Sometimes through demonetisation, sometimes through GST, sometimes through inflation, the poor have been troubled.

"Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" has also become just a slogan. Since this Government came, minorities and especially Muslims, have been ignored; efforts have been made to eliminate their existence. Action against those who commit atrocities has been delayed. Their incidents of bias have increased.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill, which is against Assam's Accord, against the NRC, and against the Constitution of India, is being pushed through as this divisive bill in Parliament. This bill will worsen the situation across the entire North-East. Therefore, there is an uproar against this bill across the entire North-East. Making this bill into law means depriving the people of India of their rights. Our demand is that this bill be withdrawn and the Assam Accord be enforced.

The Government is spreading false claims of justice to Muslim women by bringing a bill against triple talaq. However, the bill brought not only interferes in Muslim personal law and Shariah but also goes against the spirit of the Indian Constitution. This bill will create difficulties for women because, according to this bill, divorce will not happen, but the

husband will be imprisoned, and the woman will have to continue living with the same man who divorced her. In reality, this bill will lead to the ruin of both Muslim women and men. Therefore, it should be immediately withdrawn.

Whenever elections come, efforts begin in this country to spread religious bigotry. When this Government did not fulfil the promises made to the people, once again, the debate over Babri Masjid and Ram Mandir started, and efforts began to mislead people to gain votes.

This Government has shown no interest in resolving the issues of farmers. As a result, they have been forced to commit suicide. They protest, but their demands are not met. Billions of debts of big industrialists are swiftly forgiven in one stroke. But thousands of excuses are given for not waiving off the debts of farmers.

The Prime Minister had said that we want to give a Quran in one hand and a computer in the other hand to Muslims. But unfortunately, no suitable steps were taken to improve the education of Muslims. Educational institutions were not established for them. It is regrettable that efforts are underway to

eliminate the leadership role of Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia.

The report of the Sachar Committee and Ranganath Mishra Commission clearly stated that Muslims in this country are in a worse condition than Dalit brothers and recommended reservations in educational institutions and jobs to improve their situation. However, it is regrettable that the Government has refused to provide reservations to Muslims.

In the name of cow protection, dozens of Muslims have been killed in this country so far. After the incident of Mohammad Akhlaq in Dadri, many people, including Pehlu Khan and Mohammad Akbar in Rajasthan, Hafiz Junaid in Haryana, and Alimuddin Ansari in Jharkhand, were murdered merely on suspicion. But the Government failed in making laws against this and taking action against the culprits.

Government allocations in organisations like RBI and the Supreme Court have disappointed the public of the country. The misuse of CBI and ED has also become a cause of concern for people. As a result, four judges of the Supreme Court had to hold a press conference, and the Governor of RBI had to resign.

Even after 70 years of independence, there are places in this country where electricity has not yet reached. There are no proper roads. Clean drinking water is not available to people. At least ten districts in our Assam are affected by arsenic, where drinking water has made people disabled. We have raised this issue many times and appealed to provide clean drinking water to the affected people in that area, but no work has been done on the ground.

When our Prime Minister went to Assam before the election, he promised to establish industries there. But unfortunately, no new industry was established there; instead, the existing paper mills in Assam were closed down, which left millions of people unemployed. We mean that by providing financial assistance to paper mills, they should be restarted.

In Assam, there is a disaster every year due to floods; we are all aware of this. Due to erosion, about 24 lakh hectares of land have been converted into rivers, and more than 30 lakh people have become homeless. Therefore, we have repeatedly demanded in this House that a national claim be made, appropriate funds be given for it, and planning be done seriously

to stop it. But unfortunately, this did not happen, and the Government kept making various excuses, and the little funds that were given were not used in the right place, which is why the situation remains the same, and the danger still persists.

I have demanded at every level for the development of Dhubri and Falwari, and finally, the decision for their development was made into a bill. However, despite promises made for many years, the work for their development could not be started.

Before concluding my speech, I want to say that this Government has done nothing except for marketing and repackaging. Their promises are just promises.

Thank you.

موقع کا بولنے پر بِل اس مجھے نے آپ میڈم :(دھبری) **اجمل بدرالدین جناب**
چاہتا کہنا سے حکومت میں میڈم، ہوں، گزار شکر کا آپ لئے کے اس میں دیا
بڑے بڑے میں لوگوں سے بڑے بڑے وعدے کئے تھے، 2014 نے آپ کہ ہوں
سپنے دکھائے تھے۔ اور لوگوں نے بڑی امیدوں کے ساتھ آپ کے ہاتھوں میں
وعدے گئے کئے سے عوام نے حکومت سونپی تھی۔ مگر افسوس کہ آپ لوگوں
جس دی کر پیدا پریشانیاں سی بہت لئے کے لوگوں مگر کئے۔ نہیں پورے تو
گئی۔ رک رفتار کی ترقی کی ملک سے

ہے ہوئی ناکام طرح بری میں پانے قابوں پر مہنگائی (1)

ہے، رہی چھو آسمان قیمت کی چیز ہر دوران کے سالوں چار گزشتہ میڈم،
بڑھ لگاتار قیمت کی ڈیزل اور پیٹرول ہے۔ گئی ٹوٹ کمر کی آدمی عام سے جس
بڑھایا بار بار کرایہ کا ٹرین ہے۔ گئی ہو دوگنی قیمت کی سیلینڈر گیس ہے۔ رہی
ہے۔ گیا

ہوئی ثابت ناکام میں پانے قابو پر کرپشن (2)

وعدے اس مگر تھی آئی کرکے وعدہ کا کرنے ختم کو کرپشن سرکار میڈم،
آئے۔ سامنے واقعات نئے نئے کے کرپشن ہے۔ رہی ناکام بھی میں کرنے پورا کو
جھیلنی پریشانی کو لوگوں عام مگر آئی، نہیں واپس تو منی بلیک سے بندی نوٹ
پوری سرکار میں کسنے لگام پر لوگوں کرپٹ مگر گئیں۔ جانیں کی ان پڑی،
رہی۔ ناکام طرح

ہوا اضافہ میں روزگاری بے (3)

کو لوگوں کروڑ دو سال ہر وہ کہ تھا کیا وعدہ نے سرکار اس میڈم، کیونکہ ہوا۔ ثابت جھوٹا بھی وعدہ یہ کا سرکار کہ افسوس مگر گے، دیں نوکریاں سالوں میں 42 گزشتہ جتنی ہے بڑھی روزگاری بے اتنی میں سالوں چار گزشتہ نہیں ہوئی تھی اور یہ بات خود سرکار کی غیر شائع شدہ رپورٹ کہہ رہی ہے ہے۔ چھپی جو اخبار میں

(4) کھسوٹ لوٹ کی پیسوں کے بینکوں

میں اکاونٹ کے لوگوں کر لا واپس منی بلیک سے ودیش نے سرکار میڈم، نیرو مگر آئی نہیں واپس تو منی بلیک تھا۔ کیا وعدہ کا ڈالنے روپئے لاکھ پندرہ بھاگ ضرور لیکر پیسہ وھائٹ کا ملک اس لوگ جیسے مالیا وجے اور مودی گئی۔ رہ دیکھتی تماشہ سرکار اور گئے

(5) آئے ضرور دن برے کے غریبوں مگر آئے نہیں دن اچھے ہیں

گی آئے لیکر دن اچھے لئے کے لوگوں وہ کہ تھا کیا وعدہ نے سرکار میڈم، ہیں۔ والے ہونے ختم سال پانچ تقریباً میں انتظار کے دن اچھے کہ افسوس مگر کبھی تو ذریعہ کے بندی نوٹ کبھی.ہیں آئے ضرور دن برے کے غریبوں ہاں گیا کیا پریشان کو غریبوں ذریعہ کے مہنگائی کبھی تو ذریعہ کے جی۔ایس۔ٹی۔ ہے۔

(6) ہوا نہیں وِکاس کا سب ساتھ کا سب

جب ہے۔ گیا رہ کر بن ہی جملہ ایک بھی وِکاس کا سب ساتھ کا سب میڈم، نظر کو مسلمانوں سے طور خاص اور کو اقلیتوں سے ہےتب آئی سرکار یہ سے کرنے ظلم پر ان گئی۔ کی کوشش کی کرنے ختم کو حیثیت کی ۔ ان گیا کیا انداز کے تعصب ساتھ کے ان گئی۔ کی مٹول ٹال میں کاروائی خلاف کے والوں ہوا۔ اضافہ میں واقعات

بِل امینڈمینٹ شِپ سیٹیزن (7)

کے سی۔ این۔آر۔ ، ہے خلاف کے اکورڈ آسام جو بِل شِپ سیٹیزن میڈم، والے پرستی فرقہ اس سرکار ہے، خلاف کے آئین کے ہندوستان اور ہے خلاف نارتھ پورے سے بِل اس ہے۔ رہی تھپا تھپ پیٹھ کراپنی لا میں پارلیمنٹ کو بِل نارتھ پورے خلاف کے بِل اس لئے اسی گی۔ جائے ہو تر بد مزید حالت کی ایسٹ لوگوں کے ہندوستان مطلب کا بنانے قانون کو بل اس ہے۔ مچا ہنگامہ میں ایسٹ اکورڈ آسام اور جائے لیا واپس کو بل اس کہ ہے مطالبہ ہمارا ہے۔ چھیننا حق کا جائے۔ کیا نافذ کو

ہے۔ مصیبت لئے کے عورتوں مسلم بِل طلاق تین (8)

دلانے انصاف کو عورتوں مسلم کر لا بِل خلاف کے طلاق تین سرکار میڈم، صرف نہ ہےوہ آئی کر لے بِل جو حالانکہ ہے۔ رہی پھیلا بات جھوٹی کی یہ بلکہ ہے مداخلت میں شریعت اسلامی اور معاملات مذہبی کے مسلمانوں مصیبت لئے کے عورتوں بل ہے۔ یہ خلاف بھی کے مزاج کے آئین ہندوستانی کو شوہر مگر ہوگی نہیں طلاق مطابق کے بل اس کیونکہ ہے والا کرنے پیدا جس گا پڑے رہنا ساتھ کے مرد اسی پھر کو عورت گااور جائے دیا ڈال میں جیل

مسلمان بل یہ میں حقیقت تھا۔ دیا نکال سے زندگی اپنی کر دے طلاق اسے نے واپس فورا کو اس لئے اس ہوگا۔ سبب کا بربادی کی دونوں عورتوں اور مردوں چاہئے۔ لینا

مسئلہ کا مندر اور مسجد (9)

کی پھیلانے منافرت مذہبی میں ملک اس ہے آتا الیکشن بھی جب میڈم، وعدے ہوئے کئے سے لوگوں نےجب سرکار اس ہے۔ جاتی ہو شروع کوشش ہو شروع بحث پر مندر رام اور مسجد بابری مرتبہ ایک پھر تو کئے نہیں پورے گئی ہو شروع کوشش کی کرنے حاصل ووٹ کر بہکا کو لوگوں اور ہے۔ گئی ہے۔

ناکام سرکار یہ میں کرنے دور پریشانی کی کسانوں (10) ہوئی ثابت

نہیں دلچسپی کوئی میں کرنے حل مسائل کے کسانوں نو سرکانے اس میڈم، احتجاج وہ ہوئے۔ مجبور پر کرنے کشی خود وہ سے وجہ کی جس دکھائی، کا انڈسٹریلسٹ بڑے بڑے ہیں۔ ہوتی نہیں پوری مانگیں کی ان مگر ہیں کرتے قرض کا کسانوں مگر ہے جاتا دیا کر معاف میں جھٹکے قرض کا کروڑوں ہیں۔ جاتی بتائی مجبوری ہزار کی کنے نہ معاف

اٹھانے قدم مناسب سرکار لئے کے تعلیم کی مسلمانوں (11) ہوئی ثابت ناکام میں

اور قرآن میں ہاتھ ایک کے مسلمانوں ہم کہ تھا کہا نے اعظم وزیر میڈم، تعلیمی کی مسلمانوں کے افسوس مگر ہیں۔ چاہتے دینا کمپیوٹر میں ہاتھ ایک تعلیمی لئے کے ان گئے۔ اٹھائے نہیں قدم مناسب لئے کے کرنے دور بدحالی ذریعہ کے مسلمانوں کہ ہے کا بات اس تو افسوس گئے۔ کئے نہیں قائم ادارے کو کردار اقلیتی کے یونیورسٹی مسلم گڑھ علی اور اسلامیہ ملیہ جامعہ کردہ قائم ہے۔ رہی چل سازش کی چھیننے سے مسلمانوں اسے کرکے ختم

(12) نہں کیوں ریزرویشن کو مسلمانوں باوجود کے بدحالی جاتا؟ دیا

کہ تھا کردیا واضح نے رپورٹ کی کمیشن مشرا رنگناتھ اور کمیٹی سچر حالت کی ان اور ہیں میں حالت تر بد بھی سے بھائیوں دلت میں ملک اس مسلمان ریزرویشن میں نوکریوں اور اداروں تعلیمی انہیں لئے کے کرنے درست کو دینے ریزرویشن کو مسلمانوں نے سرکار کہ افسوس مگر کی۔ سفارش کی دینے دیا کر انکار سے

(13) کی سرکار اور قتل کا مسلمانوں پر نام کے رکشا گو خاموشی

قتل کو مسلمانوں درجنوں تک اب پر نام کے رکشا گو میں ملک اس میڈم، اور خان پہلو کے راجستھان بعد کے اخلاق محمد کے دادری ہے۔ گیا دیا کر سمیت انصاری الدین علیم کے جھارکھنڈ اور جنید حافض کے ہریانہ اکبر، محمد کے اس سرکار مگر گئے دئے کر قتل پر بنیاد کی شک محض لوگ ہی کتنے رہی۔ ناکام میں کرنے کاروائی خلاف کے مجرمین اور بنانے قانون خلاف

(14) سرکاری میں کام کے کورٹ سپریم اور آر۔بی۔آئی۔ مداخلت

سرکاری میں کاج کام کے اداروں جیسے کورٹ سپریم اور آر۔بی۔آئی۔ میڈم، اور سی۔بی۔آئی۔ گیاہے۔ دیا کر مبتلا میں تشویش کو عوام کی ملک نے مداخلت اسی ہے۔ ہوا بنا سبب کا پریشانی کی لوگوں بھی استعمال غلط کا وغیرہ ای۔ڈی۔ اور پڑی کرنی کانفرنس پریس کو ججوں چار کے کورٹ سپریم کہ ہے نتیجہ کا پڑا۔ دینا استعفیٰ کو گورنر کے آر۔بی۔آئی۔

(15) سرکار یہ میں کرنے پورا کمی کی سہولتوں بنیادی ناکام

سال بعد بھی اس ملک میں ایسی کئی جگہ ہیں جہاں 70 کے آزادی میڈم، پانی صاف کا پینے ہے، اب تک بجلی نہیں پہنچی ہے۔ صحیح سڑک نہیں پہنچی جو ہیں ایسے اضلاع دس کم سے کم میں آسام ہمارے ہے۔ نہیں میسر کو لوگوں ہم ہیں۔ رہے ہو اپاہج لوگ کر پی پانی کا پینے جہاں ہیں، متاثر سے آرسینک لئے کے لوگوں کے علاقوں متاثرہ ان اور اٹھایا کو مدہ اس بار کتنی نے لوگوں نظر ہوتا کام کوئی پر گراونڈ مگر کی اپیل کی کرانے مہیا پانی صاف کا پینے آتا۔ نہیں

(16) گیا دیا کر بند کو مِل پیپر میں آسام

وہاں تو تھے گئے آسام اعظم وزیرِ ہمارے جب پہلے سے الیکشن میڈم، تو انڈسٹری نئی کوئی وہاں کہ افسوس مگر تھا کیا وعدہ کا کرنے قائم انڈسٹری جس گیا دیا کر بند کو ملوں پیپر موجود سے پہلے میں آسام بلکہ ہوئی نہیں قائم

مالی کو ملوں پیپر کہ ہے مطالبہ ہمارا گئے۔ ہو روزگار بے لوگ لاکھوں سے جائے۔ کیا شروع سے پھر دیکر امداد

(17) نہیں قدم مناسب لئے کے بچاو سے سیلاب میں آسام گیا اٹھایا

واقف سب سے اس ہے ہوتی تباہی جو سے سیلاب سال ہر میں آسام میڈم، لاکھ ہیکٹیر زمین دریا میں تبدیل ہو چکی 24 تقریباً سے وجہ کی ایروزن ہیں۔ لاکھ لوگ بے گھر ہو گئے ہیں۔ اسی لئے ہم اس ایوان میں بار 30ہے اور تقریباً بار مطالبہ کرتےآئے ہیں کہ اس کو نیشنل کیلیمٹی قرار دیا جائے اور اس کے پلاننگ سے سنجیدگی لئے کے تھام روک کی اس اور لئے مناسب فنڈ دیا جائے بناتی بہانے کے طرح طرح سرکار اور ہوا، نہیں ایسا کہ افسوس مگر جائے۔ کی جس ہوا نہیں استعمال پر جگہ صحیح کا گیااس دیا فنڈ جو بہت تھوڑا اور رہی ہے۔ برقرار بھی ابھی خطرہ اور ہے ہوئی بنی ہی ویسے حالت سے وجہ کی

(18) ہو نہیں شروع کام کا تعمیر کی برج فلباری اور دھبری سکا

مطالبہ پر سطح ہر نے ہم لئے کے تعمیر کی فلباری اور دھبری میں میڈم، کے وعدہ سے سالوں کئی مگر گیا ہو فیصلہ کا تعمیر کی اس بالآخر اور کیا سکا۔ ہو نہیں شروع کام کا تعمیر کی اس باوجود

نے سرکار اس کہ ہوں چاہتا کہنا پہلے سے میں اپنی بات ختم کرنے میڈم، وعدے کے ان ہے، کیا نہیں بھی کچھ علاوہ کے پیکیجنگ ری اور مارکیٹنگ ہیں۔ گئے رہ کر ہو وعدے محض

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak during the discussion in support of the Motion of Thanks on the President’s Address.

[Translation]

Whenever there is a discussion or debate on something, it is very important to have a comparison. We go to buy anything in life; whether we buy a car or think about admission to college or school, we do it and compare it to see if it is better than this or that. We compare in the same way which Government is better and which is not as good. There is no doubt that people's aspirations always keep increasing and changing. There is no boundary to them; there is no conclusion. Governments should deliver on these aspirations. Now, someone may say what hasn't happened in 70 years should be done in five. I understand it more from those parties that have ruled for more than 70 years. Big speeches, slogans, jumlas, and crony capitalism, all talk big, tall promises, and claiSushri They have got nothing that they

were able to deliver to the nation, and we all, as MPs, here know how easy it is to make tall and lofty claiSushri

Speaking is the easiest thing to do, but delivering on your promises, how difficult it is for each thing. I think all the MPs here understand this very well. Today, someone standing up and saying that this is not there and that is not there is very easy. But talk about what you have done and what this Government has done, and then come to the figures and see its result. Today, I want to start my discussion with a comparison. All the people of the previous Government who are gathered today say that the previous Government did a very good job. I have just heard the speech of Kharge Ji; I don't know what they have earned in 70 years and what this Government has not done in five years. You just remember the year 2014. What was the whole world of the Congress Government of the previous 10 years, the whole country, besides corruption and crony capitalism, where fearlessly the country's treasure was being looted and plundered, like they have a right to eat the money of the poor? There was no such magistrate, department, minister, or any such family that was not involved in corruption from top to bottom. This was the

only reason that our country remained a symbol of corruption in the eyes of its people and the world. The situation was such that inflation was touching 10.1 percent. The talk of farmer distress is being talked about, but nothing is being said about those people who have ruled for 60-70 years and have created such conditions for the farmer. Only the farmer is being talked about. Whose input cost was more, but what did they give, MSP? Only a slogan of loan waiver, loan waiver is going on, which has been going on for the last several years. But in the condition of a farmer, in reality, by bringing improvement on the ground, not by swinging him like a beggar, what things were done to make him self-reliant should also be discussed. Inflation was such a blow, who can forget that lentils were Rs. 200 per kilo, oil was Rs. 120 per litre, and many other such things? The less the discussion on inflation, the more I understand that today there may hardly be any MPs who have taken the name of inflation. Five years ago, there was no discussion on inflation. How far were the prices of tomatoes and onions touching the sky? In all these circumstances, inflation hits everyone, but it affects the poor the most. There used to be a lot of grandstanding for the

poor. There used to be a lot of talk whenever elections were coming. How would there be houses for the poor? How would there be toilets for the poor? Various such things were said on the eve of elections to win the votes. If we look at these figures, in 70 years, there was distress for farmers, but if we talk about toilets, about homes, about electricity, before me, you will all know about these figures, what were the figures then and now? I was listening to Shri Kharge's speech just now when he was saying that in four years, electricity has been given to 18 thousand villages, while the Congress party had given electricity to 6 lakh villages in 60-70 years. What does he mean by saying this? When the country was divided, was the whole of Hindustan in darkness until they came to power? Was there no electricity in any village until the Congress came to power? Did the Congress party alone bring light to the country? I ask about the figures; they will take out figures that show when you came, how many days there was electricity in the village, and after you came, how much electricity was given. If you talk about the houses of the poor in the last five years, then 25 lakh houses were built in five years, while this Government has built about

five hundred times more houses, 1.5 crore, in four years. You talk about the toilet. What are the diseases caused by the lack of toilets? As a woman, I know how villages are getting bigger. One has to venture out in the darkness of the night, facing various situations. But who cared about it? These people have provided toilets to only 40 percent of the people in 70 years. Today, this Government has done the work of providing toilets to 98 percent of people in just four years. They looted the election by raising slogans of "Remove Poverty—Remove Poverty."

What was the condition of the poor? Whether it was a poor woman who inhaled smoke to feed the people of her house, who cared about her health? Their work comes only at the time of elections; later, they are forgotten. Today, no one else thought about all these things, be it electricity to the houses of the poor, construction of their houses, toilets, roads, water, scholarships for their children, or solutions to maintain the dignity and health of their sisters and daughters. But our Hon. Prime Minister thought about all these things. When the situation in the country was so bad, the people of the country got such representation

from our Hon. Prime Minister, who had shown this country in his State with experience by working. That is why 125 crore people of this country elected Modi Ji as the Prime Minister of the country with such a huge majority. This is the reason why the transformation of New India that has come in these five years has made these people find reasons to defame this Government by talking about what we are talking about and doing rumour-mongering here. If you look at the figures, the figures themselves speak a lot, which shuts their tongues just like that. The Hon. Prime Minister always said that he would work as a prime servant and guard the country's treasury by becoming the chowkidar of the country, protect the rights of the poor of the country, guard the borders of the country, and give a befitting reply, whether they are the enemies of the country or the deceitful enemies who loot the country's treasury inside the country, who sit as impostors in their country. The country found a strong Prime Minister. After ten years of a constrained Prime Minister, a strong Government came. [English] I am not going by what my Government says, but let us look at the way

the world looks at India. Today, India is being considered the one ‘bright spot’ in gloomy global economy…*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Sir, this is unfair that such comments are coming from the Trinamool Congress Party Members while a lady Hon. Member is speaking.…*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, keep silence please. Do not disturb the Hon. Minister. You may please continue speaking.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Sir, a former Minister is sitting behind and talking while a woman Member is speaking. What could be more unfortunate than this? This shows how much they respect women.

[English]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: No matter how much they create noise, today, they cannot deny the fact that India is the fastest growing economy in the world. Today, in the

Ease of Doing Business Index, we have reached 77th position after jumping so many positions just within four years which they could not jump in so many years when they were running the Government.

Sir, today, we have left behind big economies whether it is the US, the UK or China, and India is moving at a faster rate in comparison to them. Today, we have the highest investment under Foreign Direct Investment in our country because the world is perceiving India as a new India. Today, we have the highest foreign reserves in our country. Today, in every way, India is growing in a stable and in a positive manner which they could not achieve in ten years of their rule because they were too busy plundering the nation and looting the nation. This is the difference between this Government and the earlier Government.

Sir, I would not like to go into the figures of how we have maintained all our fiscal balances. But I would like to mention here that all the development in our country has taken place and all kinds of welfare schemes have been made; it is despite the fact that we have given higher devolution of Central Taxes to

the States. [Translation] Even after giving more money to the States from the country's treasury, this Government has been more successful in the progress of the country and in providing facilities to the poor, not those who kept that treasury with them and looted it and looted it during the election time by making big promises.

Sir, without saying much, I would like to mention two things. What is the biggest contribution of the Modi Government in these five years? One, I would like to say that there are many things that you have opened 23 crore bank accounts under the Jan-Dhan Yojana, but is it not a shame that even after 70 years, crores of poor people in our country did not even have bank accounts? It was for this reason that an old Prime Minister used to say that when ten rupees run from Delhi, ten paise reach the beneficiary. They were eaten in the middle, but they did nothing to stop it in 70 years. Modi Ji did the first thing, which was that everyone's bank account was opened so that ten paise or a thousand rupees could go from here, reach the beneficiary, and this was the biggest gift. ... Through which, thousands of crores

of rupees' worth of corruption have been stopped by this Government.

Sir, there are so many schemes. Be it the One Rupee Security Insurance Scheme or the 90 Paise Per Day Insurance Security Scheme, Modi ji has done a lot for the poor, but the 'Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana' is such a scheme that can transform the poor of this country to get out of poverty. Today I have come from the State from which a train runs, whose name is 'Cancer Express.' There is so much cancer in our area that people from all over the train used to go to Bikaner for treatment. There is no need to tell anyone what kind of disease cancer is. Man can sell everything to save his beloved brothers. When a terrible disease comes into the house of the poor, he sells his jewellery first. And then he sells his house. After that, he sells his land, and even after taking a loan by mortgaging everything, there is no guarantee that his beloved brother will be saved. A person has such a feeling that he sacrifices everything to save his loved ones. Today, there are so many poor people in our country who have lost everything to save their brothers. 'Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana' is such a scheme

through which five lakh rupees have been given to a family, about 50 crore people, half of the country's population, to avoid terrible diseases. This is the biggest act of virtue. While the Prime Minister is doing this virtuous work, sadly, there are states that are depriving the poor of these facilities. My state is Punjab. There is a Congress Government there. Today he is not sitting here; otherwise, I would have asked Shri Rahul Gandhi to tell me that in two-and-a-half months, where 11 lakh people have saved their lives by taking golden cards and have taken advantage of five lakh rupees, what is the reason that, to date, the Punjab Government has not given the golden card of Mr. Modi to even a single person and a single poor brother and sister of Punjab? What is the reason for that? The reason is that he does not get credit, and their Government does not slip; that is what they have been doing.

Sir, I would like to talk very importantly about the farmers. As much as this Congress Government has been talking and doing, what is the condition of the farmers? … (Interruptions) You are speaking from there; listen to me. ... (Interruptions) See, there is a prime ministerial candidate here, who went to Punjab

and played so much drum that all the loans of the farmers of Punjab should be waived off. I wish! I can open WhatsApp and make you hear it. By the way, I have the words of him and his Chief Minister. It is in Punjabi; I will also translate it. Many might be taking loans from cooperative banks. Many have taken loans from national banks, and many others from moneylenders. There will be many such farmers; they say the contenders for the Chief Minister, under the leadership of the president of the Congress Party, will be many such poor farmers who have taken loans from private banks, loans from cooperative banks, and loans from moneylenders. Now, with these three loans that you have, we will repay them. The Punjab Government will provide for you, and you no longer need to take any loans; your debt is our debt.

15:00 hrs

That means you do not need to give the loan because it is not your loan; it is my loan. In the election manifesto of the Congress Party, January 2017, it is written that every kind of loan will be waived by the Congress Government. Congress is spreading lies all over the country about waiving off loans. To

waive off the loan, a form was filled in every house of Punjab that asked what your name is and how much your loan is, along with a photo of Captain Amarinder Singh, stating that the day our Government is formed, the entire loan of this farmer will be waived off. The photo was made of the face of the loan waiver farmer, Budh Singh, from whose house this farm was launched with great fanfare, that all the loans of all the farmers would be waived off. Read the statement of that poor Budh Singh farmer. I will read to you a few lines from the statement given in the newspaper. [English] “Budh Singh was asked to sign a form. Having done so, he was handed over a receipt. This receipt that I was showing you. “Amid the clicking of cameras, Captain Amarinder Singh went on to assure the farmer that he would be the first in Punjab whose loan would be waived if Congress was voted into power.” Now, what is one and a half years, two years' time that has passed? “Fifteen months down the line, Budh Singh is still waiting for his loan. …*(Interruptions)* When the Punjab Government held the function at Mansa to launch the scheme, I thought I would be invited there.” He thought he had come to my area and thrashed the trumpet of loan wavering. He

thought I must be called because I am the face of the loan waiver. “After all, it had all begun from my house. Also, I was promised that I would be the first to benefit from the scheme. But nothing of the sort happened. I only hope my dream of being debt-free will not remain shattered.” He is saying this after one and a half years.

“Buoyed by Captain Amarinder Singh’s assurance, I and my wife, Sarabjit Kaur, braved the morning chill to cast our votes for the Congress,” recalls the downcast Budh Singh, wondering if he had been taken for a ride. [Translation] This is the ride that the Congress Party has been giving to the poor of the country, the farmers of the country, and the youth of the country for 70 years, and even today the model of the Congress in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh... * saying forms the Government and forgets the people. The Congress gave the same statement in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. They used to say that if the Government is formed in these States, then the loan will be waived within ten days. Two years have passed in Punjab, and your Government has

* Not recorded.

been in these States for two months. Similarly, 70 months of time will also be lost.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Minister. Please try to conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, there is also talk of unemployment. In the Congress Manifesto, it was written on number 2 that every "home gets a job." To get a job in every house, a form was filled out from every house in Punjab. In sixty lakh families, it was said that one job would be given in every house. It's been two months. One lakh people were supposed to get jobs in a month; now in two years, except for the brother of Member of Parliament Bittu, who got the job of DSP, no one else got any job. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Madam, please wind up.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Madam, please conclude.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, leave aside the job; what did they do to fill the coffers of Punjab Government employees?... *(Interruptions)* He did the same in Karnataka. It has been two years in Punjab, one year in Karnataka, and two months in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh. Rahul Gandhi Ji, please come here and tell us that whatever he had promised in Punjab should be fulfilled.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Minister, address the Chair.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: It is only because of your ... *and *verbal bragging*. The verbal bragging of Punjab brought so much enthusiasm that they are speaking the

* Not recorded.

same in the rest of the country. ... *(Interruptions)* The Congress ... *politics, the people of the country should beware of it. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, it must have happened for the first time in the country that a Government, like our Government, implemented the Seventh Pay Commission. ... *(Interruptions)* But their Congress Government announced in the budget what to implement the pay commission, not in Punjab, but to deduct Rs 200 per month from every employee, because the country's treasury has to be filled by the employee's money. ... *(Interruptions)* Neither DA is received nor the provident fund is received. ... *(Interruptions)* The teachers were told that if you want to be regular, then leave the salary of forty thousand; we make you regular of ten thousand. ... *(Interruptions)* Today the teachers are also on strike, the employees are also on strike, and youth are also on strike. ... *(Interruptions)* Today 700 farmers have committed suicide. ... *(Interruptions)* It has not been 700 days since his Government was formed, and 700 farmers have committed suicide in two years. ... *(Interruptions)* They used to say that we would give ten lakh rupees and a Government job to every farmer who commits suicide. ... *(Interruptions)* You are

pushing 700 farmers to commit suicide. ... *(Interruptions)* Every day a farmer commits suicide. ... *(Interruptions)* But not a single farmer has received any compensation to date. ... *(Interruptions)* What was the loan to be waived off? ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: It was spoken about waiving off loans worth 90 thousand crores. ... *(Interruptions)* Today someone gets a cheque of Rs 90, and someone gets a cheque of Rs 15. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, this ... * from all over the country is absolutely pointless. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, in the end, I would like to talk about SHRI RAHUL GANDHI's growth and job model. ... *(Interruptions)* Let me apologise for taking his name. ... *(Interruptions)* However, I wanted to not talk about their growth model. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, there was a person in the previous Government who had so much power, power and power that if his cabinet and the Prime

* Not recorded.

Minister took a decision, he had the power to tear the paper and throw it away. ... *(Interruptions)* I come from a department where there are very good schemes to provide employment to farmers and youth. ... *(Interruptions)* I thank the Government for formulating some of these schemes. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to mention a scheme. ... *(Interruptions)* A mega food park was established in the constituency of a very influential Member of Parliament, who has been speaking about causing an earthquake in Parliament for the past five years. ... *(Interruptions)* There was no earthquake here, but there might be an earthquake in his party after hearing about his growth model. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, you will be surprised that in the year 2010, a mega food park was to be built in his area. ... *(Interruptions)* In two years, the mega food park is destroyed, which benefits lakhs of farmers, because the raw material of the mega food park is the crop of the farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* In thousands by numbers, employment is given. ... *(Interruptions)* But 2010 passed, 2011 passed, 2012 passed and 2013 also passed. ... *(Interruptions)* In 2013 - the one who was supposed to set up the Mega Food Park

- I found his letter on my record. ... *(Interruptions)* He says that unless he gets gas at a subsidized rate, because he wants to establish a gas-based power plant at subsidised rates here, if he doesn't get it, he doesn't want to set up the mega food park at all. ... *(Interruptions)* This letter was received in 2013. ... *(Interruptions)* But before the 2014 elections, in order to mislead the people and to mislead the farmers, the same Member of Parliament brought such an earthquake that he laid the foundation stone that a mega food park being built here. ... *(Interruptions)* In December 2013, the foundation stone of the Mega Food Park, which was not even a brick laid in four years, was withdrawn by the promoter himself. ... *(Interruptions)* This is their growth model. ... *(Interruptions)* Before the elections ... * Promise, ... *Talk and forget everything after election. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now. You finish your talk in one minute.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, just give me two minutes. I am concluding. A lot has been said in every way.

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* Not recorded.

... (Interruptions) I want to say one thing because I want to do this for my community. ... (Interruptions) They say minorities are insecure, so-and-so. ... (Interruptions) The amount of atrocities that this Government has committed on the minorities, this Congress Party has done, you ask us. ... (Interruptions) This is the Sikh community that shed the most blood for the freedom of the country. ... (Interruptions) They fought most of the battles, gave the greatest number of lives, and served for the longest time in jails. ... (Interruptions) But a family and a party attacked our religious places with tanks and cannons to destroy this community, committing a massacre in daylight. ... (Interruptions) This Government and the leadership of this Government left no stone unturned to save the killers and those who fuelled the massacre and did not allow us to take justice for 34 years. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, today he is being made the Chief Minister of the State. Ministers are being formed, and every institution talks about misuse to save them. Ask me how much they misused the police and the CBI to save the killers of Sikhs. Today I thank the Hon. Prime Minister; after 34 years, the culprits of the massacre of

thousands of Sikhs were put in jail. Crocodiles like Sajjan Kumar have gone to jail; it is the gift of our Government, which wants to give justice. Sir, after this, there is the other crocodile whom they have been saving, whom they are making the Chief Minister. If the minorities want to be safe in this country, then support the Government that will support you, not those who speak of justice in the name of injustice.

Sir, today I would definitely like to talk about the Kartarpur Corridor. For seventy years, Sikhs have had faith in it, offering prayers morning and night so that we can visit it. This corridor has been given by our Government. Who stopped them in seventy years? A Sikh Prime Minister was appointed, but what did he do for the Sikhs? What did the Congress do? Only things have been given, sentences have been given, and people have been misled and cheated.

*... spoken, Yes. Today, a chowkidar is the Prime Minister, but I would like to tell the Congress Party that he is the chowkidar of the country's resources, the country's wealth and health, and the chowkidar of this country's pride, prestige, and

* Not recorded.

sovereignty. These are watchmen who take care of the dignity of the people and those ...

*Those who have looted for 70 years, those robbers, are afraid of this watchman today, and that is why all this noise is being made. You make your noise; the watchman will do his job, and the people of the country will see which Government has worked and which Government has only committed theft and loot. Thank you very much.

[English]

***SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** The Honorable President delivered his speech on the 31st of January, addressing both houses of Parliament. Many points were brought to attention by the Honorable President to highlight the work the Government has done since coming into power.

However, over the last few years the rising inequalities, mob violence, lynching and deteriorating conditions of our farmers leads one to wonder if it indeed it Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas.

Universal kindness to all is a distant dream in a country where every crimes are being committed against people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Between the year 2015 and 2016, the incidence of crime against SCs went from 19.2% to 20.3%. Every day we read about cases of mob violence against minority communities, cases where the perpetrators are seldom brought to justice.

A major cause for worry for the common masses of the country has been rising prices of petrol and diesel. Oil prices

* Speech was laid on the Table.

saw a record high in 2018 and the Government was unable to or unwilling to take measures to curb this price rise.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, the Government may have provided the women of many BPL households with LPG connections. But the scheme fails to augment such connections with Gas Stoves or refills which in themselves cost a lot. The responsibility for this is given to the States should they wish to take over the cost for that. The State of Karnataka is doing much better in this regard through its Mukhiya Mantri Anila Bhagya Yojana, where the State Government is providing the LPG connection, one double-burner gas stove with the ISI mark and free refills to the beneficiaries.

The Honorable President spoke of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and providing housing to the poor. It is unfortunate for me to note that while 64 lakh houses were sanctioned under the urban component of the scheme only 18% have been completed so far. Even the rural component of the scheme is far behind. Over 12 lakh houses are pending and land has been allotted only to 12% of the beneficiaries out of the 4.7 lakh that had been identified.

The Government promised 2 crore jobs per year but we are yet to see these jobs materialize. In fact, the NSSO periodic Labour Force Survey, that has been buried by the Government shows that unemployment was at 45 year high at 6.1% in 2017-2018, the first full year after demonetization. Unemployment among the youth was at a higher level compared to previous years and much higher compared to the rest of the population. How then is the Government working for the youth who are the "greatest strength of the nation"?

As far as the Khelo India is concerned, the previous Government's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan set aside money for stadium construction in every block of the country by 2020. This was merged with Khelo India. However, the money set aside under this scheme for construction of stadiums is much lesser than under the RGKA.

Tall promises are made when it comes to the farmers. However, not enough is done to alleviate their probleSushri Our farmers are still forced to take their own lives. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to provide insurance to the farmers at low premiuSushri However, the companies responsible for

providing the insurance are receiving their compensation, but the farmers they are supposed to provide the insurance to are yet to receive their money for their claiSushri Only 45% of the claims have been disbursed while the companies have made profits of thousands of crores.

Even though the Government claims to have fulfilled their promise of providing MSP at cost +50%, it is only a mirage. The cost being used to calculate MSP is the actual paid out cost plus the imputed value of family labour (A2+FL). However, the Swaminathan Commission recommended strongly that the MSP should be calculated at the comprehensive cost, including the imputed rent and the interest on owned lands and capital (C2). If calculated at C2, the MSP would increase significantly, in line with the demand of the farmers. The method of calculating the MSP is not only unscientific, but also does not hold up to the promise that was made before polls.

The talk of digital connectivity in Gram Panchayats, however, even where the sanction for the tower has been given, the tower has yet to be constructed in many areas. Without these

towers and with BSNL running into losses, we cannot claim to have fully digitised the number of villages that we have.

The claims of a Government clamping down on corruption and being transparent in their dealings have not come through in the actions of the Government, especially in its dealing of the Rafale Deal. In a show of classic crony capitalism, the nation saw the highly reputed HAL being overlooked in favour of Reliance Defence Limited. There has also been no transparency in the details of this deals. However then we can talk of the Government showing transparency and cracking down on corruption.

Another important point I would like to note is the increasing burden on the state to finance national schemes. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana requires the States to meet 50% of the financial burden of the scheme. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was earlier fully funded by the Centre, but now, the State Governments have to bear 40 per cent of the burden. Similarly, in case of National Health Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the State share has been hiked to 40 per cent from the earlier 25 percent. The burden on the State's

coffers is increasing and with reducing financial responsibility, the Centre gets to take the mileage of the scheme since in name it is a central scheme. In some cases, the States never see the money from the Centre for a particular scheme. Like the case of Karnataka which has not seen any money released by the Centre for the Gram Sadak Yojana in the last 5 years.

When it comes to relief and rehabilitation, the Centre leaves much to be desired, Karnataka has been facing severe drought and drought like conditions almost continuously since 2011, and is yet to see relief from the Centre in this regard.

It is important to see every side to the facts being put forth in front of Parliament. Many facts were not clearly presented to the Parliament and to the nation in the Honorable President's Address. Therefore, while thank the Honorable President for addressing the joint sitting of the Parliament, I wish to bring to the fore the reality behind some aspects of the work done by this Government.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Sir, I rise to speak on what I hope to be the last ever Address of the Hon. President scripted by this Modi-Shah regime, a regime which mistakes arrogance for intellect. I am saying this because arrogance, Sir, diminishes wisdom and it ultimately becomes the camouflage of insecurity in which not only the Prime Minister and his Cabinet but also the entire BJP seems to be passing through.

Sir, after losing successive by-elections and the recently concluded State elections, the Interim Budget has shown this regime's desperation to calm the farmers, the middle-class, traders, MSMEs, informal sector and real estate sector who have been badly affected by twin shocks of demonetisation and the poorly-structured and poorly-implemented GST, as well as by the rise in unemployment to a forty-year high. But instead of making long-lasting structural changes, which would lead to their sustainable long-term performance, in other words performing life-saving surgery, the Modi-Shah regime has merely handed out band-aids, and hence, I name this sham of a

Budget the Band-Aid Budget, an illegitimate Budget for which this regime has no accountability to deliver.

Sir, I would like to share a saying with my fellow Indians and fellow MPs.

"Fool me once, shame on you.

Fool me twice, shame on me."

The Modi regime's record of fulfilling their 2014 poll promises is there for everyone to see. They not only fooled me but they also fooled the entire State of Andhra Pradesh with the promise of giving Special Category Status for ten years. Indeed, they fooled a lot of people who placed their hopes on their words and promises. This 2019 Band-Aid Budget is another set of promises for which they have absolutely no accountability. I do not believe the intent to keep their promises. I will not be fooled twice. My fellow Indians, will you be fooled twice?

Sir, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu Garu and the TDP walked out of the NDA and the Government following being totally ignored in the Budget 2018-19. If the Modi regime was

able to ignore us while we were partners, we are not naïve enough to expect them to suddenly decide to honour their promises and to deliver on our rights; the twenty-nine items contained in the AP Reorganisation Act as well as the assurances given by the then Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh, most importantly, granting AP a Special Category Status with all the benefits of other Special Category Status States.

Mr. Prime Minister, in case you have forgotten, let me remind you once again that in Guntur, Nellore and in front of Lord Balaji in Tirupati, you had promised to build us a capital bigger and better than Delhi. You had promised that if NDA comes to power, you will give Andhra Pradesh a Special Category Status, not for five years, but for ten years.

Sir, I gave a complete account as to what is pending to Andhra Pradesh against our rights as given to us by the AP Reorganisation Act and the assurances given by the then Prime Minister during my one-hour speech opening the No-Confidence Motion during the last Monsoon Session.

Mr. Prime Minister, not only have you betrayed the people of AP, but you also did not bother to respond to a single

question that I posed during the No-Confidence Motion. Despite the assurances that you gave to calm us down, during your speech you chose to stick to your pre-written text completely ignoring Andhra Pradesh once again.

Mr. Prime Minister, I can imagine you thinking that your stakes in AP are anyway low, as the BJP vote share is hardly measurable in AP. You may also be thinking that 25 MPs from AP are hardly just about five per cent of the Lok Sabha. But, you have underestimated Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu Garu. He has seen many leaders and Governments come and go during his 40-year political career. He has been a key player in many of the national formations, including the National Front, the United Front- I and II, the NDA-I and till recently, was part of the NDA-II. You have underestimated his credibility across the political spectrum and the ripples that it would create across the country among the entire opposition.

You underestimated the power of the Indian democracy. You did not realise that even a State with just five per cent of the population and just five per cent of the Lok Sabha seats, can catalyse a national response to your autocratic ways. The fight

for APs rights has grown into a fight to ‘Save Democracy’. As a united Opposition, we have been able to expose how this Modi-Shah Regime is making a New India as mentioned by the Hon. President in his Address. A New India, indeed! But, a New India in your own image: an autocratic, divisive, invasive, suppressive, coercive, vindictive, Machiavellian, and Fascist regime.

15:18 hrs (Shri Kalraj Mishra *in the Chair*)

Sir, there are claims and counterclaims between the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of India, the BJP and the TDP. So, to clear the air, I demand that the Government of India should immediately release a ‘White Paper’ on what it has done with regard to the implementation of AP Reorganisation Act and assurances given by the then Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh Ji, in the Rajya Sabha.

Sir, there have been *dharnas, rasta rokos, chakka jaams*, rallies, and many more by farmers in Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and many other States for the last four years. The Modi-Shah regime did not care. The BJP bit the dust

in every by-election and also the recently concluded State elections.

Now, instead of waiving off their loans, the Government in the Budget announced that it would give Rs. 17 a day. How does Rs. 6000 a year help a farmer who is in a debt trap? It is only a band-aid for a farmer who is on a life-support. Will it help even one farmer who is in a debt-trap and is contemplating suicide?

Furthermore, they have given Rs. 4 lakh crore write-offs for economic offenders and fugitives, but could not show the same large heart to give just Rs. 1 lakh crore to bring farmers out of financial distress. This clearly shows towards whom this regime is tilting.

Sir, our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu Garu has doubled the farmers' income in Andhra Pradesh in the last four years. The agriculture growth rate is 11 per cent against the national average of just two per cent. If one looks at the pace of present agricultural growth in the country, which is around two per cent and if you add inflation to that, it will take nearly a half century, not by 2022, to double the farmers' income in India.

One of the aspects which helps in doubling the farmers' income is the recommendation of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan which says that farmers should be given A2 component which is paid out costs such as seed, fertilizer, manure, machine labour, interest on working capital rent, paid for land, etc. plus FL component which is family labour and also the C2 component which includes the imputed rental value of owned land and interest on capital. But, this Government has given just A2+FL! If you give C2, farmer will get MSP as high as 95 per cent more than present MSP, thereby doubling their income. But instead of giving farmers the C2 component, which will make them sustainable, you have given them just Rs. 6,000 an year, or Rs. 17 a day which is actually meaningless for a farmer who is contemplating suicide.

The PM boasted that he would create two crore jobs a year *i.e.*, 10 crore jobs in five years. We are now in the fifth year, leave alone creating 10 crore jobs in five years, crores of people have lost their jobs and livelihood due to demonetization and faulty implementation of GST. There are as many as five lakh

Government jobs lying vacant in various departments of Government of India.

Sir, NSSO's latest job survey released a few days ago has compared

unemployment figures for 2017-18 with its past surveys since 1972-73. The Report indicates that the country's unemployment rate stood at 40-year high at 6.1 per cent. Now, NITI Aayog is trying hard to push this Report under the carpet because of upcoming elections and to cover up the failure of the Modi-Shah Regime.

Sir, I need a lot more time than what you will allow for me to go deep into the subject of misusing and the weakening of democratic institutions that India has painstakingly built over decades. Many Members have already talked about how institutions like Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Election Commission, the RBI, the CVC, Office of the Governor, CBI, ED, to name a few, are being weakened, or being used as weapons to attack opponents, not to mention the attacks and control of media by this Modi-Shah Regime. I will refrain from

being repetitive here since so many people have already spoken about it.

Sir, I would like to speak about cultural nationalism which is a very important topic today in India. The Modi-Shah Regime is openly embarking on a path of cultural nationalism and wishes to define a single national identity and culture for India. They are trying to give a very narrow definition of what it means to be an Indian.

Sir, India is not just a country, and not even just a subcontinent. India is a Civilization that is more than 5,000 years old. In order to understand how our civilization evolved, we have to go back even further. We need to start with a little geological history in order to understand where we came from, how we interacted and mingled with others who showed up, and how we evolved. Being Indian, did not start in 1947, but evolved over more than 5,000 years not by making everyone the same, but by celebrating our differences, and living in harmony, at least most of the time.

During the continental drift, the Indian Sub-Continent separated from Africa, drifted across the Indian Ocean, and

came crashing into Asia, forming the mighty Himalayas, the Hindu Kush and surrounding mountain ranges. These mountain ranges acted as a barrier for entry for millions of years.

As people learned to cross these barriers, migration into India began, and India became the first melting pot in the world. There are only three pure races in this world. Negroid who are the people of Africa and the aboriginals in other parts of the world; the Caucasoid who are people mostly from Europe; and the Mongoloid who are from the far East and the oriental areas of the world.

Indians are not a pure race, but a mix of two in some regions and three in others. If you mix all colours of the rainbow, what do you get? You get brown; and that is what we are. We are a mixed race of brown people.

Sir, throughout the ages large groups of people have come to India but no group has ever left India *en masse*. I have never heard of the term `Indian refugees'. People have never had to flee India due to religious persecution in the history of our civilization. They stayed and they continued to mingle and continued to integrate. Hinduism existed even before the

concept of religion existed with roots tracing back to pre-historic times over 5000 years ago. It is a fusion or synthesis of various Indian cultures and traditions. The Hindu synthesis started to develop into a formal religion between 500 BC and 300 BC after the Vedic period during which time Buddhism and Jainism were also founded. Judaism first came to India around 500 BC; Christianity came in 50 AD; Islam came in the early 7th century; Sikhism was founded in India in the late 15th century. This clearly indicates that India has always been prepared to integrate itself with other religions and cultures.

Sir, Central Asians, Greeks, Persians, Romans, Arabs, Mongolians, Chinese, South East Asians and later the European sea powers including the British, French, Portuguese and Dutch all came to India. Our language, our arts and literature, our architecture, our food, our fashion, maths, science, astronomy, even spirituality, in so many areas we have collaborated and mutually benefited with all these cultures. We have been the home for persecuted communities like the Jews, Parsis, Muslims and the Tibetan Buddhists. Being the most diverse country on Earth we are tolerant to each other’s ideas, ideals and faith,

unless and until some religious or political patriarchic groups intervened to design the differences into conflicts.

Being Indian is not about region, language, religion, caste, being Right or Left, being LGBTQ or not, whether you eat beef or eat pork or you are a vegetarian or vegan. Being Indian is about having the freedom to be all of those, or some, or none, at your own free will. Being Indian is celebrating our continually evolving diversity and valuing our freedom and rights above all else. Indians are not about identity but Indians are about diversity. That is the Indian way.

Sir, I would like to paraphrase Martin Niemoller, a German Protestant Christian, who spent seven years in a Nazi concentration camp for opposing the religious policies of Adolf Hitler. I have taken the liberty of changing the victims to better suit our current Indian context. I inserted Muslims and Christians in place of Trade Unions and Jews.

> "First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Muslims, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Muslim. Then they came for the

Christians, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Christian. Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me."

Sir, polarisation strategy is about making people believe that it is not going to happen to them; it will happen only to the `real culprits' or to their rivals. Hence, "let them suffer and be punished" is the mindset that they try to create. This message is for the Majority, who may be influenced by these polarisation tactics. I strongly feel that today it may be the `Others', but tomorrow it will be `you'. There is also a report from the Director of the National Intelligence of the United States saying that there is every possibility of a communal violence before the Indian General Elections this year. This is a direct indictment on the Modi-Shah regime's election strategy of polarisation.

India is the fastest growing internet market in the world. We are the largest internet data users in the world. We are using more data than the US and China combined. More and more essential services are moving online. At this stage it is important for us to understand what our rights are and to what extent the Modi-Shah regime is protecting or violating our right to privacy.

Even Bill Gates has been saying that there has to be a balance between technological innovation and privacy. How can we use data to gain insights into education or health while still protecting people's privacy?

How much technology can we use to improve our lives, and to improve the transparency and efficiency in delivery of services by the Government, and where is the *Laxman Rekha* that stops infringing on our privacy?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat now.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Sir, the Modi-Shah Regime passed an Order on December 20th, 2018, authorising 10 Central Government Agencies to monitor, intercept, and decrypt any information generated, transmitted, received, or stored in any computer source, by any agency, without any approval from any authority of the Government of India. …*(Interruptions)*

Sir, earlier, the approval of the Joint Secretary was to be taken for any interception or tapping. But it has been done without proper discussion or consensus.

The above Order is a clear violation of privacy, and is a clear-cut example of the rise of the surveillance State. This is

against the Nine-Judge Supreme Court ruling, in the Order dated August, 2017, in the case between Puttaswamy vs. Union of India, that Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please take your seat. You have already taken more time.

Now, Shri Mohammad Salim.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Sir, I am just going to conclude.

Before concluding, I only say that there is a thin line between confidence and arrogance. That thin line is humility. The PM is feeling that he is the saviour of India and Democracy. But, with his actions over the last five years, be it relating to AP's rights, demonetisation, improper implementation of GST, and so on, the PM is proving to be a destroyer of Democracy, and not a saviour.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri Mohammad Salim.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Sir, in the end, I would like to quote Sardar Patel. He said:

> “If your goodness is an impediment in your way, let your eyes be red with anger, and try to fight injustice with a firm hand”

This is what our Chief Minister, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and the people of Andhra Pradesh are doing. The entire India will have to fight this, Sir.

Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

***SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR):** I welcome the address moved by His Excellency the President of the Republic of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, addressing the Joint House of Parliament (assembled session) on 31.01.2019.

The address presented by the Hon. President is historic and unprecedented. This has been proved and presented factually to the country and the world in the form of the tenure of the illustrious Prime Minister of our country, Narendra Modi Ji, full of successes and achievements over the last five years.

Today, due to the efforts of the famous popular Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and the hard-working people of our country, and working with sensitivity, the entire country is developing rapidly, and this process will continue. With the blessings and support of 130 crore people of the country, the Government is moving towards creating a New India where every person can get basic amenities and where poverty, malnutrition, filth, and illiteracy are not present.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

A new Bharat where every person is healthy and safe; every person should get a chance to hone his talent; every person should get equal opportunity to move forward; every person should get justice, and his dignity should be seen with respect all over the country.

Let us all take a pledge together to build a Bharat that is free from terrorism, communalism, casteism, and corruption.

The heartbeat of our country, the voice of crores of people, the glorious Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, worked in the last five years to fulfil the aspirations of every citizen of the country for proper development. When Mr. Modi registered a historic victory in the general elections in 2014, before that, the country was going through a period of uncertainty. There was a lot of frustration in the country, but after the elections, as soon as Modi Ji took charge of the new Government, he took a pledge to create a new Bharat—a new Bharat where there is no incompleteness and inefficiency in the systems, where there is no corruption, and where there is no place for uncleanness. From the very first day, the goal of this transparent Government was that the lives of all the countrymen should improve, their

troubles arising out of misgovernance should be removed, and public facilities should reach the people standing in the last row of society. That is why, by adopting the principles of Antyodaya of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, our Government has infused a new hope and confidence among the people and increased the reputation of the country. Effective efforts have been made for social and economic transformation. As a result, the Government has won the immense affection and trust of the countrymen.

Today, our country Bharat is becoming the centre of the whole world. There is a vast change in the outlook of trust towards this country. All this has been possible due to the clear policy of our Government and the hard work of 125 crore Indians in the country. Today, we are moving towards a new Bharat where we can be seen with respect all over the world. We are continuously moving ahead with the vision of One India, Best India.

Bharat is an agricultural country, and if agriculture is to be enabled, then the development of villages of the country is very important. Today, keeping this in mind, the Government has

made sincere efforts in the last five years to make the farmers advanced and prosperous. In order to get the right price for the produce of the farmer, our Government has increased the respect of the farmers by taking a historic decision to increase the support price (MSP) of 22 major crops to one and a half times more than the cost of the crop. Not only has the support price increased, but also the accessible market has been made accessible to the farmers through e-market. Along with this, it is working with resolve to double the income of farmers by 2022 by developing subsidies in agricultural equipment, ensuring adequate arrangements for irrigation, setting up food processing units, producing neem-coated urea, and providing adequate power facilities for irrigation, as well as other ancillary sectors like fisheries, animal husbandry, poultry, and beekeeping.

In order to solve the permanent problems of the farmers, our Government has decided to make a provision of giving Rs. 6,000 per year under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana to the farmers having land up to 5 acres (2 hectares) in this year's budget. With this, an annual expenditure of Rs. 75,000 crore has been arranged for more than 12 crore farmers

of the country, the first installment of which, Rs. 20,000 crore, will be paid by this March. This will provide good seeds, timely fertilisers, and irrigation to the farmers, enabling them to easily do their farming work.

Apart from this, it has been decided to create a separate department of fisheries for the welfare of fishermen and a Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog for the protection of cows.

Our Government has made efforts day and night to double the income of farmers by taking several important steps like Soil Health Cards for 17 crore farmers, 100% neem-coated urea, completion of incomplete irrigation projects, and the promotion of micro-irrigation through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

I congratulate the farmers of Bharat. Our farmer brothers and sisters are not only the basis of our economy, but they are also the protectors of the traditions of our country. All these works of our Government will bring a permanent change in our agriculture system, which has been going on for the last 70 years, and our farmers will be able to overcome difficulties by

empowering them and will be able to do justice to their potential.

The poor have the first right to the country's resources. Today, the economically weaker general category people living in our country have been given the opportunity to move forward by granting them 10% reservation in educational institutions and jobs. In the Winter Session this year, a historic decision was taken by Parliament to extend the benefit of reservation to the poor by passing the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Bill. With this initiative, efforts have been made to do justice to the young men and women of the country who were feeling deprived and helpless due to the curse of poverty.

To keep poor families healthy, our Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest healthcare program, and Jan Arogya Yojana for about 50 crore people of the country.

Due to the policies of the Modi Government related to the welfare of the poor, life has become easier. Antyodaya Yojana has proved to be important in the upliftment of the poor. Today,

our Government has worked tirelessly to make the poor service of Narayan Seva a reality.

Our youth is the biggest strength of the country. Bharat is the youngest country in the world, and the hopes and dreams of the youth of 21st-century Bharat have been inspiring the policies and decisions of our Government. This is why the Government has trained the youth in skill development. In the coming times, more than 15,000 ITIs, more than 10,000 Skill Development Centres, and more than 600 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Kendras will play an important role in enhancing the skills of the youth of Bharat.

The Government is giving opportunities to the youth to move forward through programs like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Start-up India, Stand-up India, Make in India, Made in India, and Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana. Young women of the country are also being made participants in this program.

This is the first time since independence that the policies and schemes of a Government have provided so many new opportunities for entrepreneurship to women. They have been

economically inclusive and empowered on a large scale. Today, many programs are being run by the Government to make our power strong. Under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, 73% of women entrepreneurs received benefits and established self-employment, thereby becoming empowered.

Whether it is the formation of women's self-help groups or steps taken to recruit in the Short Service Commission in the Armed Forces, today, the women of the country have the opportunity to serve in areas like the army, police, pilots, and fighter planes. This has increased self-reliance among women. Maternity leave was earlier available for 12 weeks to take care of newborns, but now it has been increased to 26 weeks.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, approximately 6.25 crore free gas connections have been distributed to provide mothers and sisters relief from smoke, thereby saving them from serious illnesses and enhancing economic capacity.

In order to free our Muslim daughters from a life of fear and terror and to give them the right to live like other daughters, our Government is constantly trying to get the bill related to the

triple talaq law passed in Parliament so that they can also receive justice and respect.

In the last five years, we have worked to strengthen the infrastructure for the all-round development of the country, in which many programs are being run for the development of airways, roadways, waterways, and rail routes. Today, 27 kilometres of highways are being constructed in the country every day. Bharat is the fastest highway-making country in the world.

Without education, the concept of development cannot be fulfilled. That is why our Government is setting up higher education institutions. Today, 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 14 Triple IITs, NITs, and 4 NIDs are being established in the country. Along with this, 103 Kendriya Vidyalayas, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, and 62 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established in every tribal-dominated taluk (block).

The Government is taking several steps to improve the quality of education. More than 5,000 “Atal Tinkering Labs” are being prepared by the Government for the development of modern technology. Under the youth-centric “Khelo India”

campaign, the Government is trying to identify and promote talented sportspersons living in every nook and corner of the country. Today, we are seeing the result that our sportspersons are increasing the pride of the country by bringing medals at the national and international levels. The Government is working with determination to bring all such players forward in a planned manner.

By providing basic facilities like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, toilets, electricity connections, and gas connections to every poor person in my country, our Government is working seriously to fulfil the aspirations and dreams of these sections.

Under the leadership of respected Mr. Narendra Modi, our Government has taken many important steps to strengthen the economy in the last five years. We are all well aware of the condition of banking facilities for the poor of our country. The Government has provided the basis for economic change through Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana. This scheme is not just about opening people's bank accounts; its purpose is very broad. This scheme is providing economic inclusion to the poor of the country and is also boosting their confidence. Today, due

to this scheme, bank accounts of 34 crore people have been opened in the country, and almost every family in the country has been connected with the banking system. According to an international agency, 55% of the total bank accounts opened in the world between 2014 and 2017 were opened in Bharat. It is also necessary to understand the positive impact it is having on the economic system of the country beyond the statistics. Today, 88 thousand crore rupees in Jan Dhan accounts is a testimony to how these accounts have changed the way people save. It is only because of the Jan Dhan Scheme that wages from MGNREGA, benefits from different insurance schemes, scholarships, pensions, and most other Government benefits are being credited directly into the bank accounts of the poor through DBT. The role of intermediaries between the poor and the Government has been eliminated by the Jan Dhan accounts.

Today, the country has over 60 crore RuPay debit cards, and the BHIM app is facilitating low-cost digital transactions. A significant part of this progress is due to the Jan Dhan Yojana. In this context, the Government is now bringing banking services closer to the people in rural areas through the "India

Post Payments Bank" established in post offices. Today, the economic inclusion happening in India is being discussed on the global stage.

Hon. Narendra Modi demonstrated his commitment to curbing black money and corruption by deciding to implement demonetisation. This decision struck at the parallel economy running in the country, bringing funds that were outside the system into the national economy. This step by the Government has broken the backbone of forces destabilising the country and systems facilitating the flow of black money. The Government has cancelled the registration of 3 lakh 38 thousand suspicious shell companies responsible for black money. Directors of these companies have also been barred from being reappointed. From the very first day of assuming office in 2014, our Government understood the pulse of the people and launched a campaign against corruption and black money. In its inaugural Cabinet meeting, it decided to establish the S.I.T. and enacted new and stringent laws against black money. Additionally, laws such as the Benami Transactions Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, and Fugitive Economic Offenders Act were enacted,

bringing approximately Rs. 1,30,000 crore of undisclosed income into the tax net.

A good government responsibly earns wealth, enhances the state's resources and services, ensures their proper safeguarding, and judiciously delivers state benefits and assets to the people with vigilance and fairness. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has demonstrated these duties diligently and successfully over the past five years. With the hope and confidence bestowed upon him by the nation to lead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fulfilling his duty with unwavering dedication. Hence, today, the people of the nation are eager to re-elect the Bharatiya Janata Party government under his leadership in 2019.

Through GST, the country has initiated a system that promotes honesty and transparency. Now, with comprehensive reforms like GST in place, the concept of 'One Nation-One Tax-One Market' has been realised, leading to the establishment of an honest and transparent business environment in the country. The government has continuously kept the process of GST reforms ongoing by considering suggestions from the business community. As a result of the government's continuous efforts

towards reforms, India's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business has significantly improved. From 142nd place in 2014, India has now climbed up to the 77th position, a remarkable improvement of 65 ranks. This is an extraordinary achievement. Today, we are witnessing effective results of the Make in India initiative in the sectors of industrial growth and job creation.

It is the duty of every citizen and the government to honour the contributions of national leaders. Continuing the tradition of honouring the builders of modern India, on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary and his martyrdom day, a "National Salt Satyagraha Memorial" built in Dandi was dedicated to the nation. In Delhi, they also inaugurated the Kranti Mandir, dedicated to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and initiated the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar (Subhas Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award) in his honour. Our government has preserved and developed five sacred sites associated with the architect of the Constitution, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, under the name Panchteerth.

The country has paid homage to the Iron Man, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, by constructing the world's tallest statue, the

"Statue of Unity." Today, Sardar Patel's call to strengthen India through unity and integrity resonates strongly; it reminds us to always honour the duty of the many great leaders who secured our independence. As a tribute to the tribal freedom fighters, museums are being established in states with lower populations to commemorate their sacrifice.

In 2015, our government conferred the Bharat Ratna on Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya and the poet-politician and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This year, the decision has been made to honour social reformer Rashtriya Rishi Nanaji Deshmukh, renowned musician Bhupen Hazarika, and former President Shri Pranab Mukherjee with the Bharat Ratna. Our government has demonstrated the nation's commitment to ideals of sacrifice and service by honouring individuals with national awards based solely on their merit and selfless dedication to public welfare, without any bias or discrimination.

The highest priority of our government remains the security of the nation. While India nurtures friendly relations with every country, we also recognise the necessity to continually

strengthen ourselves to effectively tackle every challenge we face. In response to changing dynamics, India has introduced its new policy and approach to the world by conducting surgical strikes on terrorist locations across the border. Today, India has joined the select group of countries possessing nuclear triad capabilities. Our military and their morale are symbols of India's capabilities in the 21st century. The government not only fulfilled the demand for One Rank One Pension pending for four decades but also disbursed arrears of more than Rs. 10,000 crore to over 20 lakh ex-servicemen. In the coming months, India will strengthen its military capabilities by deploying the highly advanced combat aircraft Rafale to fulfil its defence requirements.

With this statement, I warmly welcome the address and inauguration speech by the Hon. President.

Even in this era of hatred, there should be love.

Let us all come together and strive to ensure that India should be built into a divine nation.

Thank you.

[English]

***SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** Our Independence was the result of efforts by thousands of patriotic freedom fighters. Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar instilled in us the value of human dignity and republic ethic. The key to India's success is its diversity. Our diversity makes us so unique. In this land we find mix of religion, language, cultures, life style. We are so different and yet so similar. Despite that, we have seen in the last four years violence against SC/ST people, incidents of atrocities, mob lynching and communal violence increasing day by day. The President didn't mention about the situation going on all over the country, did not think about the increase in number of farmers' suicides due to crop failure and debt, and didn't take any steps to provide minimum support price to farmers as per the recommendations of Swaminathan Committee Report. Due to demonetisation many have lost their job and how much black money was recovered is not mentioned.

In health sector there is need to improve the doctor-population ratio for providing better medical facilities in the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

country specially in rural India, where the people suffer a lot. Due to hasty implementation of GST there is an adverse effect on economy, on micro, small and medium enterprises. Each citizen of India is a nation builder and custodian of India's well being and the legacy we will pass to the coming generations. For that, we have to ensure compulsory and uniform education across the country. Implementation of Kothari Committee and Muchkund Dubey Committee is needed. Government should bring 33% representation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislature Assemblies with provision for women from Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes.

***SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD):** I am thankful to Hon. President of India for giving me the opportunity to express my views in the Joint Session of Parliament in Budget Session.

President Address was nothing but one type of election campaign on behalf of the Government. At the time of Lok Sabha Election 2014, BJP has focused on so many promises in its election manifesto. But after four and half years most of the promises remain unfulfilled. Again in the last President's Address Government floated some dream to the people. In this Address Government tried to display a shining picture of our country. But in President's Address there is no mention of promise made by this Government to generate two crore employment per year for the youth. It is a matter of great regret that the percentage of unemployment is the highest after the independence in last four years. It is a matter of shame to our nation. Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was announced by our Prime Minister in Lok Sabha. But in the President Address there is not a single word uttered about it. Now I want to know,

* Speech was laid on the Table.

what is the outcome of SAGY? Government has done nothing for this project. Another major sector is agriculture. In spite of so many announcements done by this Government still now farmers are committing suicide everyday. Still now Central Government has not waived the loan of farmers. Government has announced to double the income of farmers. Also they have declared new MSP rate. But who is purchasing the agriculture produce in harvesting time? In this Address there is no mention of price rise. Price of Petrol and diesel became highest within the world due to imposing of so many taxes by the Central and State Government. In such a way peoples are exploited by the Government.

In this Address Government claimed demonetization was a success. But everybody knows, not a single penny has been recovered as black money rather 99.6% demonetized notes had returned to banks. Demonetization hit our small business and agriculture very badly. Still now these sectors are suffering.

In this Address Government has mentioned about Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019. India is a secular country according to our Constitution. Then how a Government can

place such a bill in religious line? What is the effect of the bill now in North East? Total North Eastern States are burning. People are protesting everyday in the street. They are claiming to withdraw this bill. We the C.P.I. (M) also claiming to withdraw this Bill. Government has claimed that it has infused new hope and confidence among the people of our country but where is the new hope? No employment, no new investment in industrial sector and still now agriculture sector is suffering very much due to none getting profitable price i.e. one and half times of production cost. Government itself is playing divisive politics in the name of mob lynching by the gau rakhshak, love jihad and other hate politics. In such situation how the people of our country will get confidence. Actually in this President Address Government has floated some credibility for its false promises and there is nothing new.

[Translation]

***SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (DINDORI):** Hon. President has depicted in his speech a vision of the country's development, suggesting that the wheels of real progress have now come on track. The environment of instability has ended, paving the way for the creation of a new India. For this, the current Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, deserves praise and admiration.

This country belongs to the farmers, who toil in the scorching sun, shiver in the biting cold, and brave fierce monsoons to produce food for the people of the nation. Therefore, the Indian farmer is the provider of sustenance for the country. The Government has initiated the new Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to protect farmers from natural disasters, addressing the shortcomings of the old crop insurance scheme. Additionally, the premium amount has been reduced under this new scheme. More than 1,500 agricultural markets across the country have been connected online, enabling farmers to sell their produce at profitable prices. The number of cold storage

* Speech was laid on the Table.

facilities has been increased to safeguard farmers' food security by preventing the spoilage of crops during transportation. In my parliamentary constituency of Dindori, Nashik, there is substantial production of onions, seasonal fruits, and superior-quality grapes compared to other regions. Farmers are benefiting from the government's agricultural schemes. During agricultural crop failures due to natural disasters, erratic rainfall, droughts, and floods, farmers were resorting to suicide. The Government has carefully understood the farmers' concerns and has introduced the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to provide relief. Under this, farmers will pay lower premiums and receive higher compensation during crop losses. This has resulted in an increase of more than 50 percent in financial assistance to the country's farmers. Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has assured that farmers' income will be doubled; for this, the Minimum Support Price for 22 food grains has been increased to one and a half times.

In the country, due to extensive use of chemical fertilisers, a decline in their fertility has been observed. To address this, the Government will issue Soil Health Cards to 17 crore farmers.

This will enable them to nourish and make their land more productive and also receive periodic information about the quality of their soil. Farmers in the country still depend on rainfall for agriculture. The Prime Minister has launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana to expand the irrigation sector in the country, aiming to combat drought situations effectively. The Government is harnessing every drop of water by collecting and utilising it for irrigation purposes, which is expected to benefit the tribal majority areas in my parliamentary constituency where irrigation facilities are limited. The country has increased its urea production and reopened closed fertiliser factories. These measures have curbed the black market for urea and reduced the need for imports from abroad. To prevent adulteration in fertilisers, a system of 100 percent neem coating has been implemented. To provide farmers with additional sources of income beyond agriculture, the Government is promoting animal husbandry, dairy farming, food processing, and fisheries. The current Government is providing fishing trawlers to fishermen for deep-sea fishing. This will assist farmers in achieving social and economic development. In our

country today, millions worth of vegetables and fruits still go to waste. Efforts are being made to prevent this wastage, and their utilisation is being encouraged. Initiatives such as establishing food parks, enhancing cold storage facilities, and supporting food processing industries economically are underway to achieve this goal. Since coming to power, this Government has launched several projects under the new Food Parks and Cold Chain Scheme.

In pursuit of creating an educated, healthy, and clean India, primary schools across the country have built over 9 crore toilets for students. To ensure the health and well-being of the country's citizens, the Government has initiated the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and the Prime Minister's Jan Arogya Abhiyan. Each family has been provided arrangements to spend up to 5 lakh rupees on medical treatment. Yoga has been promoted in the country, and for this, International Yoga Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm on June 21st. This initiative will foster the education and personality development of the country's children while also combating malnutrition effectively. For this purpose, the National Nutrition Mission has been launched. Through the

Swachh Bharat Mission, people's mindset is being transformed to create a clean and healthy environment in the country. To improve governance in villages, e-governance has been rapidly implemented, leading to the computerisation of land records in villages. This initiative aims to reduce land disputes. This will significantly reduce favouritism and corruption in villages.

I appreciate the current Government for bringing about extensive improvements in the living standards of the poor through schemes like the Saubhagya Yojana for electricity connections, the Ujjwala Yojana for gas connections, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana for life security, various facilities for differently-abled individuals to live better, granting constitutional status to the Other Backward Classes Commission, and implementing reservations of 10 percent in jobs and educational institutions for the economically weaker sections.

At last, I express gratitude for the Hon. President's speech.

[*]SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH): The address given by the Hon. President underscores the initiatives taken by the current Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, which have effectively steered the country towards development. India is progressing towards the construction of a New India under his guidance. When this Government came into power in 2014, there was an atmosphere of uncertainty. Various Government operations were marred by irregularities, resulting in neither benefit nor relief reaching the common people of the country. Since 2014, the current Government has worked to eliminate uncertainty and corruption at their roots. They have also tackled the rapid inflation that was escalating in 2014 by controlling currency depreciation. The present Government has implemented a historic reservation of 10 percent for economically weaker sections among the General Category, without affecting existing reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. As a result,

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

people are showing increased trust and affection towards the current Government.

The Government has pledged that by 2022, housing will be made available to everyone in the country, ensuring that no one remains homeless. Efforts to provide housing to people in villages and cities are progressing rapidly. In the past six and a half years, more than 1 crore 30 lakh houses have been constructed, whereas until 2014, only 25 lakh houses had been built. People are experiencing ease in constructing and purchasing homes in urban areas. Women and girls in the country used to wait for the break of dawn to go for sanitation needs. This Government has addressed this issue by making nearly 5.45 lakh villages open defecation-free and constructing more than 9 crore toilets across the country. Through its Saubhagya Yojana, this Government has provided electricity connections to many households where darkness prevailed, allowing children to study without waiting for sunrise. This Government has promised that electricity will reach all households by March 2019.

Previously, especially in rural areas, women had to endure smoke while cooking on wood stoves, but this Government has provided free LPG connections through the Ujjwala Yojana. During its tenure, the Government has distributed LPG connections to 6 crore households, and it plans to provide 2 crore more LPG connections.

This Government has focused extensively on uplifting farmers. This Government has established Minimum Support Prices for 22 crops to ensure farmers receive remunerative prices for their produce. Additionally, several schemes have been introduced to reduce farmers' expenses. A scheme has also been announced to provide an annual payment of Rs. 6000 to farmers owning up to two hectares of land. This has provided relief to the farmers.

To bring banking facilities to the country's farmers, the Jan Dhan Yojana has played a crucial role. Under this scheme, bank accounts have been opened for 34 crore people, connecting every family in the nation with banking services. This has fostered a culture of savings and financial discipline among Indian farmers. Between 2014 and 2017, 55 percent of the bank

accounts opened worldwide were in India, which is a record. The current Government has shown particular dedication in providing financial assistance to farmers through banks. This has increased the prospects for farmers' income growth.

My Government has recognised the hardship faced by poor families when someone falls ill and the burden it places on their finances. To address this issue, we have implemented the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan, through which arrangements have been made to provide healthcare coverage up to Rs. 5 lakh for 50 crore people. Under this scheme, 10 lakh people have already undergone treatment. My parliamentary constituency includes the Dediapada and Sagwara talukas under the Narmada district, as well as the tribal majority areas of the Netrang and Valia talukas in the Bharuch district. A sufficient number of qualified doctors are ensured under the Ayushman Yojana. New hospitals should be opened, modern equipment should be provided in hospitals, and directions should be given for qualified doctors to be available continuously in hospitals. Recruitment of qualified doctors should also be conducted as per the requirement.

In my parliamentary constituency of Bharuch, particularly in the Dediapada taluka of Narmada district, including the Mal-Samot, Mosada, and Pipalod areas and approximately 25 to 30 villages around them, as well as in the Netrang, Jhagadiya, Bankhuta, Mungaj, and Damarkhada areas connected to Narmada district and around 10 to 15 villages near Jespur Asar Rajparadi in Bharuch district, the BSNL network is not functioning properly. BSNL telephones and network connectivity are completely non-functional in these areas. As a result, people are deprived of access to online services, and the local residents are also unable to submit applications online. In my parliamentary constituency, both in the Narmada and Bharuch districts, there is also an inadequate number of BSNL towers. Due to the lack of telecommunications infrastructure, model villages could not be developed.

Through the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, irrigation facilities have been enhanced, benefiting farmers by providing improved irrigation facilities. The Gangapur Irrigation Scheme has the potential to provide excellent irrigation facilities to my parliamentary constituency. The Gujarat Government has

forwarded this scheme to the Central Government, but it is still pending.

Under the direction of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, beneficial initiatives have been implemented across the country, bringing advantages to the people. I support the proposal to express gratitude for the speech of the Hon. President.

[English]

***SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** The people of the country have a lot of hopes on the President's Address because this document is the roadmap, resolution and intentions of the Government.

In the last General Election 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' was the NDA's famous slogan. But the fact is that NDA Government is concerned only about the development of few people. This Government talks about "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas". However, I want to know whether any segment of the population has been taken along. Without taking along all the people, the country cannot develop.

On the other hand, the NDA Government talks of according top priority to the welfare of farmers, and on the other hand, the NDA Government wants to acquire their land forcibly. This has created fear in their mind and it is the duty of the Government to assure them in this regard.

The NDA Government talks of the country's higher GDP growth and food inflation are at a record low. But what about

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the plight of poor, disadvantaged people? What is the policy initiative of the Government towards ameliorating the pain and agony of poor and downtrodden? In spite of petrol prices decreased drastically, the prices of essential commodities, vegetables, fruits have gone up.

As far as water disputes in the country are concerned, it has not been mentioned in the President's Address. It is a matter of great concern that the entire country is facing great difficulty in sharing waters between various States. I would like to suggest that the need of the hour is to have a national policy for water sharing between the States concerned. So, there should be permanent solution to such contentious issues. The Union Government should take all necessary steps in this regard.

The Swachh Bharat Mission is very far from becoming a people's movement and it has not produced any worthwhile result, but instead of much better result was achievement under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan under NPA.

The NDA Government has reduced funding of the MGNREGA programme and also reduced its access by reducing number of districts to 200. 'Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram

Yojana' with focus on villages having predominance of SC/ST. NDA Government has only announced housing for all by 2022 without any clear and concrete roadmap of how will this scheme be taken up and from where the funds will be arranged etc.

There has been steep fall in international crude oil prices due to which fuel prices have come down but the entire benefits of reduction of crude oil prices have not been passed on the consumer. I urge the Government to pass on entire to consumer.

On the issue of improving relations with our immediate neighbours, especially with Pakistan and China, the Government must outline the policy.

This Government has not announced any worthwhile incentive for Food Parks like encouraging food processing industry to set up its unit or shift its unit to Food Park etc.

I want the Government to come out with concrete measures to stem the outbreak of Swine Flu and Dengue diseases before it takes the form of an epidemic.

Agriculture is the largest employment providing sector in the country. 72% of the population in the country has agriculture land but 65% out of them do farming. The farmers are removing

unemployment but sadly they are not properly mentioned in the Address.

There are more than 7 crore educated unemployed youth in the country. Even the people engaged in agriculture sector are also not getting job throughout the year. These people have found no mention in the Address. No mention has been made in the Address about these people. Those who used to get 100 days of employment under MNREGA, have also been deprived of the same by this Government. This Government has totally engaged itself in anti-people work. Today, our children do not go to the employment exchange for registration. They go for interview online and get the job. The Government do not have any idea as t how many youths are unemployed. The Government is silent about workers in the unorganized sector which constitute large percentage of labour force and they do not get their rightful dues.

I urge the Government to increase the number of hostels both for male and female students of SC/ST communities by building new hostels. Story doesn't end here, Government should also provide the facilities in the hostel to enable the

students to prepare themselves to face the global challenges. As a result the Government should also provide the computer education facilities, libraries and training for spoken English in their hostel itself. Pre and Post Matric Scholarships for SCs/STs should be doubled to meet the educational needs of these students. Women empowerment and safety is utmost need of an hour and the Government should promptly make efforts for women empowerment.

Another point I would like to mention is that a number of States in our country have repeatedly facing drought or famine conditions. The Union Government has opened the Food Corporation of India to rescue the affected people by distributing the foodgrains from the FCI. Whereas cattle and other livestock's are concerned, there is no such Fodder Bank which are to be set up to rescue them at the time of distress. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to earmark adequate funds for setting up of Food Bank at every cluster of villages to rescue our livestock's during drought and other natural calamities.

My next point is about a national policy on medium of instruction at primary school level. This has also not been mentioned in the President's Address. I would like to draw the attention of the Government that experts in the education field are of the firm view that in primary education, either the mother tongue or the regional administrative language of the State should be made the medium of instruction. In globalized era, it is very essential to promote and preserve our own language and culture. In order to promote Indian languages, the Central Government should bring a national policy in regard to medium of instruction at primary level. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to consider the issue of bringing a national policy on medium of instruction.

I hope that the Union Government will come up to the expectation and aspirations of the people of our nation.

[*]**SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** I would like to thank the Honorable President, for this Address delivered to both house in joint session held on 31st January, 2019, but I regret that the Address fails to mention certain developments and concerns which merit discussion.

While speaking about construction of toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission, various connected issues like ground water combination 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 diseases, and create havoc in water supply in villages. Sanitation and water need to be looked at from a holistic perspective, wherein the pursuit of the former, the health of latter could not be ignored or sacrificed. Moreover, the fund utilization under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been very low at 38.01% rate of utilization i.e. Rs. 2223.22 crore vis a vis funds released Rs.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

5847.92 crore which indicates how much more the scheme could have achieved if implemented efficiently.

I regret that while stating that the Government has provided electricity connection to every household, there was no mention of the fact that India's per capita consumption remains lowest among the developing world. The crux of the matter lies not in the number of villages that have been electrified but the definition of 'electrification' which does not mean every household in the village has access to power. The Standing Committee on Energy (2013) had observed that according to this definition, a village would be called electrified even if up to 90% of households in it do not have electricity connection. The abysmally low per capita power consumption needs to be increased in order for us to claim that India is rapidly moving on the path where every home is electrified and no poor household will forced to live in darkness.

I would like to thank the President for addressing the issue of high out of pocket expenditure on medical care, however, I regret that during his address, he has failed to throw light on the morose state of health in the country. The President informed

about the various schemes of the Government without bringing it to the notice of the nation that the Government spares just 1.28 per cent of the GDP for public healthcare, say less than the global average of 6 per cent. Rs. 3 per day is spent on an average Indian's healthcare which reflects the consistent indifferent approach of the Government in terms of public health spending. The dismal figure puts India below other low-income nations like Maldives, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal. The Government also failed to solve the problem of manpower for the health services. One doctor serves a population of 11,000 which is 10 times more than the WHO recommended a doctor-population ratio of 1:1,000. Such indicators reveal the glum state of healthcare in the nation contrary to how the President's Address depicts.

I regret that while speaking about the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, he didn't address the problem of continued preference of using firewood and traditional biomass fuels that have the potential to cause respiratory diseases. The Government launched the scheme in haste, without waiting for the results of a study it had commissioned to understand how

exactly poor households could be induce to use LPG gas as kitchen fuel. While the number of LPG connections across India has increased by an impressive 16.26% since the scheme was launched the use of gas cylinders increased by only 9.83%, even lower than the rate recorded in 2014-2015, when the scheme did not exist. This difference between the increase in the number of connections and the sale of cylinders is a consequence of the fact that many people with new connections are not buying refilled cylinders after their first one runs out. Thus, it seems that to arrive at an accurate assessment of PMUY, merely counting the number of new gas connections cannot be the only yardstick.

The President's Address was disappointing which made claims that are contrary to the ground realities and known facts. The nation has been misled into believing that the Government has fulfilled its promise of fixing the Minimum Support Price – MSP at one and a half times higher than the production cost of the crop. Instead of fixing the MSP according to the "C2" cost of production which many experts in the country has recommended, the Government had fixed it based on the "A2 or

"A2+FL" cost of production which does not solve the misery faced by farmers because of low remuneration.

After food and water, shelter forms the third most important component of the basic requirements. It was fitting that the Government turned its attention to that. However, there are some aspects of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana which were overlooked by the President in his Address. An important aspect of PMAY is the interest subsidy on a home loan and the direct subsidy for individual house construction or enhancement. However, a requirement to avail either subsidy are title document to the property. And there lies the crux of the problem; our land and property records are in a poor condition; land records are governed by the State's revenue department, while housing is a separate agency. Citizens are unable to navigate this maze to obtain their property documents, ending up locked out of the scheme's benefits. Just the mere statistics of the number of houses built does not give an actual picture of the progress of the scheme and the housing condition in the nation.

It is appreciable that the President mentioned that youth is the great strength of our nation but I regret that amidst praising

the Government for its schemes focusing on youth, the President did not bring out the actual abysmal condition of employment in the nation. According to the 2019 NSSO Report on unemployment, the unemployment rate in the country has been at a 45 year high since 1972-73 – a period from when the job data is comparable. With 6.1% unemployment rate, the schemes mentioned in President's Address seem to have borne no fruit. The schemes of skill development have clearly led to no enhancement of youth's job prospects, similarly the scheme for EPS and EPF is of no use if youth is not only able to find a job. Employment is a very important indicator of how well the Government is dealing with its demographic dividend and thus, there is an urgent need to address the issue.

While mentioning most of the Government scheme, the President has emphasized on the assistance provided to women however, I regret that the Government failed to fulfill its promise of providing 33 percent reservation to women in Parliament and in State Legislative Assembly. Unless women are given significant representation in the institutions

responsible for formulating and executing policies, the plight of women in the nation does not seem to improve.

On the front of welfare of tribals, I regret that there is no mention of welfare schemes for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population of the nation. The Government has failed the poor meritorious scheduled caste students by slashing scholarship funds for the scheduled caste students in Odisha from about 220 crores per year to 35-40 crores per year by changing the funding pattern of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme meant for such students from 20:80 to 90:10 between the Union Government and the State Government.

The President mentioned that GST has helped in reducing the difficulties faced by traders and has enhanced their ease of doing business across the country, however, there is no mention of the problem the new tax regime has caused to the tribal people of Odisha who are involved in collecting Kendu leaves. Prior to implementation of 18% GST, there was 5% VAT on Kendu leaf. This is a huge hike because of which there is a drop in selling price of leaves. 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 it for subsistence. Thus, GST has adversely impacted the implementation of social security and welfare schemes for 8.5 lakh Kendu Leaf pluckers, seasonal workers and binding workers engaged in the trade.

The President claimed the Government is fully focused on the management of natural disasters, and the financial assistance has been more than the doubled so that relief work can be performed with full capacity however, the Government failed to provide Rs. 1000 crore to the Government of Odisha as interim assistance people of cyclone Titli. Moreover, my state Odisha's deathly relationship with lightning has not yet been acknowledged as a natural calamity by the Government. On an average, at least 2000 death take place per year in our country due to lightning which accounts for over 25% of the total accidental deaths caused by nature. Over 1600 people have lost their lives to lightning 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.

The President also failed my State of Odisha by not mentioning about the request to give special status to Odisha in his Address. I hope that the Union Government will realize its mistake and help the Odisha State Government in its efforts for ensuring development of the State both morally and financially.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM (RAIGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, I propose a vote of thanks on the address delivered by the Hon. President before the Parliament on January 31st. The members of the ruling party clapped 115 times during the 115-paragraph speech to express their gratitude. In the speeches of the Hon. President, electoral issues were never addressed, and there was no glimpse of electoral campaigning either. They are considering that during the election, all emerging political issues will be included, whereas the promise was to include everyone in development, ensuring inclusive progress. The economic situation is very critical. They promised to usher in better times. Madam Harsimrat Kaur, who is the Minister of Food Processing, seemed to imply in her speech that whatever good days existed in Punjab have faded away in the past five years, replaced by difficult times. Her speech hinted at this. The situation in the rest of the country is similar as well. If you observe, the concentration of wealth is accumulating, with one percent of people possessing 12 percent of the wealth, which is incremental. In the past one to three years since the Government

of Shri Modi came into power, 12 percent of their assets, and our incremental income, has been heading towards that one percent. Currently, there are nine households holding more than 50 percent of our nation's wealth. I won't speak in Tamil because I don't know the language, but regarding the True Colour of Great Trivallur with a 385 number, in English it is that for the king, regarding attention to his kingdom’s wealth and to fruit, he must guard its source and its produce and distribute it evenhandedly. They said 'watchman,' but failed to guard. On one hand, corruption is rampant, while on the other, inequality and disparity are growing. Look at how unjust society is becoming and how inequality is increasing. This will be very damaging for us, and therefore, I believe that the common people, who are working hard in the fields, mines, and factories, especially the farmers and labourers, are not getting the right price for their produce.

It seems like you're being advertised. We have done well for everyone, but when hundreds of people are coming out onto the streets. In the face of hardships, on January 8th and 9th, a nationwide strike was organised by 20 crore workers and

farmers. In what joy, as the very rights they deserved are being snatched away from them? On one hand, rights are being snatched away, and on the other hand, promises of charity are being made. As members of the leftist ideology, we desire the protection of our fundamental rights that form our basic foundation. We should receive our rights. What is the current situation of unemployment? The Government had promised to provide jobs to two crore unemployed people per year. What happened to your promises? All people have kept the figures in their minds. Now they say, Fry pakoras. Shri Kharge said, Leave aside others; there have been occasions in the past 10 years, even 20-25 years ago, where special drives were conducted to fill vacancies for OBC, SC, and ST positions that are currently vacant. In the current tenure of this Government, there is no special drive happening to fill vacancies for SC, ST, and OBC positions. During election speeches, they make promises, but they don't utter a single word about unemployment. Statistics are being hidden. How long will you continue to hide? You have not even published the NSSO data received by us. This has happened occasionally in the past as well. Who are below the

poverty line? Who are below the destitution line? What are their numbers? What is the GDP figure? The Government always tries to search for it. That's why we demanded the formation of the National Statistical Commission as a statutory body. What is the composition of the seven members today? Resigned; even the Acting Chairperson has resigned. Two people remain. Because they have not been allowed to submit their report. Who are you trying to hide? Based on RTI statistics, it concluded based on numerical elements. I come from West Bengal. I am proud of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, a distinguished statistician and scientist, who, during his tenure as a Minister, pioneered the establishment of a professional and scientific data system for collecting, collating, and publishing statistics in our country. This system of data management gained international recognition, marking a significant milestone in the field of statistics globally and enhancing our country's reputation. This Government has ended it. Just as you ended the Planning Commission, which used to formulate plans based on those very statistics, you brought in the NITI Aayog in its place. You cannot publish the Economic Survey because you would have to

disclose it. You can deliver a budget speech for the entire year and provide a five-year overview in a speech, but you cannot publish the Economic Survey. Last year, you also did not publish the NSSO report. Even our parliamentary tradition, perhaps according to the Constitution, is being undermined. Please, it's your department; go ahead and speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Practically, the Government thought that we should come out with Periodic Labour Force Survey as far as urban area is concerned on quarterly basis and for rural area on yearly basis. We started right from July 2017 up to December 2018. We have to collect the data quarterly and we have to come out with the report. For the last two quarters i.e. July 2018 to December 2018 and from October 2018 to December 2018, we are collecting the data and we are processing it. We have not come out with any report. That is a

fake report. ... *(Interruptions)*. Depending upon the fake report and arguing on the Floor of the House is not fair. …*(Interruptions)*. It is the responsibility of the Government…*(Interruptions)*. National Statistical Commission is an autonomous institution. Of course, they are here to guide us how to do the surveys, the formalities and issue the guidelines. Ultimately, the collection of data and bringing out the report is the responsibility of the Government. We are not hiding anything. We are collecting the data. The process is going on. But simply something has come out in the newspaper and based on that arguing here is not proper.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat. You speak your point.

SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM (RAYGANJ): This is called the cat is out of the bag. We haven't yet mentioned any figures to indicate that unemployment has increased so much. I didn't mention anything about the NSSO report.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, they clarified it explicitly. You speak your point.

SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM: No, you allowed them to speak. The point I haven't mentioned anywhere, the point that is being discussed elsewhere, is that the unemployment rate has increased here. I didn't mention any figures. ... *(Interruptions)* I said that the survey hasn't been released. They are collecting it. I said that the NSSO report has not been published. Why did you suddenly start commenting on that? A guilty conscience needs no accuser. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, the labour statistics survey for the year 2016-17 was also not provided by your Government. We are still collecting data for the year 2016-17. You were aware of demonetisation. We kept asking how much money was lost, how much money came back, and how much money circulated. Your response was always that we are still collecting the figures. You're discussing Digital India and one lakh digital villages, yet within the Government itself, there is a lack of digitalisation. You don't have the figures collected. Earlier, this used to happen within a year; why isn't it happening now? This indicates that the Government is afraid of the data. They are showing strength, but they fear the numbers. ... (Interruptions) I will also speak. An

advertisement is coming up right now. The data isn't coming, but the advertisement is. What are they saying in the advertisement? As usual, they are advertising about unemployment. I am stating that this has not been limited to mere advertisements. Currently, the Prime Minister himself is writing letters about 'Ayushman Bharat,' which can benefit future generations. This is becoming a new trend. This is also happening here in our place. PMCM beneficiaries are not just symbols of elections; for any matter like stipends, scholarships, etc., you are submitting letters. Those letters are also coming to our region. Why are you sending letters?

You have allocated two thousand crore rupees for 'Ayushman Bharat,' and the expense for the Prime Minister to send these letters across the country is 435 crore rupees. A quarter of the funds are being spent not just on advertising but on writing letters and ensuring the prime minister's name reaches every household. We have the data for the "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao" (Save the girl child, Educate the girl child) Scheme; you do not. Fifty-six percent of the "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao" (Save the girl child, Educate the girl child) Scheme's

expenditure has gone solely into advertising for the Prime Minister. You can see its advertisement at any petrol pump. I can provide many such examples. I am saying that people should benefit from these schemes. You are saying that we are advertising. In your own constituency, there are people who will question that you're claiming in the advertisement that what hasn't happened in decades is now happening. People are witnessing with their own eyes that unemployment has escalated beyond what it was in the last 4.5 decades. You are deceiving the unemployed people. School students are fighting for stipends. IIM and IIT students are fighting. You increased expenses first and then said that we will provide scholarships. When you fail to provide scholarships, the most disadvantaged, weakest, and poorest students will eventually drop out of the institution because they cannot sustain the cost of education. Who are you doing this for? There is a song, there is a poem, and now there's also a new song. ... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Salim, please conclude your remarks promptly.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM: Do you know what happened in the last 5 years? I used to think how innocent they were, but over time, look how things have changed. You had promised to build the nation, flaunting a 56-inch chest, but what are you doing now? ... *(Interruptions)* All the promises you made during demonetisation have completely backfired on you.

You have been... * completely silenced. Our basic needs are not being met, and on the other hand, corruption is rampant. ... (Interruptions) They did not pay attention to our words. Just now, some members were talking about Sarada and Narada. Absolutely, we had been fighting in the Supreme Court for about 6-7 years before the Modi Government came to power. This is neither a Supreme Court federal case nor a case of the Union or a federal case. This investigation is being conducted under the orders of the Supreme Court, but the investigation was progressing very slowly. We suggest taking it to Bhubaneswar and returning. Now you'll take them to Shillong and bring them back after sightseeing. This isn't a tour package. The public's money will have to be returned. In a manner similar to Sarada,

* Not recorded.

on a daily basis, you have engaged in corruption in DHFL (Dewan Housing Finance Limited) and collected donations. This is a conspiracy between both of you. You don't want to eradicate corruption. What would one corrupt person say about another corrupt person? You do not want to conduct a JPC inquiry on the Rafale issue. Shri Murli Manohar Joshi is the Chairperson of our Estimates Committee. You are also a very senior member. Shri Advani, Shri Murli Manohar Joshi, Shri Shatrughan Sinha, and Shri Kalraj Mishra cannot talk about it. Why can't they do that? The truth will be revealed. ... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Salim, please take a seat now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM: Sir, under Shri Advani's chairpersonship, the Ethics Committee has never convened to discuss the Narada issue. Will you eliminate corruption? You cannot conduct a JPC inquiry on the Rafale issue. Mr. Dubey is not allowing the Estimates Committee report to be passed because the government's...

... * propaganda about unemployment and GDP will be exposed. ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Hon. Chairperson, I sincerely thank you for granting me the opportunity to speak on the Vote of Thanks for the address by the Hon. President.

Hon. Chairperson, I stand in support of the Vote of Thanks Motion. Through you, I want to tell the House that I consider the 2014 elections historic because, through this election, the country's situation and direction have been transformed. Under the leadership of our successful Prime Minister, our party contested this election with a great deal of public confidence. If we talk about before this, before the UPA-I and the UPA-II, at that time, the governance, corruption, looting of government treasuries, and the prevalence of bad governance eroded people's trust. I would go as far as to say that people had lost trust in the entire political system. I express gratitude towards our Prime Minister. I take pride in the fact that our Prime Minister has undertaken a significant task through that election to instill

* Not recorded.

people's trust in India's political system, which is a monumental task considering the corruption that prevailed during Congress rule. More than half of their ministers were residing in the cells of Tihar Jail. At that time, there was widespread corruption among the people; there was no governance, and there was a situation akin to policy paralysis. However, our Prime Minister ignited a new ray of hope among the citizens of the country, and as a result, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, the NDA was given the opportunity to govern with an overwhelming majority, securing nearly two-thirds of the seats. For this, I express my gratitude to the citizens of the country and also extend my thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, as far as our government is concerned, we have almost reached the time of completion of five years. Let us look at our achievements; let us look at what our Hon. Prime Minister has accomplished. Just now, Mr. Kharge was saying that you compare your 70 years with your five years. A comparison must indeed be made because the Congress government wasted so many years of this country's progress. Under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, the work that has been accomplished

has been for the benefit of the poor and for the villages. Work has been carried out for farmers, women, youth, Dalits, tribals, and the underprivileged. The work that was done during their time, I believe, should not even be compared in the slightest. Today, our Prime Minister is shining brightly. Now, the next election is approaching. Some of our people were commenting on the upcoming election. I want to tell them that even today, the 150 crore people of the country have the same trust in the Prime Minister as they did in the year 2014. Now, as the elections are approaching, these people are gathering together and forming alliances. These people are forming unholy alliances. In Gujarat, we have a saying that we recognise people by their faces, but here, those who are forming alliances do not recognise each other by their faces; instead, they recognise each other by their feet because, until now, they have been busy pulling each other down. They do not recognise each other by their faces; such are the people who have come.

Sir, I want to say that the government has done a very significant job and made decisions for the benefit of the public. I would like to mention the 'Ujjwala' Scheme. Our sisters, who

used to cook in smoke-filled kitchens, suffered from respiratory diseases. With their well-being in mind, Prime Minister Modi provided LPG connections to more than six crore households. Our Prime Minister has undertaken the task of providing LPG connections on such a large scale, which is unprecedented globally. I also want to mention to all of you that our Prime Minister has initiated 'Awas Yojana.' Everyone needs a roof over their head. Everyone needs a home. Just now, a Congress friend said that they have accomplished so much, but I want to remind them that during their time, 25 lakh houses were built, whereas under the leadership of our Prime Minister, over one crore thirty lakh houses have been constructed under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.' This is the reality, and today people have been provided with shelter. Today, people have gained respect, and they have also been provided with homes.

As far as electricity in villages is concerned, I understand that when it used to be six o'clock in the evening, people completed their meal activities because darkness would set in afterward. Our Prime Minister initiated the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana in Gujarat as the first

experiment, and based on its success there, it was also implemented here. The work of providing electricity to 100 percent of villages in the country has been done. I understand that this is a significant achievement, as electricity has been provided to 18,000 villages.

Prior to the 'Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana,' electricity was never available in the homes of the poor. When poor children had to study, when their exams came, there were no facilities available for them to study. Our Prime Minister has provided free electricity connections to nearly 2 crore 47 lakh people under the 'Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana.' This has been recorded in history, and that is why people are scared. People form unholy alliances out of fear. I am a doctor myself; I am a surgeon, so I must mention 'Ayushman Bharat.'

Hon. Chairperson, 'Ayushman Bharat,' also known as PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana), is affectionately known as 'Modi Care.' This is the world's largest healthcare delivery scheme. Since India's independence, if any significant healthcare scheme has been implemented, it is this one. This scheme provides approximately 10 crore families with

healthcare coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh annually. For a poor person who sacrifices everything due to a lack of healthcare facilities, this scheme proves to be a blessing. If I may say so, this scheme is the largest healthcare scheme in the world.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now conclude your speech.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Hon. Chairperson, I will conclude my remarks in two minutes. I would like to discuss something regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In 1999, the Atrocities Act was established for them. After that, many governments, including the Congress, came into power, but none of them took steps to strengthen that weak Act. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, in the year 2015, the Act was strengthened by adding 25 times to the earlier 22 times. For the general category people, a 10 percent reservation has also been included. I would like to conclude and say to these people:

Main Deepak hoon, meri dushmani andhere se hai.

Yeh hawa bewajah mujhse dushmani rakhti hai.

Meri hawa se tashreef hai ki Deepak jalaakar dekho.

Bujhana bahut aasan hota hai.

(I am the lamp; my enmity is from darkness. This air is unnecessarily hostile to me. My air tells me to light a lamp. It’s very easy to extinguish.)

With these words, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Jai Prakash, you have five minutes.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Chairperson, you have granted me the permission to speak on the address of the Hon. President, and for this, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you.

The Hon. President's address reflects the same thoughts and commitments as those expressed by India's Prime Minister in 2014 to the people of the country, the youth, the farmers, and the soldiers at the borders, promising that we would bring better days. With their hands on their hearts, the citizens and voters of this country are reflecting, searching for better days. However, for the villages, farmers, labourers, unemployed, poor, SC, ST, and OBC communities, those better days have not yet arrived. Yes, the good days have certainly come for the Bharatiya Janata Party. This is the final session of the 5-year term. The way you have taken a U-turn on your promises, the public is now prepared; this will be the final session for the Bharatiya Janata Party's rule, and you will not be returning to power. You made promises to the public, to the youth, and to the farmers. Our leader, Hon. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, always said this. Though they may be in prison today, justice will prevail; he is being

harassed in various ways. Today, the country's agencies are focused on him, his family, Sushri Mayawati, Shri Akhilesh Yadav, and Sushri Mamata Banerjee. No worries, justice will prevail; justice never dies. You should restore the 200-point roster. We must preserve Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's constitution, protect his aspirations, and safeguard parliamentary democracy. The 13-point roster is discriminatory against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. There is a fire burning inside. If you don't change this, I am warning that a catastrophe is imminent. You will see that an earthquake is coming. Conduct a caste census. Why don't you conduct a caste census? Each community should have representation proportional to its population.

Even after visiting three states, you still do not understand the mood of the public. The public mood has changed, and the BJP's market value in the stock market, which saw a surge in 2014, has now faltered and declined; it is no longer in your favour. We must protect reservations, protect the rights of SC, ST, and OBC communities, and ensure that 85 percent of the

poor receive their entitlements. We are continuing to fight their battle.

In New India, will there be no place for SC, ST, and OBC communities? Just as Dalits were excluded from temples and not allowed to worship in the past, today SC, ST, and OBC students are being removed from university campuses. This will never be tolerated. We will fight both in Parliament and on the streets.

Our culture is Ganga-Yamuna. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians are all brothers. We need peace. We do not want hatred. We are worshippers of peace; you are worshippers of hatred. We hold the tricolour, while you hold the saffron. Made in India? No, no, you have turned it into Pack in India. You implemented demonetisation, forgave industrialists, and wiped out the poor. You promised two crore jobs for the youth, but now you tell them to open pakora shops. Where did the ₹15 lakh go? Today, the Swiss bank's switch-off has occurred. In 2019, even your switch will be turned off by the public; you won't be able to escape. This is the end of the prorogation and the end of you too.

16:00 hrs

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): In this speech, there has been a consistent mention of federalism over the past four and a half years, along with discussion about NITI Aayog's initiative to create policies involving all states through a central approach. In 1973, the Shiromani Akali Dal brought a resolution in Sri Anandpur Sahib to strengthen states and empower them within the federal framework. I am pleased that in the past four and a half years, the federal structure has been strengthened. The state's share has been increased from 32 percent to 42 percent. This has increased the share of the states.

Sir, I am also glad that for the first time in history, an Hon. President called the farmers the nation's food providers. This is a very significant matter. They brought the MSP formula, introduced neem-coated urea, implemented crop insurance schemes, and launched the Prime Minister's Agriculture Irrigation Scheme. I understand that many issues have been brought forth to enhance farmers' double income.

Sir, six crore people were provided with gas stoves. Rs. 1500 crore was saved for those who needed knee replacements. People saved Rs. 460 crore in making stents cheaper. Toilets were built for 98 percent of the people. Building homes for 1 crore 30 lakh people is a significant achievement.

I am most pleased that Hon. President mentioned the construction of the road to Kartarpur in his speech. Hon. Prime Minister had said that the road to Kartarpur Sahib will not only make it easier to visit the holy place of Guru Nanak Dev but will also serve as a means to connect the people of the two countries, strengthen bilateral relations, and mitigate the bitterness that has arisen at the border. This will send a very significant message to the country and the world. This is a significant achievement for the Government of this country. The biggest thing is that the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev are being celebrated worldwide. I can say responsibly that if the philosophy of Guru Nanak Dev were followed in this country, there would be no oppression of any Dalit. Guru Nanak Dev said:

Je rat lage kapde, jama hoye palit,

Jo rat peeve manasa, tin kiyo nirmal cheet.

(Wearing well-fitting attire, impeccably dressed. The mind that drinks the elixir of devotion, why would it care for mere superficial desires?)

Guru Nanak Dev emphasised the importance of work culture: "Kirat Karo, Naam Japo, Vand Chhako." (Work diligently, remember God's name, and share with others.) Guru Nanak Dev Sahib transcended caste, creed, and religion to advocate for the welfare of all through the concept of "Sarbat da Bhala" (welfare of all). Guru Nanak Dev Sahib said, "The poor person's mouth is the Guru's alms bowl." In these four and a half years, we have not only celebrated the Prakash Utsav of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib but have also brought a policy for the poor to implement it.

Guru Nanak Dev had said:

Neecha andar neech jaat, neechi hoon ati neech,

Nanak tin ke sang saath, vadiyan so kiye rees.

(I am the lowest among the low, belonging to the lowest caste; I am extremely low. Nanak stands with them in solidarity; they performed great deeds.)

Minorities are often considered insecure in the country. A coin was issued in the name of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib. The Hon. Prime Minister said that now we are not issuing coins; the Guru Gobind Singh coin is in the hearts of the people of the country. Guru Gobind had said, Manas ki jaat sab ek hi pehchanbo. (Recognise all of mankind as one caste.) If we embed this in textbooks, I believe all conflicts will come to an end.

Bhagat Singh and Udham Singh should be awarded the Bharat Ratna. We are going to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Shaheed Udham Singh truly deserves the Bharat Ratna. Due to their sacrifice, the country became independent 100 years ago. Shaheed Udham Singh is a role model for the youth. Shaheed Udham Singh should be awarded the Bharat Ratna.

SHRI VIRENDRA KASHYAP (SHIMLA): Hon. Chairperson, I express my gratitude that you have given me the opportunity to thank the Hon. President for his speech delivered in the joint session of both houses. Thank you very much for this. I understand that this speech has been a historic one. It was not just an ordinary speech like in past years. The most significant aspect of this speech is the detailed account of what the Government has accomplished in the past four years, backed by figures and statistics. I understand that this speech has introduced a new perspective or idea. I wish to state that in the past four and a half years, the Modi Government's initiatives, including schemes related to the welfare of the poor, farmers, Dalits, women, and rural areas, all these schemes, without exception, are in some way connected with the welfare of the poor. When we speak about poverty in this country, certainly, where we say that 20-22 crore people sleep hungry at night, these schemes have also contributed to alleviating their poverty. That’s what I believe. Practically, its impact has been observed on the ground as well.

We are currently discussing Ayushman Bharat. In this country, where we are saying that approximately 20-22 crore people go to bed hungry at night, who have never seen clothes on their bodies, and who have never had shoes on their feet, they can never think about their health. If they are struck by a serious illness, they can never think about when they will be treated. They only remember God, asking when God will call them. That means they pray to God for their death. However, today we express our gratitude to Hon. Narendra Modi and his Government for Ayushman Bharat, which benefits 10 crore families in this country; these are families, not just populations. Ten crore families means, if we take an average of five members per family, that is 50 crore people. We have promised that each family member will be covered under health insurance up to 5 lakh rupees. It is a matter of great joy that this scheme started on 23 September, and within three to four months, the data shows that around 1.1 million people have benefited from it, amounting to billions of rupees. I want to tell you that recently, I visited the headquarters hospital in my district. I met those beneficiaries who were distressed and unable to get treatment for their

illnesses. Today, they are receiving free treatment there, and after the treatment, they are leaving the hospital in good health and going straight home. Such schemes indicate that our Government is susceptible to the needs of the poor and is working for their welfare. Similarly, I want to say that today there is a lot of discussion, especially by our Congress colleagues and other opposition members, about employment. I want to remind you of Hon. Modi's statement where he said that the youth of this country should not depend solely on Government jobs. They should not be job seekers; they should be job creators. Today, under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna, lakhs of youths have been provided employment, and I want to say that we have invested nearly 7 lakh crore rupees in this initiative, benefiting 15 crore people today.

[English]

***SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR):** I would like to express my views on Motion of Thanks on the Address by the President of India to the Joint Sitting of Parliament. As a Lok Sabha elected Member of Parliament from Karimnagar, Telangana, I would like to take up this opportunity to draw attention to my Constituency's and State's achievements and issues that could have been taken up in the President's speech.

While I complement the current Union Government on the fact that in the last 4 years, India's GDP growth has varied between a remarkable 6% to 8%, Inflation has been in check, there has been remarkable rise in foreign flows particularly FDI, and ease of doing business has risen. Hon. President in his speech highlighted various programmes and schemes of the Union Government that has attempted and succeed to do justice to our people and the resources. The speech listed developments and growth in the economy, banking, skill development, Job, Health and Sanitation, Social Justice and Empowerment,

* Speed was laid on the Table.

Education, Transport, Agriculture, Water Resources and other socio-economic spheres.

As mentioned in the amendment to the speech moved by me, I would like to put forward the following suggestions that could have been included in the President's Address to the Joint Sitting of two Houses of Parliament. While discussing the importance of education institutions, and establishment of new IIITs, IIMs etc. the Hon. President could have stressed on the need to establish these institutions in new states like Telangana. In the same point, where the Hon. President discusses about Navodaya Vidyalayas, he could have acknowledge the need to establish Navodaya Vidyalayas in newly formed districts post 2014. For eg. in Telangana, almost 20 new districts have been formed since 2014 which do not have Navodaya Vidyalayas. On our parts, the Chief Minister of our state, Telangana along with the Members of Parliament of the State has presented several representations to the Prime Minister and concerned Ministries regarding establishing IIITs, IIMs and Navodaya Vidyalayas (in new districts) of Telangana.

In the section discussing Irrigation projects, the speech could have complemented the phenomenal success in accelerating the Kaleshwaram Project in Telangana and acknowledge the State of Telangana's proposal to consider it a national project and allocate Rs. 20000 crore for its development. The speech could have mentioned the revival of Fertilizer Corporation of India in Ramagundam, Telangana, while pointing out the reconstruction of fertilizer plants in the country.

While elaborating on the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, the Hon. Predsident could have specified that small borrowers comprising of youth as well as entrepreneurs are getting loan with collateral, and each borrower is eligible for loan ranging between the amount of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 10 lakhs. The speech could have included National Youth Awards being conferred by the Central Government to the youth notably contributing in social service and national development.

Alongside, I would also like to draw attention to the arenas the Union Government has lacked in or could have made a better progress:

To begin with, all the schemes mentioned in the speech introduced by the current Central Government in the span of 2014-18 are not unprecedented. These schemes have already been existing with almost similar policies but different names. Already existing Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan was restructured into Swachch Bharat Abhiya, Sardar Patel National Urban Housing Mission has already existed pre 2014 in the name of Rajiv Awas Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana is restructuring of the Swablamban Yojana, etc. The contemporary 21st century India does not strive for mere restructuring and renaming of old policies, the need of the hour is innovation and creativity in the field of policy making to meet the challenges of diversity, inclusivity and development. In our State of Telangana, we took up the prospect to innovate and come up with policies based on new ideas to deal with the contextual challenges. Our most popularly praised Rythu Bandu Scheme and Rythu Bima Scheme, which are one of its kind in the history of Indian legislation could have been appreciated by the Hon. President in his speech. Under the Ruthu Bima Scheme, we are giving insurance coverage to all farmers beween the age 18 to 59 worth Rs. 5 lakhs which

includes any kind of demise farmers face. Both the schemes have been gladly welcomed by the people and been tried to be implemented by other states also. Even Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has restricted the Rythu Bima Scheme only.

The promise to deposit Rs. 15 lakhs in individual's bank accounts lies idle. Despite demonetization and GST, our economy has various reports on black money. In the Corruption Perception Index released by Transparency International (International Corruption Watchdog), India ranks 81 out of 180 countries. The Union Government has still not had the appointment of Lokpal. Farmers are distressed in most parts of the country. Suicides are still taking place. The Agri-Rail network that the country was promised in 2014, is nowhere to be seen.

We can see a wide gap between the electoral promises in 2014 vis-à-vis real impactful developments in the country. Specially, in the State of Telangana we seek cooperation and attention from the Central Government to boost growth and development. In the past 4 years since the inception of the State of Telangana, we have rigorously and consistently strived for

socio-economic growth of the State. If the demands put forward yet again by this speech are given required attention by the Central Government, the people of State of Telangana would be served with a much more accelerated development. As I outlines in the speech at the national, the Union Government has a long way to go in bridging the potential and the output cavity.

I extend warm congratulation to the Hon. President and the Central Government for the progress made so far and strongly urge the Union Government to consider the demand and issues of the State of Telangana, as emphasized in the amendments moved by me to the President's speech.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

The Hon. President's Address to the Joint Session of Parliament was deeply disappointing. The Address is full of so-called achievements of the Government during the last five years. But if you critically examine those so-called achievements, you will realise that all those achievements are not real or contrary to the ground reality and known facts.

The President's Address is a summary of lame excuses for the Government's non-performance during the last five years. The President's Address begins with the vision of three eminent stalwarts of Indian history, that is Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. It says that our country is following the dreams of Gandhiji to build an inclusive society based on ethics and principles. It also says that our nation is moving ahead guided by the ideals of social and economic justice as enshrined in the Constitution by Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and it further says that the efforts of this

Government clearly reflect a belief in an egalitarian society as espoused by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. The Address ends with a promise of building a new India. This is the crux of the Address of the Hon. President.

Let us examine whether the Government, during its five years, is able to achieve any of the dreams or visions of the luminaries or the national leaders or the forefathers of our country. I would like to know from the Government as to what it has done during the last five years to realise the dreams and visions of these eminent leaders or those eminent personalities of our country. BJP had a golden opportunity to do many things as it has got an absolute majority to rule the country after 30 years. But what have you done for the country during the last five years except eloquent extempore speeches, impressive slogans, promises and diplomatic appearances? So, according to me these five years were a loss to this country.

This is a speech prepared by an out-going Government. So, in a way this is an assessment of the Government's performance during the last five years. What have you promised before five years and what have you delivered after five years? This

Government is a Government of broken promises. That is the point which I would like to make.

I am confining my speech to two points. The first one is unemployment and the second one is NITI Aayog. Regarding the unemployment, most of the Hon. Members have already mentioned facts and figures. It is known that 6.1 per cent is the unemployment rate today, which is the highest during the last four and half decades. Why has it happened? It happened because of the policies pursued by the Government. I would like to say that the National Sample Survey Organisation and the National Statistical Commission approved a Report. But unfortunately the Government is not able to approve the Report and they are saying that this is only a draft Report. How can the data collected by the NSSO considered as draft? These are all facts and they speak the truth about the situation which is prevailing in our country. If it is approved and published by the Government of India, all the claims and propaganda of the Government will be contradicted. That is why the Government is not ready to approve and publish the Report which has been prepared by the National Sample Survey Organisation. The

Government has totally failed in providing job opportunities. It has also totally failed to create a conducive atmosphere to create jobs. For this, two things are required. One is the policy initiative and the other thing is to create a social infrastructure. In all these things the Government has failed.

In the case of demonetisation the Government has failed. In the case of implementation of the GST also the Government has totally failed. The GST was implemented in an unscientific manner. …*(Interruptions)* I am very grateful to you. Along with the policy initiatives stated earlier, the Government should create a social infrastructure to attract investment and to create jobs. During the last five years of NDA's rule, they have vitiated the social atmosphere in the country. I am not going into the mob lynching. About 36 people have been killed and minorities are feeling very insecure.

One question I would like to pose regarding the NITI Aayog. What is the concrete and tangible contribution of the NITI Aayog during the last five years? The Planning Commission was dismantled. You have constituted the NITI Aayog. What is its contribution? The BJP Government, during

its five years of rule, has been a complete failure in all spheres. The President's Address is only to give credence to its false promises.

The people of India has no other option but to change the Government in the immediate Lok Sabha elections to build a new India, a secular, democratic and vibrant India, as envisaged by His Excellency the President of India. Thank you.

16 15 hrs

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

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I remember my last speech on 20th July, 2004. Why I would like to say that that was my last speech? Of course, I had made a bitter criticism on the issue of the farmers. Then the allotment of time was taken by the then Government on the numerical basis. My Party had got only three Members. According to numerical strengths, I was given three minutes time and I was called as twelfth man. The same thing is being continued till today as 13th man to be called according to the numerical strength of the Party.

The Hon. Prime Minister was present here. I would like to express some of the points which are concerning the State, not any issue relating to my Party. I am not going to say that every Member of this House is not committed to farming sector, irrespective of the party.

I came to this House in 1991. It was also an unexpected event. My full political carrier was nearly 30 years in Karnataka Legislative Assembly. I was the Leader of Opposition. I was the

Minister for PWD & Irrigation. I resigned two times, not for my personal problem but on the issue of allotment of money for irrigation. Because of defeat in 1989, people persuaded me to contest the Parliament election and I came to this House.

I have been watching the deliberation of this august House since 1991 till today. Prior to 2004, the date which I have mentioned, there was some time restriction to speak because I was only one Member at that time.

On several occasions, the Chair used to give me some more time. It is not the question of this ranking – 13th rank or 14th rank. Three days back, I requested the Hon. Speaker personally. I went to her chamber. This may be my last speech.

I have been in public life since 1962 as a legislator. During the last 57 years, I have served the people of my State and my country. …*(Interruptions)*. There is no need to laugh. I am telling with all seriousness. You have got age and bright future. You are also one of my close friends. There are several friends even in Karnataka on both sides who are with me. I do not want to hurt anybody.

My only point, the Hon. Prime Minister, is mentioned there that: "… Prior to the 2014 General Election, the country was passing through a phase of uncertainty. After the elections, my Government assumed charge and vowed to build a new India…". I do not dispute it.

16 21 hrs (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

I have congratulated him when he got 282 seats for the first time. I went to his residence, 7 RCR, and I congratulated the Prime Minister. There was some occasion when my bitterness was there on the issue of Godhra. I had a bitter attack on that day when this had happened, but after he became the Prime Minister with full majority, Yes, I admit the defeat of all the parties including the Congress.

The occasion was the Auditor General of India -- whether right or wrong -- in the Report that he gave, there were several scams. Subsequently, what had happened? The decision has been taken by the judiciary, and then the matter ends. The Prime Minister's dream was to build a corrupt-free India; to accomplish all achievements; and to eradicate poverty and gap between poor and rich. He had got so many ideas / programmes,

which he has framed, and I am not going to dispute all those things. His dream may be to build the strongest India because the people have given him the mandate.

Madam, I never spoke a word either inside the House or outside the House to denigrate the office of the Prime Minister. I have got the highest respect for that Chair. The only thing that hurts me is that when it is said that the coalition Governments have not done anything; the achievements of the previous Governments are not given any respect; or respect those people, who were occupying some place after Independence like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. I am not going to say what contribution he has made, and I would not repeat what Mr. Kharge has said here. They also fought for freedom, and they knew the value of freedom and the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

Today, we are enjoying the fruits of freedom that they brought sitting in this House or Dr. Ambedkar who gave the Constitution. Everybody remembers all these things and nobody forgets about it, but in the Budget Speech or the President's Address whose name is going to be highlighted; at what time; at what period; and under what leadership, I do not want to talk

about all these things. This time, Guru Nanak Devji is mentioned in this speech.

I don't know what persuaded the Prime Minister to bring in the name of Guru Nanak. I remember Guru Nanak. Barnala was the Chief Minister. He had done some small mistake. What was the decision taken by religious leaders? The whole day, he should polish the shoes of those who visited the Golden Temple. Can you find such leaders? Who are we? We have to compare ourselves. Are we free from corruption? How much money are we going to spend?

Madam, in this very august House when I came first, I mentioned about the type of accounts we are going to provide to the Election Commission. As an Opposition leader, I came across the Wanchoo Committee recommendations which had revealed that that there was more than Rs.7,000 crore black money. Our Prime Minister wants to remove corruption; he talks of cashless society, new India. In this country, everybody's aspiration is to free the country from corruption. I do agree. But unless we bring in radical changes in the existing system, how can we achieve our aspiration? I am sitting in this chair; I am on

the last leg of my life. I am watched. Let us not deceive our conscience.

Now, I come to my own Government. I had 10 and a half months tenure. What had Vajpayee done? I can spell several things. In my 10 and a half months tenure, I must say that the credit goes to 13 regional parties and to the Congress Party, which had supported my Government from outside.

I come from rural areas. Whatever decisions we had taken, I have compared the President's Address and the Budget speech of my friend. I am not going to read all these details. What have we done? We had taken the decisions. We had the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the United Front Government. We had priorities. I would like to bring to the knowledge of the august House the details of our priorities. Farming sector was a major issue. We had given more priority to rural development, poverty alleviation. I would read out some details of our experience in the last eight months on the CMP.

My first Budget was articulated on seven broad objectives – minimum services, employment, micro economic stability, investment, particularly on infrastructure, rural development,

and on balance of payments position. These are the seven areas we had given priorities. On 1st June 1996, my oath taking ceremony was held. Vote of Confidence debate took place on 11th June, 1996. Our Budget was presented in this House on 24th July, 1996.

On 14th June, I called the Finance Secretary and the Agriculture Secretary and took a decision to reduce the fertilizer price, be it potassium or phosphate, by Rs. 1000 per tonne. It was not for Karnataka. There was a huge positive response that the production in agriculture went up to 7.8 per cent. The Economic Survey Report is not present in this House. The Budget was presented by the Hon. Finance Minister.

HON. SPEAKER: I am asking you to conclude. We also have crunch of time. I have given you ten minutes and you have taken more than fifteen minutes. I am sorry.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: The people who are sitting on the other side do not want to mention Devegowda's name in this House. What initiative have they taken on the issue of Northeastern States? Who met the Naga leaders in Geneva? This

House must know and the people of this country must know that even with a coalition Government, what we can do and achieve.

In September 1996, my Principal Secretary and myself, met the two leaders in Geneva. Afterwards, a ceasefire was decided by both the sides. I went to Northeastern States, I gave a special grant of Rs. 6,100 crore for the works which still have not been completed. In our Budget, we provided Rs. 400 crore for Bogibheel Bridge and for the international airport in Guwahati. Subsequently, Shri Vajpayee ji went there and increased it to Rs. 700 crore, Shri Gujral went there and increased Rs. 100 crore. My first support was of Rs. 6,100 crore for all those works that are still going on – highways, railways, airports.

My decision was that the problems should be solved in these seven States. At that time, too many people were killed, Kukis were killed and Bodos were killed. All the figures are here with me. This was one of the worst situations. I went there to meet all the leaders belonging to various groups. Before we came to the ceasefire agreement, I had met them in Geneva.

What was the situation in Kashmir? No Prime Minister had gone there for ten years. As the Prime Minister of the coalition

government with outside support of the Congress, I went there five times. When I went there, Gen. Krishna Rao was the Governor. Leaders from all sections irrespective of their affiliations met me, including the Hurriyat leaders. Their demand was this. For ten years there was no tourism. Their loans got accumulated. Banks had seized their properties. They pleaded with me to help them by waiving off the loans. When I came back, I took that decision first to create confidence in the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

When I went there second time, we provided jobs. The railway line between Katra and the valley was treated as a national project and Rs.1,500 crore was sanctioned. I cleared two power projects including the Uri power project. Let the Prime Minister during his reply tell this august House whether I had done it or not. Let the country know about this. Not only that, I gave the sanction for Jammu University. Leh Ladakh highway project, to connect it to the mainstream, was sanctioned by me. Allocation was made. In the Supplementary Demands we cleared all these programmes and projects by providing money. That is one thing.

I now come to Delhi Metro. I was sitting here then. There was a quarrel going on between the Chief Minister of Delhi and the previous Chief Minister who was also a Minister, as to who should preside over the function. I think neither of them is alive now. A tussle was going on. I was sitting here. Nobody mentioned Deve Gowda's name! Time schedules and all other things were fixed. I got the brochure and everything. How the funding should be done and all those things were fixed. Financial allocation and time schedule were fixed. Till today nobody knows that it was done by Deve Gowda heading the 13-party coalition with outside support from the Congress.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: We know, Sir, that you started it. *…(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Vajpayee Government was gone in 13 days. Who asked him to go and take the oath? Can you answer that? He was one of the tallest leaders. He had suffered in those 13 days. Why do you unnecessarily try to provoke me?

I was not anxious to become the Prime Minister. The situation was such. After the fall of Vajpayee Government all secular leaders met. That discussion went on for one week. V.P.

Singh's name was mentioned. He declined. Jyoti Basu was the tallest leader. He agreed, but his party Politburo differed. Then, he mentioned my name. I did not want to accept it. It went on for two days. I know the difficulty of running a coalition government.

Delhi Metro was kept in cold storage for 10 years. We introduced the Public Distribution System. 36 crores people below poverty line got 10kg rice at Rs.3 and 5kg wheat at Rs.2.

Respected Speaker, I have earlier told about the humiliation I suffered. Rs.3 was the rate of kerosene oil. Nobody objected. How to find resources? The issue was that the World Bank's President Wolfensohn came to India. I hosted him a dinner. He asked me that you have violated all the conditions of the IMF and the World Bank. You cannot get any further assistance from the World Bank. Then, I took a decision that when the black money is there why we should go to the World Bank.

I proposed two prograSushri One was Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme. Whatever may be the problem today, I must compliment my colleague Chidambaram. Let me be very frank. He said he would not do it; Indira Gandhi took this decision and

there was no achievement; there was no progress; even Morarji Desai had to take a decision. There was no positive response. The actual tax payer blamed the Government. He said he did not want to take such a blame. Then, how to generate the money?

When I took charge, Rs.17,800 crore was the oil pool account deficit. I wanted to make up that. I come from a poor family, farming family. I know the difficulty. How to generate the resources? This is a big dispute. I did not want to go for any funding from outside. So, this Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme was proposed.

Another scheme I proposed was that the black money should come for the nation building activities. There should be voluntary building with the black money from those people who come forward to build the highways, tourism activities, investment and infrastructure. It should come from our own Indians who have got broad minds. The only thing was that Jyoti Basu was aggrieved. He said that we should first announce the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme. If it is going to be useful then we would think of the next item.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: We got Rs.10,800 crores of revenue generated from the first Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme. That had been used for the Public Distribution System.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Madam, I am not going to take much of your time. I can understand your feelings. If you give some time on the Budget, I would like to participate. I am only saying that do not unnecessarily talk about the *Mahagathbandhan*, the coalition governments. Vajpayee*ji* started with the coalition government. Earlier, there was a minority government. Narasimha Rao*ji* also suffered. I do not want to go into all those points. Coalition governments can also do something if proper understanding is there. No person in my Government had any differences, though there may have been differences anywhere outside. We cooperated so much with each other. Ultimately, what has happened, it is not an issue for me.

You have got your turn too. Now people are talking that there may be a coalition government again. It is not my version, but media version. We are watching all these things. That is why I said that whichever coalition governments were there in the

past, they have also done something for the States. Pension for farmers and poor people, eradication of poverty and all those things are a concern of not only the present Government. Maybe a new India is his dream. I am not going to say all those promises which he has made in the first Presidential speech. I do not want to hurt his feelings. I would only say one thing. A full House is not here. We are all committed to farming sector, *annadaata*. There is no difference party-wise. I would like to reiterate what the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi said: "Remember that dark brown starved man bending under a scorching sun, scratching a little plot of land to eke out a living. Anything you do, do for his benefit."

You announced Rs. 6000. That is only Rs. 17 per day. Please think over it. How much benefit are you going to give the industrialists? …(*Interruptions*) It is not a question of telling any names. It is a question of searching our hearts. Has Modi ji gone for election campaign without this corporate money? How much money has been spent? We can also understand. The people of this country are not fools; they are well-awakened. All this progress may not bring so much of euphoria. They will take

their own decision. You are giving Rs. 6000. Telangana is giving Rs. 10,000. How much is Mamata Banerjee giving? There are various States. I think even Odisha is providing more than Rs. 10,000. The Prime Minister announced Rs. 6,000, out of which Rs. 2,000 is in this Financial Year. By that time, election will be over. … (*Interruptions*) Is it going to clear the difference between the rural and urban sectors, between farmers and other sectors? If it is going to give them at least a certain living standard, we will be happy. I only request the Hon. Prime Minister that at least in this session he should declare a minimum of Rs. 15,000 for farmers who are suffering. So many farmers have committed suicide. This is my last request. With folded hands, I make an appeal to the Prime Minister and all the leaders of the ruling party to cooperate and help the farmers.

With these words, I express my sincere thanks to you, Hon. Speaker, for giving me time to at least express my feelings through this August House to my countrymen.

[Translation]

***SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH):** I welcome and support the Hon. President's address. In the President's address, not only are the Government schemes and achievements mentioned, but also a vision for future Bharat. I proudly say, and this is known and acknowledged by all, that the country is moving forward towards progress. The speech portrays a vision of a better and brighter Bharat.

Those impoverished mothers who cooked meals over wood smoke, those helpless sisters who postponed their treatment due to financial worries from serious illnesses, that daughter who awaited sunrise to go for her morning ablutions, that child who awaited sunlight for studying during power outages, that farmer who worried about repaying debts after seeing his crops ruined by hail, and that young person who could not start a job due to lack of loans—such countless helpless faces shaped the Government's goals, providing the foundation for its schemes with this mindset. The idea of Deen Dayal Upadhyay's Antyodaya has remained relevant, and it is this ideal that has

* Speed was laid on the Table.

become the touchstone of the Government's effectiveness and work.

In the past six years, the Government has communicated a new sense of hope and confidence among the people, enhanced the country's reputation, and made effective efforts towards social and economic transformation. As a result, the Government has earned immense affection and trust from the citizens. The Government's primary objective is to improve the life of every citizen in Bharat.

The lack of toilet facilities was forcing crores of our countrymen, especially our daughters and daughters-in-law, into living a life of indignity and poor health. Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, more than 9 crore toilets have been constructed. Due to this mass movement, rural sanitation coverage has increased to 98 percent today, which was less than 40 percent in 2014. According to an estimate, the construction of these toilets has protected the poor from numerous diseases and has made it possible to save the lives of more than 3 lakh poor citizens. In this year of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, we must remember that in memory of Bapu, we

have resolved to make the country completely clean by 2 October this year.

Many of our mothers, sisters, and daughters used to fall ill due to the smoke from the stoves, affecting the health of the entire family, and most of their effort and time was spent gathering fuel. For such sisters and daughters, the Government has provided more than 6 crore gas connections under the Ujjwala Yojana. Despite decades of efforts, there were only 12 crore gas connections in our country until 2014. In just the past four and a half years, the Government has provided gas connections to a total of 13 crore families.

We are well aware that the cost of medical treatment can make a poor family even poorer. Understanding this hardship, the Government launched the Ayushman Bharat scheme last year. Under the world's largest health scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, arrangements have been made to cover treatment costs of up to 5 lakh rupees per year for each family of 50 crore poor people in the country in case of serious illness. In just four months, more than 10 lakh poor individuals have already undergone treatment under this scheme in

hospitals. The Government is also striving to ensure that the burden of healthcare expenses on poor and middle-class families is minimised as much as possible. Under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Yojana, more than 4,900 Jan Aushadhi centres have been opened across over 600 districts nationwide. More than 700 medicines are being made available at very low cost in these centres. Similarly, the reduction in the cost of stents used for heart disease is resulting in an annual savings of approximately 4,600 crore rupees for the poor and middle-class people. The reduced cost of knee transplants is resulting in an annual savings of approximately 1,500 crore rupees for people. The Government has made free dialysis services available for brothers and sisters suffering from kidney disease, resulting in savings of more than 2 thousand rupees per dialysis session for people.

Along with this, approximately 21 crore poor have been provided insurance coverage through schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, with a premium of only 1 rupee per month, and the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, with a premium of 90 paisa per day. Under each scheme,

provision has been made for assistance of 2 lakh rupees during any unforeseen event. Through this scheme so far, the Government has provided more than 3,100 crore rupees, supporting citizens during their time of crisis.

The Government is working vigorously to end the challenge of malnutrition among poor women and children. To overcome the conditions responsible for malnutrition and to help those affected by it, the Government has launched the National Nutrition Mission. The Government has initiated the Mission Indradhanush program to ensure vaccination reaches even children and pregnant women living in remote and tribal areas across the country. As a result, the country has now reached closer to achieving its target of complete vaccination at a very rapid pace.

Whether in cities or villages, the Government is rapidly strengthening health-related infrastructure. The Government is opening new medical colleges, upgrading district hospitals, and establishing wellness centres in every major panchayat of the country. New AIIMS (All India Institutes of Medical Sciences) are being established from Madurai in Tamil Nadu to Pulwama

in Jammu and Kashmir and from Rajkot in Gujarat to Kamrup in Assam. Apart from this, the Government is also opening new Ayurveda Institutes of Science and promoting yoga for physical and mental health. In the past four years, 31 thousand new seats have been added for medical education to address the shortage of doctors in villages.

When the Government set the goal that by the year 2022, during the 75th anniversary of Independence celebrations, no family should be homeless, some wondered how it could be possible. However, along with completing the construction of houses under old schemes, the Government has accelerated the construction of houses in urban and rural areas under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana at an unprecedented pace. In the last four and a half years, the Government has constructed more than 1 crore 30 lakh houses under the Gramin Awas Yojana. Before 2014, only 25 lakh houses were constructed in five years. The speed of constructing homes and providing house keys to the poor has increased more than five times, changing the destiny of the country's poor and transforming the landscape of our villages.

Similarly, now it has become easier for a person of normal income to build or buy their own home in cities. Due to black money and high prices, it had become difficult for an average family to fulfil the dream of owning their own home. The Government has implemented the RERA law to ensure that homes are constructed on time and handed over to applicants on schedule so their lifetime savings do not get stuck. After this law was enacted, around 35 thousand real estate projects have been registered across the country, with lakhs of homes to be constructed and handed over to families. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Government is providing an interest subsidy of 6 and a half percent to people in the low-income group. An estimate suggests that if someone takes a home loan of 20 lakh rupees for 20 years, they receive around 6 lakh rupees in assistance.

The Government is working to bring light into everyone's life. In 2014, there were more than 18 thousand villages without electricity. Today, electricity has reached every village in the country. Under the Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana, electricity connections have been provided to 2 crore 47 lakh

homes so far. Now Bharat is rapidly moving towards the situation where every home will have electricity, and no family will be forced to live in darkness. The Government is working diligently to fulfil the aspirations and dreams of every section of society. By reducing the burden of taxes and controlling inflation, the Government has provided new savings opportunities for the middle class. The government's effort is to increase the capital of our hard-working middle class and expand their income through new investment options.

Today, Bharat's daughters are making impactful contributions in every field and bringing glory to the nation. After Independence, for the first time, policies and schemes of any Government have provided women with such new opportunities for entrepreneurship, leading to widespread economic inclusion and empowerment. The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has benefited women the most. So far, out of the 15 crore Mudra loans disbursed nationwide, 73 percent of the loans have been obtained by women entrepreneurs. Under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, approximately 6 crore women are associated with self-help groups. Loans worth more than 75

thousand crore rupees have been provided by the Government to such women's self-help groups. This amount is two and a half times more than the loans given in the four years before 2014. To ensure the participation of women entrepreneurs in the country's small and medium industries, it is now mandatory for large Government companies to make at least 3 percent of their purchases from establishments run by women entrepreneurs.

The Government is making efforts to eliminate the inequality faced by women in various sectors due to their gender. Last year, it was decided that female officers appointed through the Service Commission in the Armed Forces would be granted permanent commissions through a transparent selection process, just like their male counterparts. Even after so many years of independence, women in underground mining were deprived of job rights in that sector. The Government has decided that women will also be given equal job opportunities in this field. Along with this, maternity leave has been increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks so that working women get enough time to raise their newborns well.

Whether it is scorching heat, torrential rain, snowfall, or any other challenge, the hard-working farmers of our country have worked day and night to achieve record production of food grains. There has been an increase in dairy products, fish farming, and other sectors. Many Members of Parliament have closely witnessed life in villages and the struggles of the farmers. Our farmer brothers and sisters are not only the foundation of our economy but also guardians of our country's traditions.

The Government is working tirelessly day and night to double the income of the country's farmers. The Government is committed to finding permanent solutions to the problems of farmers, understanding their every need. The Government's foremost priority is to provide farmers with greater convenience and assistance throughout the entire process—from purchasing agricultural equipment and seeds to reaching and selling their produce in the market. Efforts are underway with new thinking to reduce farming expenses, ensure fair prices for crops to farmers, introduce new markets, and add new means of income in the agriculture sector. The Government has taken a historic

decision to increase the MMP (Minimum Support Price) for 22 crops by more than one and a half times the cost of production.

Along with this, the availability of high-quality seeds has been ensured for the farmers. To aid farming through scientific methods, the number of agricultural science centres across the country is being increased. More than 17 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to provide farmers with information about soil health. To ensure the availability of fertilisers and prevent misuse of urea, 100 percent coating of urea has also been implemented.

The Government is completing 99 previously incomplete irrigation projects to improve water management for irrigation. Out of these, 71 projects are expected to be completed in the coming months. The Government is promoting micro-irrigation to ensure optimal use of every drop of water. To assist farmers in situations of crop failure, under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, crops are being insured at lower premiums. Sushri To facilitate farmers in selling their crops, a campaign has been launched to connect more than 1,500 agricultural markets across the country online. To ensure crops reach the market without

spoilage and can be stored properly, rapid construction of new storage facilities is underway across the country. An initiative is underway to ensure farmers can earn from crop residues after harvesting from fields. The Government is providing training to fishermen to catch fish in deep seas and making modern fishing trawlers available through the Blue Revolution Scheme. All these extensive efforts will bring permanent changes to our agricultural system that has been ongoing for 70 years, empowering our farmers, who are our food providers, to overcome challenges and receive fair treatment according to their capabilities.

The Government is accelerating plans related to the Digital India campaign, ensuring that residents in rural areas also receive the full benefits of e-governance. In the year 2014, only 59 gram panchayats in the country had connectivity. Today, 1 lakh 16 thousand gram panchayats have been connected through optical fibre, and approximately 40 thousand gram panchayats have been provided with Wi-Fi hotspots. Services have been rapidly extended to rural brothers and sisters through the establishment of Common Service Centres. These centres are

making various services available online to villagers, ranging from banking, insurance, and pensions to scholarships. In 2014, there were only 84 thousand Common Service Centres. Today, their number has increased to more than 3 lakh. Out of these, 2 lakh 12 thousand service centres have been set up in gram panchayats.

In this age of information technology, easy and affordable availability of data is a significant convenience and a means of development for our citizens. In 2014, the cost of one GB of data was approximately 250 rupees. Now, it has decreased to around 10-12 rupees. Similarly, the cost of mobile calls, which used to be higher before, has also now been reduced to less than half.

Previously, it was almost impossible for Government Departments to sell their goods to ordinary entrepreneurs. Now, for Government procurement, GeM—that is, an online platform called Government e-Marketplace—has been developed. Thanks to GeM, while transparency has been brought to Government procurement, small and large businesses from across the country can sell their products to Government departments without any

difficulty. As part of efforts to simplify processes, the Government recently launched a scheme that approves loans up to one crore rupees in just 59 minutes. Due to the Jan Dhan Yojana, today, 34 crore people in the country have opened bank accounts, and nearly every household is now connected to the banking system. According to an international agency, 55 percent of all bank accounts opened worldwide between 2014 and 2017 were opened in Bharat. Beyond the numbers, it is important to understand the positive impact it is having on the country's economy.

Our mothers and sisters always saved some money for hard times when it was needed. However, these savings often get spent on daily necessities. Today, deposits totalling 88 thousand crore rupees in Jan Dhan accounts bear witness to how these accounts have changed saving habits. Due to the Jan Dhan Yojana, the money for MNREGA, various insurance schemes, scholarships, pensions, and most Government benefits through DBT are now being directly transferred to the bank accounts of the poor. The Jan Dhan accounts have eliminated intermediaries between the poor and the Government.

Today, with over 60 crore RuPay debit cards in the country and easy digital transactions at low cost through the BHIM app, the Jan Dhan Yojana has played a significant role in this advancement. In this sequence, now, through India Post Payments Bank established in post offices, the Government is extending banking services closer to the people. The discussion on this economic inclusion happening in Bharat is taking place worldwide.

In 2014, along with giving the Government an absolute majority, the public also mandated that the strongest possible action be taken against black money and corruption. Over the past four years, the Government has waged a strong battle against corruption. Understanding the sentiments of the people, the Government launched a campaign against black money and corruption from day one. In the very first cabinet meeting, the decision was taken to form an SIT to combat black money. Afterward, the Government enacted new and stringent laws against black money. The Government also launched a campaign against illegally amassed assets abroad. New agreements were reached with several countries previously

perceived as tax havens, while existing agreements with many countries were revised to address shortcomings and introduce new reforms.

Along with stopping black money from going abroad from Bharat, the Government also launched a big campaign against black money within the country. New laws were enacted in every sector of the country where there was a flow of black money, bringing them under the purview of taxation. During these actions, the Government also provided opportunities for people to voluntarily declare their undisclosed income and undisclosed assets. The decision to demonetise was a crucial step in the government's campaign against black money and corruption. This decision struck a blow to the parallel economy and integrated wealth that was outside the formal financial system into the country's economy.

This step by the Government has broken the backbone of systems that destabilise the country and facilitate the flow of black money. The Government has terminated the registration of 3 lakh, 38 thousand suspicious shell companies responsible for

the flow of black money. Directors of these companies have also been barred from being appointed again.

Under laws such as the 'Benami Property Act,' the 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act,' and laws against economic offenders fleeing the country, actions are being taken to seize assets worth more than 50 thousand crore rupees. These are the policies of the Government that have had an impact, resulting in a significant reduction in the use of black money in the real estate sector. As a result, property prices have decreased, making it possible for an ordinary middle-class family to realise their dream of owning a home. I am pleased that these policies of the Government have increased people's trust in the Government, and there has been a significant increase in the number of income taxpayers. Before 2014, 3.8 crore people had filed their returns, whereas now, more than 6.8 crore people have come forward to file their income tax returns. Today, taxpayers have confidence that every single rupee they contribute is being spent honestly on nation-building.

The Government believes that corruption and black money are grave injustices against the honest taxpayer. Corruption

always deprives a poor or middle-class person of their rights. To improve this situation, the Government has emphasised the use of modern technology. By expanding 'Direct Benefit Transfer,' more than 6 lakh 5 thousand crore rupees have reached beneficiaries in the past four and a half years. As a result, nearly 1 lakh 10 thousand crore rupees are now being saved from going into the wrong hands. The Government has also removed nearly 8 crore names from the list of beneficiaries that were not real, as many intermediaries were looting public funds using fake names.

To empower the nation, it is essential to build an economy that helps citizens progress with transparency and honesty. Before 2014, due to a lack of transparency, the allocation of coal mines was often a topic of discussion. My Government has developed a transparent system for the auction of coal mines and safeguarded national resources. Due to the new laws of the 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code,' banks and creditors have resolved approximately 3 lakh crore rupees through direct or indirect means so far. Intending to default, there has been a

clampdown on the tendency to take large loans and then evade them.

Sardar Patel achieved the challenging goal of national integration, leveraging his extraordinary capabilities in the geographical and political unification of the country. However, the extensive economic integration across the entire nation remained incomplete. Our traders and entrepreneurs were always troubled by where to buy their goods, from where to sell them, and how to comply with the different tax systems of various states. Now, GST, as comprehensive tax reforms, is implemented: One Nation, One Tax, One Market - the concept has been realised. GST is creating an honest and transparent commercial system in the country, which is benefiting the youth of the nation significantly. This system has made doing business easier for traders across the country and reduced their difficulties. I congratulate the citizens for adopting a new system in a very short time for a better future for the country, despite initial challenges. My Government has continued the process of improvement in GST, taking into consideration the suggestions received from the business community.

The government's priority has been to enable our youth to start their employment with dignity and provide employment to others as well. My Government has undertaken extensive reforms to make self-employment more convenient, which are being praised globally. As a result of these reforms, Bharat has moved up 65 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business rankings, from 142nd place in 2014 to 77th position. This is an extraordinary achievement. In the past four and a half years, the country's economy has grown at an average pace of 7.3 percent. Bharat is playing a crucial role in international trade. In 2014, Bharat's contribution to the world GDP was 2.6 percent. According to the latest report, it has now increased to 3.3 percent. Today, Bharat has become the world's sixth-largest economy. Now, our country has the opportunity to play a pivotal role in the fourth industrial revolution. My government's endeavour is that the people of our country fully benefit from this opportunity.

In the field of industrial development and generating employment, today we are witnessing effective outcomes of the Make in India initiative. Now Bharat has become the world's

second-largest country in manufacturing mobile phones. Recently, Bharat has achieved the milestone of converting diesel locomotive engines into electric engines with 10 thousand horsepower. Make in India in Andhra Pradesh itself, Asia's largest Med Tech Zone, is being established. Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are constructing defence corridors to establish defence industries, ensuring national security and providing new opportunities for youth. Very soon, the country will introduce the state-of-the-art amenities of the fastest train so far, 'Vande Bharat Express,' for the convenience of passengers.

Today, I also want to congratulate our country's scientists and engineers who are continuously enhancing Bharat's prestige globally in this era of modern technology. Especially, ISRO scientists and engineers are continuously setting new records in satellite launches, showcasing their excellence globally. I extend best wishes from the nation to our scientists and engineers for 'Mission Gaganyaan.' The Government's swift completion of tasks and emphasis on accountability have increased people's trust in the Government and given development a new momentum. Today, my Government is recognised for

completing projects on time. In Assam, delays spanning decades in projects like Bharat's largest Bogibeel Rail-Road Bridge, Delhi's 'Western Peripheral Motorway,' or Kerala's Kollam Bypass had caused injustice to the common citizens of the country. My Government has diligently completed these projects with commitment, aligning with the aspirations of the nation's resources, capabilities, and public sentiment.

Developing infrastructure in line with the demands of the 21st century is closely tied to the aspirations of every citizen, particularly the middle class and the youth. In line with these aspirations, my Government is swiftly completing new projects. An example of this is the record time of 11 months in which an airport terminal was built in Prayagraj. Last year, the country's first container vessel sailed from Kolkata and reached Varanasi through the National Waterway. The 'Eastern Peripheral Expressway' was also inaugurated in November 2015 and dedicated to the nation last year. The Government believes that the capacity to become the growth engine of the country lies in the eastern states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, and the northeastern states; that is, the entire eastern Bharat.

Therefore, my Government is consistently strengthening infrastructure related to railways, highways, waterways, and airways in eastern Bharat. Nineteen airports are being developed in Eastern Bharat. Out of this, five airports are being developed in the northeastern states. In Sikkim, Pakyong Airport, and in Odisha, Veer Surendra Sai Airport at Jharsuguda, have been completed. In Uttar Pradesh, Gorakhpur, Bihar's Barauni, and Jharkhand's Sindri, the reconstruction work of closed fertiliser plants, which have been shut for decades, is progressing rapidly. The "Urja Ganga Project," initiated at an approximate cost of 13 thousand crore rupees, will expand industries based on gas pipelines in several cities of Eastern Bharat.

The Government is also establishing a new Indian Agricultural Research Institute along with new AIIMS in Eastern Bharat. The Government has also established a central university in Mahatma Gandhi's land of work, Eastern Champaran-Motihari. Similarly, significant progress has been made in Assam with the 'Gas Cracker Project' and in Odisha with the Paradip Oil Refinery project. The Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, named Bhupen Hazarika Setu, which connects Assam and

Arunachal Pradesh, has now been dedicated to the nation. The Government has provided electricity to approximately 18 thousand villages, in which nearly 13 thousand of these villages are located in eastern Bharat. Out of these, 5 thousand villages are located in remote areas of the northeastern states.

My Government is working towards the goal of 'Transformation through Transportation and Tourism' to facilitate life in the Northeast region. Almost all railway lines in the Northeast have been converted to broad gauge. Now, the efforts are underway to connect all the capitals of the eight states by rail. For this purpose, work is underway on 15 new rail lines at a cost of approximately 50 thousand crore rupees.

My Government is rapidly developing modern infrastructure in all these areas, whether it's the country's fastest trains or tallest bridges, longest sea-links or tunnels; highway constructions at double speed; gauge conversion of railway lines; modernising railway stations; initiating new metro projects in several cities; connecting small towns with air travel; or constructing new waterways. Keeping the environment in mind, my Government is also advancing towards electric

mobility. Our cities are being equipped with systems based on modern technology, becoming engines of economic growth. Under the Smart City Mission, modern facilities are being developed in 100 cities for this purpose.

In the field of civil aviation, the country is also being propelled forward at a rapid pace. Over the past four years, the growth rate of this sector has consistently remained in double digits. In the year 2017-18, over 12 crore 30 lakh people in the country travelled by air. This number is constantly increasing. This change presents a glimpse of the progressing India. Under the UDAN Yojana, 12 lakh seats have been made available to the people at lower prices. As a result, today, individuals from ordinary families are also getting the opportunity to fly in aeroplanes. Additionally, the Government has established more than three hundred new passport centres across the country in the last four and a half years. Before the year 2014, there were 77 passport service centres in the country. Now, their number has increased to more than 400. Now, people do not have to repeatedly visit big cities to get their passports made.

In consideration of all the aforementioned steps, I endorse the Hon. President's speech and warmly welcome it.

*__PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA (UJJAIN):__ I express my thoughts on the Motion of Thanks regarding the President's Address. All the speakers so far have discussed the changes that have occurred in the country since Hon. Prime Minister Modi's Government came to power. They have clearly delineated their achievements, whether it be the construction of 9 crore toilets under the Swachh Bharat campaign, disbursing loans to make 15 crore people self-reliant, providing gas connections to 6 crore poor women, or opening 32 crore bank accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana, which has played a significant role in combating corruption in this country. I would like to commend those factions that have played a pivotal role in spearheading revolutionary changes in the country and building a new India.

Previous Governments have neglected women greatly due to appeasement and caste-based politics. However, the Modi Government has been benevolent towards women. Ujjwala Gas has transformed women's lives; we know that various schools

* Speed was laid on the Table.

did not have separate toilets for women, which caused girls to drop out of school. But Modi Ji has increased the level of women's education by mandating toilets in every school under the Cleanliness Campaign, with 9 crore toilets built in support of women's dignity. Under Mudra Yojana, 73 percent of the loans have been granted to women. Furthermore, loans amounting to 75 thousand crore rupees have been provided to women's Self-Help Groups, thereby easing their daily lives. No Government had the courage to address the social evil of triple talaq due to appeasement politics; however, Mr. Modi, rising above political considerations, has empowered Muslim women by enacting legislation against triple talaq. Maternity leave for women has been extended to 26 weeks.

The second most neglected segment of society was often considered to be the farmers; however, Hon. Narendra Modi's Government has undertaken numerous initiatives to transform the lives of farmers. The creation and distribution of 17 crore Soil Health Cards, the policy of 100 percent neem-coated urea, and the increase of the Minimum Support Price by 50 percent for 22 types of crops have collectively paved the way for

prosperity in the lives of farmers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the road network coverage has increased to 95 percent, up from 54 percent in 2014. In the past 4 and a half years, 198,000 kilometres of roads have been constructed.

The administrative system of the country had been following the same pattern since the British era, with no changes or Ms. Hon. Narendra Modi ji initiated the building of a new India starting from the villages. For the enhancement of administrative facilities, 116,000 villages have been connected with optical fibre, compared to merely 49 in 2014. Today, more than three lakh Common Service Centres are operational in villages, offering various services such as insurance, banking, pensions, scholarships, Aadhaar, and more. This is the tangible outcome of the Digital India initiative. Additionally, the Modi Government has undertaken the revolutionary step of converting post offices, which were gradually becoming outdated, into banks. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Government for giving new dimensions to economic inclusion through this initiative. The development of any nation cannot occur without technology. However, the current state of technical institutions

in our country is dismal, with their number being insufficient for a country of such magnitude.

In the 70 years since Independence, there were only 15 IITs. However, in the past 4 and a half years, the Hon. Narendra Modi's Government has established seven new IITs. From Independence to 2014, there were only 13 IIMs, whereas today there are 20 IIMS. In other words, 7 new IIMs have been established in the past 4 and a half years, and 14 IITs have been made operational. From independence until 2014, there were only 11 IITs. Today, 25 IITs are operational across the country. Additionally, 14 new central universities have been established.

In this manner, the Government has laid a strong foundation to empower India as a powerhouse in the technical sector. The economic situation in India was at its peak in 2014. The nation had a governance system conducive to corruption, black marketeering, and the accumulation of illicit wealth through bribery. However, the Government has halted the plunder of resources in the country by enacting laws such as demonetisation, the Benami Transactions Act, mandatory Aadhaar, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Fugitive

Economic Offenders Act, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

By establishing Aadhaar as a legal framework, direct benefit transfers totalling 6 lakh have been disbursed directly into the accounts of consumers, preventing approximately 110,000 crore from falling into the hands of middlemen. Utilising Aadhaar as a medium, the Government has identified and removed 8 crore fraudulent individuals who either did not exist in this world or existed in two or more places under different identities. Direct Benefit Transfer is a significant service to the poor of the country.

Not only in the realm of public service, but also in the domains of technology and defence production, the Modi Government has established new benchmarks. The "Make in India" initiative was initially ridiculed and compared to a paper tiger, but the decisions taken under the resolve and foresight of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are now yielding results. India's fastest train, the Vande Bharat Express, has now arrived on the tracks, symbolising the country's rapid progress. The "Make in India" initiative has strengthened the nation's defence resources.

The country is aware that the Congress party never made efforts to manufacture defence equipment domestically, as it preferred to procure defence supplies from foreign countries to continue receiving hefty commissions for its leaders. The House would be astonished to know that India used to import even ammunition. Since the advent of the Modi Government, 51 types of ammunition are now being manufactured domestically, reducing our dependence on imports.

Our soldiers stationed at altitudes ranging from 1,600 to 20,000 feet used to rely on extreme cold weather clothing systems imported from abroad, costing the country 800 crore rupees annually; however, these suits are now being manufactured domestically. This has led to savings in foreign currency and increased self-reliance in defence sectors. Not only extreme cold weather clothing systems, but also bulletproof jackets were previously imported from abroad. A bulletproof jacket used to be imported at a cost of 150,000, weighing between 15 and 20 kilograms; however, Indian scientists have developed a bulletproof jacket weighing just 1.5 kilograms, priced at only 50,000. I would like to enquire, where did the

100,000 per jacket previously go, and how much commission did the Congress Government receive? Not only basic resources but also advanced defence equipment under the Make in India policy are now being manufactured in our country. American defence company Lockheed Martin will manufacture their fourth-generation F-16 jets in India, and after INS Kalvari, the most advanced submarine built in the country is also being prepared. Under the Make in India initiative, the country has saved one lakh crore rupees so far. Due to the Prime Minister's foresight, the country is progressing towards becoming a global manufacturing hub in the defence sector.

The decisions taken in the economic sector have often been ridiculed and criticised, yet it is the stringent measures like demonetisation and GST that have resulted in the country's GDP growing at a rate of 7.3 percent today. In the real estate business, houses have become cheaper by up to 25 percent. The parallel economy has ended, thereby strengthening the nation and breaking the backbone of anti-national elements such as Naxalism and terrorism.

Certainly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's Government has undertaken tasks in building New India that are unparalleled in the last 60 years. Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has promised to build a new India by 2022. I hope that with the determination of the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, a strong Government with over 350 seats will be formed again, and the people of the country will once more elect Narendra Modi ji as Prime Minister.

Thank you very much.

[English]

***SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI (HAVERI):** I would like to place my views on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

More than 6.8 million people have come forward to file income tax returns as against the 3.8 crore people in 2014.

More than Rs. 6 lakh 5 thousand crore have been reached to beneficiaries in the last four and a half years due the expansion of the 'Direct Benefit Transfer' Scheme.

Prime Minister Kissan Samman Nidhi Package for farmers. A sum of Rs. 75, 000 crores have been allocated for the scheme. The money will go directly to the farmer's account. Each farmer will receive Rs. 6000 per year.

Individuals with income up to Rs. 5 lakhs to get tax rebate.

GST is building an honest and transparent business system in the country. This arrangement has made it easy for traders to do business anywhere in the country and their difficulties have been reduced.

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* Speed was laid on the Table.

34 crore bank accounts have been opened in the country because of 'Jan Dhan Yojana' and almost every family is now connected to the banking system. According to an international agency, of all the bank accounts opened in the world from 2014 to 2017, 55 percent were opened in India alone. Today, Rs. 88 thousand crore deposited in Jan Dhan accounts is a testimony to the changing saving habits.

Government is striving day and night to attain the goal doubling farmers income. Providing the farmers with fair price for their crops, access to new markets and helping them with additional sources of income. Government has taken the historic decision of fixing the Minimum Support Price – MSP of 22 crops at one and a half times higher than the production cost of crop. More than 17 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to inform the farmers about the health of the soil.

Crop insurance is being providing to farmers at low premium under 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' to safeguard them from potential crisis due to crop damage.

A campaign has been launched to link online, more than 1,500 Agricultural Mandis to facilitate market access to farmers.

Cold storage capacities are being increased at a fast pace to minimize crop damage from the field to the market and to ensure proper storage.

As on date, around one lakh 16 thousand Gram Panchayats have been linked to optical fiber network and about 40 thousand village panchayats have installed Wi-Fi hotspots.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana' (PMMY), which facilitates credit for professional and business requirements, loans worth more than Rs. 7 lakh crore have been disbursed to the youth without any guarantee. Women got the most benefits of the PMMY.

During the last four and a half years, the economy of the country has been growing at a rate of 7.3 percent on an average. India is playing a significant role in international trade. While India's contribution to the world GDP was 2.6 percent in 2014, it has increased to 3.3 percent in 2017 as per the latest reports. India has emerged as the sixth largest economy in the country.

The Government is establishing new educational institutions to increase opportunities for high level professional education. It has been decided to enhance the amount of scholarship and

fellowship by more than 25 percent to encourage research activities in the country.

Under the 'Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana', about 6 crore women have become members of Self Help Groups.

There is mention in the address about equal rights and upliftment of the poor and dalit people of the society at the grass root level. Government is working towards strengthening of economic democracy and the social justice in India. The Government is putting its efforts for the development of poor people of the country and bring them into the mainstream. A historic decision has been taken in the last Winter Session of Parliament to pass the 103rd Amendment to the Constitution to extend the benefit of reservation to the poor belonging to the General Category.

Under the world's biggest health care scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Abhiyan', 50 crore poor are eligible for availing treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh per year per family in case of a serious illness. In a short period of four months, more than 10 lakh poor have already availed free treatment from hospitals under this scheme.

Many of mothers, sisters and daughters used to suffer from various illness because of smoke filled kitchen, which also affected health of the entire family and much of their effort and time were spent in collecting firewood. Government has provided more than 6 crore LPG connections to such sisters and daughters under the Ujjwala Yojana.

Today every village has been electrified. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana', 2 crore and 47 lakh homes have been provided electricity connection.

Over 9 crore toilets have been constructed under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. According to an assessment, because of the toilets built, numerous poor persons have been spared of various kind of diseases.

Keeping in mind the desire of the youth to be self-reliant, the Kaushal Vikas Abhiyan was launched. Under this Abhiyan, in the last four years, on an average one crore youth have been trained every year in different skills.

Through the surgical strike on cross border terror posts, India has shown its new policy and strategy. Not only has Government fulfilled the demand of One Rank One Pension

(OROP) that had been pending for 4 decades, but it has also disbursed arrears amounting to more than Rs. 10,700 crore to 20 lakh ex-servicemen.

Aviation sector has seen a double digit growth during the last four years. More than 12 crore and 30 lakh people travelled by air during 2017-18 and this number is increasing constantly. Under the 'Udan Scheme', 12 lakh seats have been made available to people at lower tariff. This had provided the common person with an opportunity of air travel.

I welcome and support the Address delivered by the Hon. President. Thank you.

[Translation]

***SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR (GHOSI):** I had the privilege of listening to the address of the Hon. President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, during the Joint Session of Parliament. Hon. President highlighted that the year 2019 represents a significant and universal milestone in our democratic history, as it commemorates the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the 100 years of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the 70th anniversary of Constitution Day, and the 550th birth anniversary of Saint Guru Nanak Dev ji.

As the Hon. President has regarded the year 2019 as a turning point in the history of India, in his address, he also highlighted the Government's resolute actions and achievements. Our Government, under the current distinguished leadership, is committed to the creation of a new India—a progressive, empowered, excellent, invincible, healthy, educated, prosperous, clean, just, and harmonious India that ensures inclusive development for all. Under this leadership, the Government's

* Speed was laid on the Table.

efforts have enhanced India's prestige on the global stage. Simultaneously, it has been dedicated to national interest, social justice, economic justice, and the vision of an egalitarian society.

The Government has also prioritised farmer welfare, public welfare (including numerous schemes for electricity, water, roads, and gas), and the welfare of workers and those in the unorganised sector. In alignment with the ideals of our Government and party's esteemed Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji's Antyodaya Yojana, this Government is resolutely achieving new milestones in its commitment to realising these objectives.

I would like to personally extend my gratitude and appreciation to Hon. President Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji for his address. I express my sincere thanks and acknowledgement to him. I assure you that I will wholeheartedly participate in paving the way for the construction of a new India in the 21st century, working together collaboratively. Thank you.

[English]

***DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):** I would like to lay the following few lines on Hon. President's Address on 31.01.2019 to both the Houses of Parliament on the eve of Interim Budget. Hon. President spoke on different issues and achievements of the government specially on M.S.P., Rafale Jet deal, surgical strike, demonetisation, 10 per cent reservation of general category poor, triple talaq, etc. based on government's commitment for a new India, but practically the outcome is not up to the mark.

About doubling farmer's income, attempting a permanent solution faced by farmers and minimum support price of 22 crops is not correct. All are false promises, lame excuses and government's non-performance. While the government is making false promises and claiming about employment generation, the President's Address do not have data or figure on jobs created between 2014-18. The government also failed on demonetisation and black money. RBI figures shows that 99.6

* Speed was laid on the Table.

per cent of the demonetised notes had returned to the banking system just 0.01 per cent notes perhaps did not return.

In his speech, Hon. President spoke about opening of new airport at Jharsuguda on 22.10.2018, but unfortunately no flights are operational yet. Therefore, there is need to focus on making New India. A new India, based on fare federal structure, committed to execute all the election promises, and many more challenges facing India to be solved and making vibrant all fronts.

[Translation]

***DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR):** I support the speech of the President of our country, Hon. Ram Nath Kovind ji. When Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of our country in 2014, the Government led by the Hon. Narendra Modi ji has accomplished more in the past four and a half years than in the preceding 70 years combined. In my Parliamentary Constituency, approximately 56,000 houses have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Through the Ujjwala Gas Yojana, 92,000 families in the Latur district have benefited.

The Hon. Prime Minister has launched all development schemes on behalf of the Central Government in Latur. In Latur, a super speciality hospital with 200 beds has been completed within two years at a cost of 160 crore rupees. A centre for NEET has been established here, which has greatly benefited the students of Latur.

Passport service centres have been initiated for my parliamentary constituency and Osmanabad. Additionally, the establishment of postal banks has also commenced. The railway

station was in the C category and has been upgraded to the A category. Since India gained independence, there has been only one platform at Udaygir Latur Road until now. I have facilitated the construction of an additional platform at Udgir and Latur Road. Here at Latur railway station, a second platform, a large waiting hall, a Hindi library, and a VIP lounge have been constructed. Not only this, but in Latur, there was only one train running. Since becoming a Member of Parliament in 2014, I have initiated the operation of 29 trains from this very station. Our Government has achieved the milestone of acquiring five freight trains and 16 passenger trains.

Hon. Minister Gadkari has initiated the construction of National Highways in the Latur Parliamentary Constituency at a cost of 7 thousand crore. Work has been undertaken to allocate MP funds in 700 villages.

There was no space for lawyers to sit in Latur Court; a grant of 24 lakh rupees has been allocated to construct a large AC hall in Latur Court for the seating of lawyers. For the first time in India, MP funds have been allocated for the work of the court.

In addition, the Modi Government has undertaken numerous developmental initiatives across the country. A railway coach factory has been inaugurated in Latur. This is the first Government to have accomplished so many projects. The Government has initiated several schemes, such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Suraksha Yojana, Bima Yojana, and various insurance schemes.

I support the Hon. President's speech. Thank you.

***SHRIMATI REETI PATHAK (SIDHI):** Under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji, our Government has addressed numerous concerns of the citizens of our country. Priority has been given to the concerns of poor farmers and labourers. The interim budget presented in the national Parliament has shown that the common man is no longer ordinary; instead, every middle-class individual has gained importance. Today, only the Modi Government has undertaken the task of making farmers' dreams meaningful and vibrant in the country. Our Government has addressed the concern for the dignity of farmers, who were previously exploited politically by larger parties to serve their rhetoric. The initiative to enhance the Minimum Support Price by one and a half times for farmers, allocate an additional 75 thousand crore rupees in the agricultural sector budget, or deposit 6 rupees annually into farmers' accounts underscores our commitment under the leadership of the Prime Minister to empower our food providers to lead dignified lives. Today, through the Jan Dhan Yojana, accounts have been opened for 34 crore people in the country.

* Speed was laid on the Table.

These are not just accounts but part of a series linked to the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana, which ensures the safety of the common people's lives. Today, we must acknowledge the progress where electricity has been extended to 18 thousand villages in the country, a stark contrast to times when births and deaths took place in darkness. Today, the manner in which the Prime Minister has facilitated permanent houses and access to gas stoves for the nation's impoverished families through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana signifies the endeavours to realise the vision of Deen Dayal Upadhyay ji, which was envisaged for this party. These efforts have been undertaken in the true spirit of Upadhyay ji, as a testament to the sincere and dedicated workers of the party striving to fulfil the dreams of Upadhyay ji. This is the distinctive characteristic of this party. The country is being served by Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and his colleagues in the Ministry.

The notable aspect of this address is the Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana, through which approximately five thousand Jan Aushadhi Centres have been established across over 600 districts of our nation. More than 700 medicines have been made

available to the underprivileged and the general public at highly affordable prices. In the speech, Hon. President mentioned that our government strives to build an India where there is respect and opportunities for all and a corruption-free India, fulfilling the dream envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi. Today our country is moving forward on the path of Make in India. A significant portion of the budget has been allocated to strengthen our armed forces in order to uphold the honour of our country's soldiers. The Government has endeavoured to make the youth of our country self-reliant through initiatives like Start-up India and Stand-up India. New institutions have been established in the country to enhance the educational system. Through the Khelo India initiative, children and youth have been encouraged to advance further in sports. Today, our nation is integrating with air routes alongside its road and rail networks. The task of connecting small towns has been accomplished through UDAN. Therefore, it is determined that to strengthen the nation and foster self-reliance in the times ahead, it will be imperative to support leadership dedicated to the welfare of all for the sake of Mother India. Jai Hind.

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Respected Madam, I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I pay my respect to his Excellency, the President of India but with great respect I disagree with the contents of his speech as it lacks the foundational values and facts. I, therefore, cannot support the contents of his Address.

The country is passing through a phase of uncertainty which is the result of demonetisation. Immediately after demonetisation there was an announcement of GST due to which the country is passing through a phase of uncertainty. The undecided stance on regulation of the cryptocurrency core system, India's security competition with other countries like China, USA, etc., rising unemployment and crisis of farmers have resulted in worsening social inequalities throughout the BJP-led NDA Government regime.

Madam, Nobel Prize winner, economist Amartya Sen considered the act of demonetisation as deprivation of the freedom of the people of India. I would quote Prof. Sen:

"Demonetisation is despotic action that has struck at the root of our economy based on trust."

It has been said in the President's Address: "The moving goal of my Government is to improve the life of every Indian". My question is, what actually has improved the life of every Indian during the last five years and how.

When the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched, it was aimed to provide 50 crore free gas connections by 2019. They have now achieved only 26 per cent of their target. The C&AG Report notes that in 2015-16, households with LPG connections were using on an average 6.27 crore cylinders in a year. But after the scheme was launched, the number of cylinders used on an average came down to 5.6 crore. In many cases BPL households have transferred their LPG connections under the Scheme but that has not been counted.

As on 1st April 2018, there were an estimated 27.72 crore households in the country and 25.68 crore households had LPG connections. It comes to almost 93 per cent coverage. Only 80 per cent of households, that is 22.43 crore households had an active LPG connection as on 1st April, 2018. In simple words,

3.25 crore or nearly 13 per cent domestic LPG consumers were inactive.

West Bengal State Government, under the guidance of Hon. Mamata Banerjee has started low cost Fair Price Medicine Shops in 2011 when she came into power. Swasthya Sathi Health Insurance Scheme, which was started in 2016, is covering all the districts of West Bengal and nearly 65 lakh families of the Self-Help Group members, ICDS workers and helpers, contractual employees etc. are covered under this Scheme. Almost 3 crore people are the beneficiaries of this Scheme.

In 2014, our Hon. Chief Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee declared that all patients will get free treatment in all Government hospitals and health centres across the State including all medical colleges. Almost 2.5 crore patients have already been covered under this scheme while the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was started by the Central Government on 23rd September, 2018 only.

There has been a 2.1 per cent decline in the allocation for the National Health Mission, a national health programme that

funds infrastructure for primary healthcare from Rs. 31,292 crore in 2017-18 to Rs. 30,638 crore B.E.

Madam, Shri Gopal Krishna Gokhale of Maharashtra said and I quote:

> "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow."

Today, slogan has changed. In Indian politics, today, this is the slogan: "What Mamata Didi thinks today, Modi ji thinks tomorrow." This is the current slogan of today's nation. As per the available central data, to alleviate the challenge of malnutrition and proper immunisation, West Bengal performs better than the national average. The coverage of food supplementation in past ten years has improved considerably for all the beneficiary groups from 23.1 per cent to 50.6 per cent for pregnant women; from 19.3 per cent to 46.5 per cent for lactating women; and from 33.3 per cent to 71.9 per cent for children.

I am to inform this House that the Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Sushri Mamata Banerjee, has already adopted a multi-sectional strategy to zero tolerance for under-nutrition

and anaemia among women and children in a targeted manner by 2020. The national statistics on under-nutrition for children below five years of age is 38.4 per cent.

Madam, despite several financial burdens, our Hon. Chief Minister and our beloved Didi, Sushri Mamata Banerjee has started two new schemes in West Bengal. Just now our very senior leader, the ex-Prime Minister, has referred to that. The waiving of tax on agricultural land and bringing up a scheme like Krishak Bandhu Scheme, helped in rooting out the basic problems of farmers and farm labourers in the State and also helped them in getting rid of private lenders.

Madam, over 12,000 suicides have been reported in the agricultural sector every year since 2013. Farmer suicides account for approximately 10 per cent of all suicides in India. The NCRB data points out that about 2,474 suicides, out of studied 3000 farmer suicides in 2015, the victims had unpaid loans from local banks. The States of Maharashtra and Karnataka had 1,293 and 946 suicides respectively for indebtedness. It is to be noted that both these States have one of the highest incidents of farmer suicides as well as indebtedness.

When suicide was committed in Karnataka, the BJP Government was ruling there. As per the recent reports of the National Crime Records Bureau, about 2,372 women farmers have committed suicide. The suicide list is very high. If I will go through it, it will take time. My time is very limited as you have already told me. I will, of course, keep my commitment.

Madam, today the question is this. Today, the constitutional institutions have been destroyed by this Government. All of us and the people of India repose confidence in the Central Bureau of Investigation. But, because of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji's interference, the CBI has become a circus. We are seeing this circus for the last two months. We have seen this circus when one CBI officer was initiating a criminal case by lodging an FIR against another CBI officer and another CBI officer was initiating a case against the other. What is the fun? This is because of mishandling and because you want to use CBI as your handmade tool and that the CBI has to be dictated by the Government.

We have also seen the case of the RBI. One after another Governor is leaving the institution like the Reserve Bank of India.

17 00hrs

During Emergency, there were interruptions and interferences in the independence of the judiciary. We have taken 30 years to 40 years' time for repairing the judicial system itself. But during the last 2-3 years, the Indian judiciary has been interfered with by the present ruling Government. During 1975, for one supersession case, the judiciary was interfered with. Now what has happened today? Madam, I would tell you the tragedy of this thing. Justice H.R. Khanna was second in seniority in the Supreme Court. He was superseded and he resigned. He was one of the them. Today's mischief is this. Today's pathetic condition is that 33 persons are being superseded in all India seniority and same is the case with three persons in Delhi High Court. This is the biggest tragedy of the Indian judicial system. Therefore, interference in the judiciary has increased.

As regards freedom of speech, it has gone. It is not that only I am saying it. All the big actors and celebrities are saying that freedom of speech has gone. It is being interfered with. Today, we are living in this system.

Indira Gandhi declared Emergency in writing but today Narendra Modi Ji has declared Emergency without any writing. Today, there is undeclared Emergency. The entire country is under undeclared Emergency. The CBI is being used to throttle the voice of the Opposition. This situation has come today. The ED official is being sent for throttling the voice of the Opposition. But this way, the voice of the Opposition cannot be throttled. People are watching it. People have understood what is going on in this country. They know that emergency is there in the country.

Our respected senior leader and the ex-Hon. Prime Minister has just now said how the coalition Government can run on the basis of mutual understanding. We have to learn it from him. He has told these things to this august House today. Now that day is not far off when such coalition Government will run the country. But we will not take any revenge the way revenge is being taken

by Shri Narendra Modi. We will not throttle the voice of the Opposition leaders.

In the 15th Lok Sabha when the BJP used to sit on this side, I have seen them. I paid respect to those leaders who used to sit here. I used to see how they were opposing and how they were delivering their speeches. But today, when Modi Ji delivers his speech, they shout – Modi Ji, Modi Ji, Modi Ji, Modi Ji. It becomes a big circus. There is no comparison between the BJP Members of the 15th Lok Sabha and the BJP Members of the 16th Lok Sabha. They are all creating circus in this House. What kind of circus are you creating? ... *(Interruptions)* Nothing will come of it. ... *(Interruptions)* You have to leave. ... *(Interruptions)* Everyone, please leave. ... *(Interruptions)* You must leave. ... *(Interruptions)* Har ghar mai, har State mai nara hai, BJP tumko jana hai (In every household, in every State, the chant echoes: BJP you must go). ... *(Interruptions)* Har ghar mai nara hai, Modi tumko jana hai (In every home, the slogan echoes, Modi, you must go). ... *(Interruptions)* Remember, in Bengal, Goddess Durga holds greater significance than the Prime Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

***SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** I would like to express my views on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of India for his address to Joint Session of the Parliament on 31st January 2019. The President Address was merely an electoral campaign. President Kovind spoke about the developmental projects under his Government, while ignoring to cater to the problems prevailing in the country. The President's Address is not having clear idea and farsighted vision for the development of the country. There are no programs for generating employment opportunities for youth of the country. There is no vision for the progress of education sector as the country is looking for better schools, colleges, universities and institutions of higher learning for its young minds. Even healthcare facilities are inadequate in both urban and rural areas of the country, but it is not highlighted in the President's Address.

The President's Address failed to address the root problems of the country like distress of farmers, unemployment, atrocities against Dalits and Minorities. The Government has destroyed

* Speed was laid on the Table.

the authenticity and credibility of the autonomous bodies and central agencies but in the Address to the House, the President's Address not giving any steps to get authenticity and credibility of the autonomous bodies and central agencies back.

The Government has tried to create credibility for its false promise and non-performance through the President. The President's Address of this Government should have been a report card of their achievements, instead it is summary of lame excuses for non-performance and unrealistic promises. Demonetization, which hurt the Indian economy badly, in President's speech is insensitive and humiliating for the Indian people. There can't be any bigger false statement than this because RBI itself has said in its report that over 99 per cent of the money came back. It was the money of the farmers, women, poor and small businessmen among others.

It is a fact that, there is a competition for India at border areas and at the Line of Control. This fight is against terrorism from across the border. The Indian armed forces have been bravely tacking all this and have lost many lives while doing so. Therefore, talking about surgical strikes after so much time.

Even when many senior officials of the Army have said that Army has been taking such actions before also. Did terrorism come to an end after this surgical strike? The truth is that terrorist activities have risen after that, more security personnel and civilians are being killed.

If the promises were really fulfilled, the President would have data on employment. Rather the missing of the data in his speech is a reflection of unemployment which has now been revealed to be highest in 45 years. The Government had promised skill development to 10 crore youths of the country. It is clear from the President's Address that only 1 crore youth benefited from that. The Government had been unable to develop 100 smart cities, had failed to create jobs or develop skills and reduce poverty.

During this Government's tenure, investment in the industry had fallen by 7% and the President hasn't mentioned that at all. Make in India should have helped increase investments in industry, industrial development should have increased and jobs should have been generated. But that is not happening. The

loans given by banks to industries during this Government's tenure have been the lowest in the last 4 decades.

The Government would ensure shelter equipped with electricity, water, toilets and access to everybody. However, this is far from the reality in most parts of the country. About black money the BJP Government had promised to bring back black money stashed in overseas banks. However, this remains a promise.

The Women's Reservation Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in March 2010 when the Congress-led UPA Government was in power. The Bill is pending in the Lok Sabha. Despite enjoying a majority in the Lok Sabha, the Modi Government has not brought the Bill for passage in the lower house. The Government has only three more Parliament sessions left to ensure passage of the Bill before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections are held.

This NDA Government treated opposition party ruled states indifferently, while allocating funds, granting compensations and introducing prograSushri This kind of step motherly

treatment towards any state in a federal structure like India is not acceptable.

Rural electrification is the area in which Government failed to perform and misguiding the people with manipulated figures. Whatever achieved by the previous UPA Government is just appearing as the achievement of Modi Government. Even in Ganga rejuvenation, Agriculture sector and in Rural Development this Government failed to perform and failed to give a proper vision to the future.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

***DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL):** I raise some serious objections and reservations on Rashtrapati ji's Address to the Joint Sitting of Both the Houses of Parliament on January 31st.

The President's speech did not address the critical situations of the country, especially economic and social issues. The economic crisis and consequent difficulties emerged in the lives of common people, especially in the unorganised and informal sector, the decreasing growth rate of investment, rising unemployment, extinction of the agrarian population, deterioration of the 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 an election speech filled with political slogans. The powers and prerogatives of the legislature is being usurped by the executive, which is against the spirit of the Constitution. And even the Constitutional bodies are being assaulted. Why Railway Budget is dispensed with? Why the Statement of Accounts of Taxes Foregone for not provided to MPs?

* Speed was laid on the Table.

In His speech there is nothing about to declare calamities under lighting also under the definition of Natural Calamity and to provide sufficient compensation by the GOI. Why the President was silent and not mentioning a single word about any financial provision to assist the Government of Kerala for rebuilding the State from disaster caused by floods, landslides etc. during the months of August and September 2018.

This Government is on a rampant path of liberalization and privatization. Concessions and incentives are to the corporates and the rich and affluent. Whatever subsidies and other reliefs were there for common and poor people all those are being snatched away. The disparities of caste, creed, religion, genders etc. are alarming. Economic disparities are shocking. The public health system is nose diving in to shambles. Educational sector has become a rich man's business without any ethics. The failure of the Government to widen and scientifically liberalize the educational policy so as the provide access 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 surgical machines and

equipments at subsidised rates and the failure of steps taken by the GOI so also ensure effective drug policy to control the abnormal rise in the prices of medicines. Why the people are being denied of the fruit of the fall prices of crude oil in the international market?

Why President is silent on Women's Reservation Bill? Even after concessions and tax reliefs to corporates to the tune of 6.50 lakh crores of Rupees. Growth is on a negative path. 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 2.4 million vacancies under various Government establishments, departments, Railways, armed forces, para-military forces, PSUs, Banks and Insurance Sectors, etc. Railways now head towards privatization while the experience in other countries shows us its ill effects and the social costs. Why

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport is going to be privatized?

The emergence of 'paid news' that has been a dangerous phenomenon in media world distorting Parliamentary democracy and mocking up the universal adult franchise. Even in Lok Sabha the procedure and precedents are violated suo-moto.

President should advise GOI to ensure universal coverage irrespective of schedules/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 the compulsory registration of Trade Union within period of 45 days and immediate ratification of ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98. This Government is failed to assure implementation of Pensions for all.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill should be scrapped. It is to be 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 the

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 to be regretted, there is no mentioning about the increasing attacks against writers and journalists.

The President's Address is again silent on confiscating black money and Rs. 15 lakhs to accounts of every Indians. Is there any viable and feasible welfare and rehabilitation scheme for the non-resident Indians and their dependent family members? What happened to the Dr. Swaminathan Committee Report? The sad and deplorable condition of the Indian agriculture during the tenure of this Government has reached such a dimension that a farmer's suicide are on the rise. The MSP fixed by the GOI is neither scientific nor attractive. Extent of cultivable land also diminishes. 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 four 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? Why MPLADs is not increased to Rs. 25 crores per annum?

The Address does not speak anything about any 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 Headquarters 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 playgrounds to children in every Gram Panchayats. More stamps and coins to be released highlighting social reformers and incidents.

The Government is not sincere in developing efficient and low cost water transport in the country. Why we don't have a separate Ministry for Fisheries and ancillary occupations. There is no mention about the extension of the National Inland Waterways 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 Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep. Why he did not mention about institutionalization of corruption? Afraid of Rafale deal?

Why there is no mention about the 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? President is silent about the establishment of a National Film Museum at Chirayinkeezhu in Attingal Parliamentary Constituency, in memory of Late Cine star Prem Nasir.

It is unjust to about the intolerance manifesting the violence and spread of keep mum on communal polarization in the country. Why Rashtrapati ji was silent on the growing incidents of mob lynching. He did not mention about the increasing attack and atrocities on Dalit, Tribals and Adivasi in the Country.

The President's speech simply nursing the corporate's interest not people's interest. It is an election speech of the BJP through the First Citizen of the Nation.

Thus and hence I oppose the Motion of Thanks in its present form.

***KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR):** I would like to express my views on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. The Address delivered by the President is not only our Parliamentary procedure and culture but also a manifestation of the spirit and expectations of the common man, women force, farmers, labourers and different sections of our society. Moreover, it has also reflected the Government's objectives of comprehensive development of each and every section of the society living in every nook and corner of the country. Hon. President has given a very informative statement regarding the effect of Government's work on the lives of the people and the development of the country. There are so many people in my Constituency who have benefited from Government's Schemes and their lives have changed. This is a pleasant perceptible change that now the common man has started debating the development and the achievements of the Government instead of scandals and corruption. The Government is working as per the original spirit of the Constitution of India in strengthening social

* Speed was laid on the Table.

justice and economic democracy and also while working keeping in mind the bright future of the common man of the country. The upliftment of each and every weak and deprived class is the priority of the Government. In the President's Address there is a mention about the several schemes being implemented by the Government.

Government has mentioned several schemes for the welfare of various category of the society in the President's Address. The Government is strengthening the economic democracy as well as social democracy. The Government is committed for the development of poor and middle class people, Senior Citizens, Women empowerment, working class, small scale industries, education and health care and National Security. This Government will change the condition and direction of the country and lead India towards becoming the Vishwa Guru.

It is a "matter of pride" for all of us that India is leading the world-wide solar energy revolution.

More than 6.8 million people have come forward to file income tax returns as against the 3.8 crore people in 2014.

More than Rs. 6 lakh 5 thousand crore have reached beneficiaries in the last four and a half years due to the expansion of the 'Direct Benefit Transfer' Scheme.

ISRO's scientists and engineers are providing their superiority in the world by creating new records consistently in satellite launches.

Our Government has auctioned coal mines, developed a transparent syste and has protected national property.

GST is building an honest and transparent business system in the country. This arrangement has made it easy for traders to do business anywhere in the country and their difficulties have been reduced.

34 crore bank accounts have been opened in the country because of 'Jan Dhan Yojana' and almost every family is now connected to the banking system. According to an international agency, of all the bank accounts opened in the world from 2014 to 2017, 55 per cent were opened in India alone. Today, Rs. 88 thousand crore deposited in Jan Dhan accounts is a testimony to the changing saving habits. It is only because of the Jan Dhan Scheme that wages from MGNREGA, benefits from different

insurance schemes, scholarships, pensions and most other Government benefits are being credited directly into the bank accounts of the poor through DBT.

The move to "ban banknotes in the campaign run by the Government against black money and corruption" is an "important step". This decision struck the black economy of parallel economy and the money that was outside the system was linked to the economy of the country.

Government is striving day and night to attain the goal of doubling farmers income, better facilities and assistance to farmers for the agriculture activities from purchase of equipment and seed to transportation of produce and its sale. Providing the farmers with fair price for their crops; access to new markets and helping them with additional sources of income.

Government has taken the historic decision of fixing the Minimum Support Price – MSP of 22 crops at one and a half times higher than the production cost of the crop.

The number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras is being increased across the country to assist the farmers with scientific methods of farming.

More than 17 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to inform the farmers about the health of the soil.

100 percent Neem coating of urea has been done to facilitate its availability and to prevent its misuse.

Government is completing 99 incomplete old irrigation projects so that farmers do not face any hurdle in irrigation. 71 of these projects will be completed by the next few months. Micro-irrigation is also being promoted by the Government to ensure full utilization of every drop of water.

Crop insurance is being provided to farmers at low premium under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' to safeguard them from potential crisis due to crop damage.

A campaign has been launched to link online, more than 1,500 Agriculture Mandis to facilitate market access to farmers. Cold storage capacities are being increased at a fast pace to minimise crop damage from the field to the market and to ensure proper storage.

Under the Blue Revolution Scheme, Government is providing training to fishermen in deep sea fishing and financial assistance for buying modern fishing trawlers.

As on date, around one lakh 16 thousand Gram panchayats have been linked to optical fiber network and about 40 thousand village Panchayats have installed Wi-Fi hotspots.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana'(PMMY), which facilitates credit for professional and business requirements, loans worth more than Rs. 7 lakh crore have been disbursed to the youth without any guarantee. Women got the most benefits of the PMMY.

For a premium of just one rupee a month under 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana' and 90 paise a day under 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana', as many as 21 crore poor brothers and sisters have been provided with insurance coverage.

During the last four and a half years, the economy of the country has been growing at a rate of 7.3 per cent on an average. India is playing a significant role in international trade. While India's contribution to the world GDP was 2.6 per cent in 2014, it has increased to 3.3 per cent in 2017 as per the latest reports. India has emerged as the sixth largest economy in the world.

The Government is establishing new educational institutions to increase opportunities for high level professional education. It has been decided to enhance the amount of scholarship and fellowship by more than 25 percent to encourage research activities in the country. Opening up of 103 Kendriya Vidyalayas and setting up of Eklavya Model Awasiya Vidyalayas in all taluks having a majority tribal population and 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas established.

Under the 'Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana', about 6 crore women have become members of Self Help Groups. It has been made mandatory for the major Government companies to purchase at least 3 per cent of their material from the enterprises owned by women entrepreneurs.

Maternity Leave has been increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for working women to get adequate time for the well-being of their newborns.

With the sensitive thinking of eliminating every kind of lack and injustice in the society, our Government has tried to make proper changes in the law and order for social and economic justice. There is mention in the address about equal rights and

upliftment of the poor and dalit people of the society at the grass root level. His Excellency, the President has referred to social justice and to the architect of our Constituency, Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Ji, who used to say that political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy. Guided by this fundamental spirit of the Constitution, the Government is working towards strengthening of economic democracy and the social justice in India. The Government is putting its efforts for the development of poor people of the country and bring them into the mainstream.

A historic decision has been taken in the last Winter Session of Parliament to pass the 103rd Amendment to the Constitution to extend the benefit of reservation to the poor belonging to the General Category. The Government has undertaken several welfare schemes for the poor.

Under the world's biggest health care scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Abhiyan', 50 crore poor are eligible for availing treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh per year per family in case of a serious illness. In a short period of four months, more than 10

lakh poor have already availed free treatment from hospitals under this scheme.

" Mission Indradhanush" has been launched by the Government to provide immunization facilities to children and pregnant women living in remote and tribal areas. As a result, the country has moved rapidly towards the target of "Universal Immunization.

Our Government is also working with full power to eliminate the challenge of malnutrition in poor women and children and has launched a National Nutrition Mission to eliminate the responsible areas for malnutrition and those suffering from malnutrition.

Many of mothers, sisters and daughters used to suffer from various illnesses because of smoke filled kitchens, which also affected health of the entire family and much of their effort and time were spent in collecting firewood. Government has provided more than 6 crore LPG connections to such sisters and daughters under the Ujjwla Yojana.

Today every village has been electrified. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana', 2 crore and 47 lakh homes have been provided electricity connection.

Over 9 crore toilets have been constructed under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. According to an assessment, because of the toilets built, numerous poor persons have been spared of various kinds of diseases.

Government has been organizing 140 camps on average every month where Divyangjans are receiving assistive equipments. During this period, assistive equipments worth Rs. 700 crore have been distributed to about 12 lakh Divangjans in a fully transparent manner. Through the enactment of 'The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016', Government has provided them with equal opportunity in education, social security and employment.

Keeping in mind the desire of the youth to be self-reliant, the Kaushal Vikas Abhiyan was launched. Under this Abhiyan, in the last four years, on an average one crore youth have been trained every year in different skills.

The Government has linked creation of jobs with tax incentives under 'Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana'. Under this Scheme, when a young person gets a new job, the EPS and EPF contribution of 12 percent payable by the employer is being paid by the Government for the first three years. More than 1 crore youth have already benefitted from this scheme.

Through the surgical strike on cross border terror posts, India has show its new policy and strategy. Not only has Government fulfilled the demand for One Rank One Pension (OROP) that had been pending for 4 decades, but it has also disbursed arrears amounting to more than Rs. 10,700 crore to 20 lakh ex-servicemen. After a gap of many decades, the Indian Air Force is preparing to welcome, in the coming months, its new generation ultra-modern fighter aircraft Rafale and strengthen its strike capability.

Aviation sector has been a double digit growth during the last four years. More than 12 crore and 30 lakh people travelled by air during 2017-18 and this number is increasing constantly.

Under the 'Udan Scheme', 12 lakh seats have been made available to people at lower tariffs. This has provided the common person with an opportunity of air travel.

I welcome and support the Address delivered by the Hon. President. with these words, I once again thank His Excellency, the President for addressing and enlightening the country through Joint Session of Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA (SITAMARHI): Hon. Speaker, you have provided me with the opportunity to discuss the address delivered by Hon. President in the Joint Session of the House. For this, I express my gratitude to you. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, through this address, the Government informs the general public about its policies and strategies. In simpler terms, the address by Hon. President serves as a mirror of the Government's functioning. However, it is regrettable that the current address seemed more intent on glorifying the Government rather than fulfilling its actual objectives.

Madam, I wish to remind you of the promises made in 2019, where it was stated that we were blessed with the mandate for change. What is the reason for forgetting this change today?

Madam, what is the status of agriculture in our country? Today, there is discussion about agriculture, about doubling farmers' incomes, but this remains disconnected from reality. In no place is there a market (mandis) available for the produce of the farmer. Due to the unavailability of markets (mandis),

farmers often resort to scattering their harvested goods on the roadsides. Every day, newspapers and television channels report that farmers are forced to scatter tomatoes, potatoes, onions, and other produce on roads due to the absence of markets. Therefore, until a fully functional market infrastructure is established, agriculture-based industries will not be set up, and the doubling of farmers' incomes will remain merely a slogan. Therefore, through your platform, we wish to convey to the Government that if you truly intend to double farmers' incomes, then it is imperative for you to undoubtedly establish agricultural-based industries.

Madam, finally, I would like to bring to your attention one more point: the Government has recently implemented a 10 percent reservation for economically weaker sections among the general category. I welcome this, but alongside, I also wish to caution that the harm being inflicted upon the disadvantaged sections of society by this measure is more severe. Previously, a 27 percent reservation was instituted for the backward classes, but to date, only seven to eight percent of the population has been able to benefit from it, whereas earlier, 50 percent of seats

were unreserved. Now, when only 40 percent of seats remain unreserved, the situation for people from backward classes will persist as it is, and their condition will not improve. Therefore, I want to draw the government's attention towards ensuring that reservation is implemented nationwide based on a definitive caste census. Only then will the backward, extremely backward, and Scheduled Castes get proper benefits.

Jai Hind.

[English]

SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY (MALAPPURAM): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

The Hon. President in his speech said that this Government has infused a new hope and confidence amongst the people of this country. I do not understand as to what is the hope that has been infused amongst the people of this country. What is the single most achievement of this Government in the last four and a half years? Nobody knows that. Today in the morning, Shri Kharge ji, with statistics from each Department, has shown that the performance of this Government is not much during the last five years when compared to the performance of the consecutive UPA Governments. What hope can a Government, which itself has no hope, infuse in the minds of the people?

Madam, this Government came to power with 282 seats but since then whenever bye-elections have taken place, the party in power has lost almost every election and their strength in the Lok Sabha has been reduced to 268. The Government knows

very well that they would not be coming back to power again. This is a party which itself has lost hope and how can they claim to have infused hope in the minds of the people? Shri Kharge ji has established with statistics that the Government does not have much to say here on its achievements. I am sitting in the House since morning.

I did not hear anybody opposing Kharge*ji* or saying anything otherwise. People are saying many things but they do not have anything to say as their achievements. That is why, now, they are banging on and targeting the Opposition Leaders, and dividing the nation. Legislations like Triple Talaq and Citizenship Bill recently came to this House. The thing in your mind is to divide the people. You have pinned all your hope on dividing the people on religious grounds. You are trying to divide the nation. Your entire hope is on doing that. You do not have anything to show as your achievements in the last five years. That is what I want to say. You are targeting all the Opposition Leaders. How can it be? There are your Governments in many States; there are Chief Ministers; there are Ministers. There is no allegation or enquiry against anybody.

But you are having investigations against almost all the Opposition Leaders and the Leaders of the nation, and that too towards the end of your tenure. Is it a matter of pride? You should be ashamed of yourself. I am of the opinion that you have lost confidence in yourself. A person or a movement, which has lost confidence in itself is dangerous. That is why, I say that you are not only hopeless but also are dangerous for the nation. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

KUNWAR HARIVANSH SINGH (PRATAPGARH): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Madam, I recently visited America. People there were praising our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. I enquired about the benefits they have received since Modi ji became Prime Minister, and they responded that they have gained recognition and respect. Money is something we have... (Interruptions) I am not stating my own views; rather, I am conveying what people have told me... (Interruptions)

Madam, I would like to state that I hail from a small district called Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh. There, a passport office has been opened. Previously, individuals would travel two hundred kilometres to Lucknow, spending fifty thousand rupees, whereas now, a passport can be obtained within ten days for one thousand rupees, a process that previously took six months. It has come to my attention that a central school has been established there. Three trauma centres have been established there, which were never there before. A medical college is being

constructed there. ... (Interruptions) Please listen to what others have to say.

You all are engrossed *... in your role as the opposition.

Madam, I am making this statement because what has happened in the past five years, and what is currently unfolding in sixty months, has not been witnessed here in the past sixty years. We have had very senior ministers here, but nothing comparable has happened there. Significant progress has been achieved on the roads, prompting the entire House to extend thanks to Shri Gadkari today; yet these individuals refuse to acknowledge it.

Madam, now, Shri Nitin Gadkari's name has become synonymous with road construction. People have started calling him 'Roadkari.' Significant improvements have been made in the railways, which were unprecedented in the past. We have been allocated twelve and a half hundred crore rupees, with our leader Mr. Sinha present, and significant development is underway... *(Interruptions)* Remarkable progress is being made in our region, and similar improvements will occur in yours as well.

* Not recorded.

Discussions have been held extensively on the LPG, and several members have spoken; I shall not add further. I support and commend the President's address. What he has stated is factual. Thank you.

[English]

***SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, Vanakkam. On behalf of AIAIDMK Party, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the Hon. President's Address. Generally, Hon. President's Address highlights the achievements and the importance of future programmes of the present Government. This Address includes the measures undertaken by the Union Government during the last four years besides the views on development achieved so far in different fields. Therefore, this Address assumes significance as Hon. President address took place during the last Session of the 16th LokSabha.During the last four and half years, the economic growth on an average remained at 7.3%. Among the developing countries of the world, India occupies the sixth place which makes us to feel pride-filed.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Along with that the contribution of India to the gross domestic product ratio has increased to 3.3% as compared to the year 2014. I place on record my appreciation to present Government for taking such path breaking initiatives. We should look into the fact that whether this growth rate has reached the common man. The Programme Implementation and Statistics Department in its report for the year 2017 has stated that the unemployment ratio in India has increased to 6.1%. Therefore, importance should be given to industrial development combined with employment opportunities. I hopet hat the project proposals will be created by this Government in future.

When we think of employment generation, we need to think about skill development training programmes of the Union Government. Similarly, under the Prime Minister's Skill Development Programme, till last year, 3.16 lakh beneficiaries got employment. If we compare this with the unemployment ratio among youth, the employment generation is very low. I urge the Union Government to take necessary measures to provide jobs to at least 1 crore youth of our country before the

year 2020. I request the Union Government to expand Skill Development Training Programmes to achieve this target.

Hon. President, in his address, said that further development of higher educational institutions throughout the country is on the cards, besides ensuring development activities in 103 Kendriya Vidyalayas. The infrastructure development activities are being undertaken at a fast pace in 103 Kendriya Vidyalayas of the country. On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, I appreciate the Union Government for this laudable action. In my Thanjavur constituency, as a result of my persistent demand, the Union Government has allocated Rs. 18.25 crore to construct a new school premises for the Kendriya Vidyalaya operating from land belonging to the Ministry of Defence. Out of this allocated amount of Rs. 18.25 crore, an advance amount of Rs. 25 lakh has been released so far. Even though funds were allotted, because of the delay in action by the Engineering Department of the Ministry of Defence, the construction activities have come to a halt. I, therefore, urge the Union Government to expedite the construction activities of the Kendriya Vidyalaya in Thanjavur. I am happy to say that while accepting my demand, the Union

Government accorded permission to open a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Thanjavur constituency. In the Pillaiyarpatti village of Thanjavur District, 8.5 acres of land was allocated for the purpose. The State Government has also made necessary arrangements to execute expansion activities regarding the Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Thanjavur constituency with a fund allocation of Rs. 1 crore, at a place where a College of Education was functional. Even the Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya has also visited this place. I, therefore, urge that the Union Government should support the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Madam, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the President's address to the nation. I stand in opposition to it. I will present only five points before you and conclude my remarks within the shortest possible time. Firstly, I wish to remind you that any Government that takes an oath over the Constitution of India, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet Ministers took an oath under Schedule 3, violated it, and the Prime Minister and his entire Cabinet acted against this oath. For example, the Prime Minister stated in his speech on 9th December 2017, Whether you want a mosque or a temple. This is against that oath because the Prime Minister of this country cannot stand in favour of any religion. The Constitution clearly and explicitly asserts the dignity of the motherland.

Another important issue pertains to the Government's breach of its oath. These individuals are receivers of excess land. When they appeared in the Supreme Court as receivers, the Government advocated that the land should be allocated to a specific religious sect. This is against the oath.

My next point is that Article 49 specifically mentions the principle of separation of powers. The world knows about the press conference regarding the presence of four judges of the Supreme Court during this Government's tenure. I would like to know what you wrote and gave in that envelope that today the judiciary is afraid of you? This is highly dangerous for our democracy.

The Prime Minister visited Kashmir. In Dal Lake, MashaAllah, he waved his hand, but it is not known to whom he waved. Perhaps he acknowledged his presence by waving his hand, as if signalling to the genies. I reiterate that it is because of your presence that the youth of Kashmir, not Pakistan, are picking up arms today. This is due to your mistake; you lack any policy for Kashmir.

Fourthly, I would like to discuss the trade policy. The Hon. Prime Minister met and sat with President Trump not once but 25 times and hugged. Trump had stated that our South Asia policy will align with India. Today, in Moscow, the United States is holding talks with Pakistan and the Taliban, sidelining India. America is sidelining Afghanistan. Isn’t this a threat to

our nation's security and stability? Hasn't Trump betrayed you? You embraced him so much and showered him with so much praise, yet he abandoned you. We abandoned SAARC's policy to isolate Pakistan, but Pakistan isn't isolated; instead, we find ourselves isolated within SAARC. Tell me, where did your muscular policy go in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal? All of these have distanced themselves from us.

I must mention the fifth point that the right to life is a fundamental right of our nation. Does this challenge the Government? In my city, there was a bomb blast at the Mecca Masjid. The court acquitted those who were accused in the case, and you did not even appeal. You have faith in India's nationalism and trust in the perspective of Hindutva. They do not appeal for those who died in the Mecca Masjid. This is your policy of appeasement, where you adopt a soft approach towards terrorism.

My final point is that Mr. Modi has great affection for Muslims; he believes in supporting every divorced woman. I wish to convey to them that according to your surveys, the National Family Health Survey shows that the highest number

of impoverished individuals are Muslims. In the Annual Household Income Indian New Development Society, Muslims rank after SCs and STs. Your Government has been denying scholarships to 25 lakh disadvantaged boys and girls annually for the past four years, over a mere 1000 crore, which you refuse to allocate. You profess such great love for divorced women, yet show no concern for those who are helpless. This has been their policy.

I wish to inform you that data on intergenerational mobility reveals that while Dalits and lower-caste individuals have experienced intergenerational mobility, Muslims have not. I wish to convey to you that this country does not need future watchmen; it needs servants who will not exploit this nation, who will not use it for their ego and arrogance, and who will not instill fear but allow people to freely speak against the Prime Minister and the Government of India. You have created an atmosphere of fear. I hope that in the future, when the Government comes into power, it will promote a composite culture, unlike your emphasis on Hindutva ideology.

Madam, I wish to express my profound distress regarding these individuals. I am lodging a complaint with you. Please read the Chandrashekhar Commission's report from the library. The person accused of perjury by the commission was awarded the Bharat Ratna by you. This is your affection for Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. That’s why I oppose it. The Bharat Ratna has become an exclusive club for the upper caste and Brahmins. Thank you.

اویسی اسدالدین جناب (حیدرآباد): میڈم، میں آپ کا شکریہ گزار ہوں کہ آپ نے موقع دیا۔ میں بولنے کے خطبہ کے جمہوریہ صدرِ مجھے اوپر کا اس پوائنٹس آپ کے سامنے رکھوں گا اور 5 صرف میں ہوں۔ ہوا کھڑا میں مخالفت ہے یہ تو بات پہلی بالکل کم سے کم وقت میں اپنی بات ختم کر دوں گا۔ سب سے کے آئین کے ہندوستان سرکار بھی کوئی کہ ہوں چاہتا دلانا یاد یہ کو آپ میں کہ کے 3 شیڈیول نے وزراء کابینی کے ان اور اعظم وزیرِ ہےتو لیتی اوتھ اوپر اوتھ لی اور وزیرِ اعظم اور ان کی پوری کابینہ نے اس اوتھ کے تحت حلف لیا، کو اپنی تقریر 2017دسمبر 9 نے اعظم وزیرِ پر طور کے خلاف کام کیا۔ مثال میں کہا کہ آپ کو مسجد چاہئے یا مندر؟ یہ اس اوتھ کے خلاف ہے کیونکہ اس وطنِ عزیز کا ملک کا وزیرِ اعظم ایک مذہب کی تائید میں کھڑا نہیں ہو سکتا، آئین صاف اور واضح طور پر کہتا ہے۔

ایکسیس کیا، کام خلاف کے اوتھ اپنی اس حکومت نے دوسری بات ہے،
کے ریسیور ایک نے انہوں میں کورٹ سپریم جب لوگ، یہ ہے ریسیور لینڈ
کے اوتھ یہ جائے۔ دیا کو فرقہ کے مذہب ایک زمین کہ کہا نے حکومت پر طور
ہے۔ خلاف

میں خاص طور سے سیپریشن آف پاور کا 49میرا اگلا پوائنٹ ہے آرٹیکل
بارے کے ججوں چار کے کورٹ سپریم میں موجودگی کی سرکار ذکر ہے۔ اس
لفافے اس نے آپ کہ ہوں چاہتا جاننا ہے۔ میں جانتی دنیا کی کانفرنس پریس میں
لئے کے جمہوریت ہماری یہ ہے۔ رہی ڈر سے آپ عدلیہ آج دیاکہ کر لکھ کیا میں
ہے۔ خطرناک بڑا

لیکن ہلایا، ہاتھ نے انہوں ڈل لیک میں ما شا اللہ وزیرِ اعظم کشمیر گئے،
کا موجودگی اپنی اور ہلایا ہاتھ کو جنّات شاید ہلایا؟ ہاتھ کو کس معلوم نہیں
سے وجہ کی موجودگی کی آپ کہ ہوں رہا کہہ سے پھر میں دلایا۔ احساس
کی آپ یہ ہیں۔ رہے اٹھا ہتھیار آج نوجوان کے کشمیر بلکہ نہیں کے پاکستان
ہے۔ نہیں پالیسی لئے کے کشمیر پاس کے آپ ہے، سے وجہ کی غلطی

وزیرِ اعظم چوتھی بات میں خارجہ پالیسی کے بارے میں بتانا چاہتا ہوں،
گلی ملے۔ ٹرمپ نے کہا تھا کہ بار بغلگیر ہوئے، 25ٹرمپ سے ایک بار نہیں
ہماری ساوتھ ایشیا پالیسی ہندوستان کے ساتھ رہے گی۔ آج ماسکوں میں ہندوستان
افغانستان امریکہ ہیں۔ رہے کر بات سے طالبان پاکستان، ، امریکہ کر چھوڑ کو
لئے کے ملک اور سالمیت کی ملک ہمارے یہ کیا ہے۔ رہا جا کر چھوڑ کو
ہوئے، بغلگیر اتنے آپ دیا؟ نہیں دھوکہ کو آپ نے ٹرمپ کیا ہے؟ نہیں خطرہ

لیٹ آئیسو کو پاکستان نے ہم دیا۔ چھوڑ کو آپ نے انہوں لیکن دئے، چمے اتنے ہوا، نہیں آئیسولیٹ پاکستان لیکن دیا، چھوڑ کو پالیسی کی سارک لئے کے کرنے نیپال میں، بھوٹان میں، دیش بنگلا بتائیے ہیں۔ چکے ہو آئیسولیٹ میں سارک ہم گئےْ ہو دور سے ہم سب یہ گئی؟ کہاں پالیسی مسکیولر کی آپ میں

فنڈا کا ملک ہمارے لائف ٹو رائٹ کہ ہے مجھے پانچوی بات کا ذکر کرنا میں مسجد مکہ میں شہر میرے ہے؟ دیتا زیب کو سرکار یہ ہے۔ کیا رائٹ مینٹل اپیل آپ دیا، کر بری کو ان نے کورٹ تھا کیس خلاف کے لوگوں جن ہوا، بلاسٹ ہندوتتوکے ہیں، کرتے بھروسہ پر نیشنلزم کے ہندوستان آپ کرتے۔ نہیں بھی اپیل لئے کے ان گئے، مر میں مسجد مکہ لوگ جو ہیں۔ کرتے بھروسہ پر نظریہ کرتے اختیار رویہ نرم آپ کہ ہے پالیسی کی گردی دہشت کی آپ یہ کرتے۔ نہیں ہیں۔

ان مودی جی کو مسلمانوں سے بڑی محبت ہے، میرا آخری پوائنٹ ہے، ہوں چاہتا کہنا سے کو لگتا ہے کہ ہر طلاق شدہ عورت کا ساتھ دیں گے۔ میں ان غریب زیادہ سے سب میں سروے ہیلتھ فیملی نیشنل ہے، سروے پاس کے آپ کہ ایس۔سی۔اور میں سوسائیٹی ڈیولپمینٹ نیو انڈیا انکم ہولڈ ہاوس اینول ۔ ہیں مسلمان 25 سے سال چار ساڑھے سال ہر سرکار کی آپ ہیں۔ مسلمان بعد کے ٹی۔ ایس۔ صرف ہے، رہے کرتی محروم سے اسکارشپ کو لاکھ اقلیتی بچے اور بچیوں لیکن آپ نہیں دیتے ہیں۔ طلاق شدہ عورتوں سے آپ کروڑ کا سوال تھا، 1000 کو اتنی محبت ہے لیکن جو بے سہارہ ہیں ان کی کوئی فکر نہیں ہے۔ یہ ان کی پالیسی رہے ہے۔

دلت جب میں آپ کو بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ انٹر جینریشن موبِلیٹی کا ڈاٹا ہے، نہیں کی مسلمانوں تو ہوئی موبِلیٹی جنریشن انٹر کی لوگوں سب کاسٹ اپر اور کی چوکیداروں آئیندہ کو ملک اس کہ ہوں چاہتا کہنا لئے اس سے آپ میں ہوئی۔ جو گا، بنائے نہیں یرغمال کو ملک اس جو ہے، ضرورت کی خادم ایک نہیں میں ملک اس جو گا، کرے نہیں استعمال لئے تقبرکے اور انا اپنی کو ملک اس وزیر کے ہندوستان پر طور آزاد لوگ میں ملک بلکہ گا، کرے پیدا نہیں خوف میں کیا۔ پیدا ماحول کا خوف نے آپ گے۔ بولیں خلاف کے حکومت اور اعظم دی فروغ کو کلچر کمپوسِٹ وہ گے، آئے حکومت جب آئیندہ کہ ہوں کرتا امید دیا۔ فروغ کو نظریہ کے ہندوتتو نے آپ گی،

میں آپ کو آخر میں بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ مجھے ان لوگوں سے بہت میڈم، میں آپ سے شکایت کر رہا ہوں کہ چندرچوڑ کمیشن کی رپورٹ تکلیف ہے، چندر چوڑ کمیشن کی رپورٹ نے جس پر لائبریری سے اٹھا کر پڑھئے، پنڈت ہے محبت کی آپ دیا۔ یہ رتن آپ نے اس کو بھارت فرزری کا الزام لگایا، رتن بھارت ہوں۔ کرتا مخالفت کی اس لئے اس میں ۔ سے جی اُپادھیائے دیال دین ختم)--- ہے۔ شکریہ ہوا بنا کلب ایکسکلوسیو کا براہمنوں اور کاسٹ اپر صرف شد)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN MINISTER (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Hon. Speaker, Shri Owaisi has expressed certain views on the Kharija Policy in a highly irresponsible manner. Therefore, I would like to address Shri Owaisi, with your permission, and state that whatever remarks he made regarding the Kharija Policy, I completely dismiss them all. Your statement that Pakistan did not separate; we separated ourselves. I wish to convey to you that the way Pakistan has been separated and placed on the grey list in the Financial Action Task Force for its support to terrorists is a significant achievement for us. Therefore, Shri Owaisi, I completely reject all your remarks in this House. Hon. Speaker, I am deeply grateful for the time allotted to me.

[English]

***KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR):** Before we come to power, we promise a vision to the people of this country of what this county will look like at the end of the five years of our term. I believe that five years hence, this Government has clearly failed the mandate it was given and the evidence of this lies in this Government's treatment of women and children as well as their rights.

Firstly, on the political representation of women, five years have passed and yet the Government has failed to introduce and pass a Bill, ensuring 33% representation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. This is despite three different assurances to the people of this country by the present Government an unparalleled support of opposition parties. The Congress Party has time and again reaffirmed its commitment to the cause.

Secondly, it is all well for the Prime Minister to say 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'. But we all have a problem when it comes to the Government claiming that this scheme is a success

* Speed was laid on the Table.

without conducting any form of an impact study. Further, the false equivalence that the Minister seems to be drawing between awareness and advertisement without any impact assessment is its own problem.

Today, India is far more unsafe for women than it was five years ago. NCRB data shows that reports of crimes against women is at an all time high while convictions in these cases are at an all time low. Horrific instances of crimes against women such as the Unnao and Kathua rape cases, only highlight the worsening situation. In 2013, the UPA Government set up a dedicated fund to improve the safety and security of women in the country, called the Nirbhaya Fund. Reports state that a majority of those funds remain unused. (the Nirbhaya Fund which has only spent 1513.40 crores in four years out of the 3600 crores.) Even the Hon. Supreme Court has noted that these funds are not being utilised properly. In 2017, the National Legal Services Authority stated that only 5-10% of victims of rape and other types of sexual assault received compensation under the Nirbhaya Fund and other schemes. It is all well to say that passing a law will do justice and to amend laws to reduce

the time within which investigation must infrastructure is not sufficiently improved.

One of the most powerful, important and sustainable ways to empowering women is by enabling them to earn their own livelihood. However, in this regard as well the Government has failed the women of this country. This is an observation that the Economy Survey astutely made in 2018-19 based on the National Family Health Survey data set. Furthermore, India today has one of the lowest Female Labour Force Participation Rate in world. Rural unemployment amongst women is at an all time high as per the National Sample Survey Office's periodic labour force survey, at 13.6% in 2017-18 compared at 4.8% in 2011-12. Even if, one has to doubt the veracity of these claims the CMIE data goes on to show that 11 million jobs were lost in 2018 of this 8.8 million were women.

The Government may claim that it has passed and implemented the Maternity Benefits Act. The Act now inter alia gives 26 weeks of paid leave to pregnant women and lactating mothers in the organized sector as well as entitles them to creche services in their office spaces. While these are commendable

steps, the fact that the Government has failed to view this form a gender sensitive lens and even in terms of long term policy making has adversely impacted the women of this country. In terms of being gender sensitive, the Government has failed to acknowledge that the familial structure and the burden of care work in households in India is evolving and rapidly changing. While in terms of long-term policy-making, the Minister is himself on record claiming that the Government's inability to provide for a percentage of the cost, has put women at a serious disadvantage when it comes to hiring. In any case, this law is nothing but posturing given that it only applies to women working in the formal sector where barely 6.5% women are employed.

In reality the millions of women who are a part of the informal sector depend on the schemes such as the National Creche Scheme has been severaly undermined due to the Government's misplaced decision to reduce Central Government funding from 90:10 to 60:40. Recent data shows that the number of creches has been declining substantially since this Government assumed power: from 18,427 in 2014-15 to 11,666

in 2016-17 and this has been accompanied with a decline in beneficiaries. Without a safe place to leave their children, not only does it hinder a woman's ability to work but also compromises the well-being of the children.

Reports by reputed international institutions also show that worsening condition of women in the country. As per the overall gender gap ranking by the World Economic Forum (WEF) India has also made no improvement in 2018, and stood at low 108 out of the 149. We ranked badly in several other segments of the report such as economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival ranking and political empowerment.

We continue to rank third-lowest in the world on health and survival, which should be serious concern to all of us. On the issue of health and nutrition, as per the World Health Organisation's Global Nutrition Report 2018, 25.5 million children in India are wasted, and we hold a third of the world's burden of stunting in children. The Government's failure to strengthen key schemes and policies that address this issue, such as the Anganwadi Services Scheme where the number of

beneficiaries have been decreasing under this Government's tenure.

While the Prime Minister claims that he has improved the lives of women across India but successfully providing gas connections to crores of households across India, the truth of the matter is it is failing to meet the objective of persuading households stop using traditional biomass fuels that cause respiratory diseases. This is evident from fact that while the number of LPG connections across India has increased the number of refills has been abysmally low.

In conclusions I would just like to state that this Government has failed the women of this country. The mindset of the Government s such that it continues to view women and their needs through the narrow lens of patriarchy and relegates them and their needs to that of the household. This is clear from the rhetoric of the Prime Minister and other Members of his Government and it is clear they governed this country for the last five years.

[Translation]

***SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):** Hon. President highlighted our Government's achievements over the past four and a half years through his historic speech on 31st January. He mentioned initiatives such as demonetisation, GST, surgical strikes, One Rank One Pension, National Police Memorial, Ayushman Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Mudra Yojana, and others.

Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government has worked towards making India a powerful nation. Today, 34 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened in the country, wherein approximately 85 thousand crore has been deposited by poor labourers and farmers from rural villages. Furthermore, toilets are being constructed in every household. Through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, homes are being constructed. Efforts are being made through the Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana to provide water to every farm. Farmers with up to five acres of land will receive 6 thousand rupees per year. This will require 75,000 crore from the Government's treasury. Under the Ayushman Yojana, provisions

* Speed was laid on the Table.

have been made for medicines up to five lakh rupees for the poor. Under the Saubhagya Yojana, the Government is providing electricity to every household, and under the Ujjwala Yojana, free gas connections and gas stoves are being provided. The Government has increased the Minimum Support Price for crops and procured 13 times more than before. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, crops will be insured at a lower premium. This Government has implemented a policy of providing 10 percent reservation to economically weaker sections of the General Category without reducing reservations for any other category.

The work of providing pensions to ten crore workers in the unorganised sector has been undertaken, and income tax exemption has been granted on earnings up to five lakh rupees. Our Government is committed to fighting corruption; our Government is building a new Bharat where everyone receives justice, has the right to equality, and is provided with security. I support this proposal.

[English]

***SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN (BISHNUPUR):** Madam, kindly allow me to speak from this seat. Today I will speak in Bengali because this speech of mine will reach lakhs of people of West Bengal through Lok Sabha television, they will hear me speak. First, I thank you Hon. Madam, I thank Hon. Modiji and I thank you all. We are aware that three things are absolutely required for our survival; these are shelter, food and clothing. Today Modiji has done commendable job. No person dies in starvation, everybody has food to eat.

In as far as shelter is concerned, we have seen that Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Scheme has been implemented. Toilets have been constructed in large numbers. But we have witnessed that surprisingly, whenever any development work is undertaken under the auspices of the Central Government the State Government of West Bengal pastes a sticker of its own name. Like when Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana work is undertaken, Bengal Gram Sadak Yojana banner is displayed. It is very unfortunate and shameful The Beti Bachao Beti Parao

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

programme is being implemented throughout the country. It is a unique programme.

We all were witness to the previous regime of UPA. Though I was not a member of Parliament at that time, I still remember that the tenure was riddled with coal scam, 2G scam and all such major scams. But today, I feel very proud to declare that I am an Indian. Because of the border fencing, people of India are happy, safe and secure; the army is protecting them. And the army is also happy and content because Hon. Modiji has kept them happy. But it is very unfortunate that helipad is not offered to the Prime Minister's chopper to land whereas the anti-socials of Bangladesh are offered a free-run to organize a Khagragarh incident. Permissions for rallies are not given to Hon. Home Minister or other Central Ministers like Smriti Irani but the bomb factories are sponsored by the State Government. Even yesterday, a bomb blast occurred in Ilambazar. This is the latest industry in West Bengal. There is no job in the state. The youths of Bengal are shifting base in search of jobs. They are moving out to other states. I thank the Chief Ministers of those states who are offering jobs to the Bengal youths. I also thank Hon.

Prime Minister for arranging jobs for them. Bengal is on the verge of collapse. A group of anti-social elements is ruling the roost there. This is a dangerous situation for the entire country. In Bengal now new jobs are created through SSC, Government employees are not given DA. You can achieve nothing by trying to malign the image of Modiji. Youths of Bengal are getting jobs in other states because there are newer jobs opportunities in the country.

No Chief Minister can advise people to not deposit their money in the banks. For the first time I have seen that 16-17 leaders had come together in the Brigade Parade Ground Rally and from that forum, the Bengal Chief Minister urged upon the people to refrain from saving money in the banks. So, what do you propose? Where should the common people deposit their hard earned money? Should they invest in the chit funds? Should they invest in the Sarada chit fund? Or to the Narada fund? Though I respect all police personnel, I am compelled to say that the CBI officers should never be manhandled. They had gone to perform their duties. We are staying in a civilized country. When a Police Commissioner is summoned for

questioning, he does not cooperate, he does not appear before the CBI, instead he sits on dharna with political leaders. This is not acceptable. People of Bengal are under threat. Today BGBS is being organized for inviting investments. In the year 2015, the proposed investment was Rs.2,43,100 cores but the actual investment was of Rs.983 crores. In 2016, the expected investment was Rs.2,50,253 crores, whereas the actual investment was of Rs.3433 crores only. The investment today is to the time of Rs.2503 crores only.

We are sorry to say that by attacking Hon. Prime Minister's image, nothing can be achieved. Religious tensions should not be created in the state. It is a very dangerous trend. I would urge upon the Government that please ensure free and fair election in West Bengal. Allow the people of Bengal to cast their votes freely and fearlessly. They are never allowed to vote as per their wishes, they Are threatened. In the last Panchayat election 70 persons were killed. This should be stopped. I request you again to ensure free and fair Lok Sabha election in the interest of democracy. With this request, I conclude my speech.

Thank you.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Madam, this was a fresh reminder of all the welfare schemes that our Government has indulged in for the past quarter to five years. It is a time to give our report card for all the work that we have done and seek report card from others as well. Amongst the comity of nations, India deserves its place and that is what the purpose of this Government has been to give due place to India in the comity of nations.

It was very rightly pointed by the President that our country was treading towards the path of uncertainty before 2014. Lethargic and impassive governance is what was ruling in those days. From those times to present time, we have worked on every aspect. Every Ministry has done an immense task to uplift those who were in need of help.

[Translation]

Just now, Shri Owaisi mentioned Shri Deendayal Upadhyaya. The Government at that time could have killed anyone. If they had read the Shah Commission report, they

might have understood how the Government machinery operated back then; they would also know how the Government machinery operates even today. Today, the Government machinery operates in such a way that even if some people are not in the Government, there are still some officials who are certainly placed there on their behalf. This is evident from the kind of actions that have taken place within all constitutional institutions, where officials do not have the authority. Whether it is Party A or Party B, they are supposed to perform their duties. However, it has been observed that many Government employees were working like party workers. Under this Government system, even preliminary NSSO reports, which are still drafts and not yet confirmed, are prone to leaks. What was happening within the CBI is before the Supreme Court, before the House, and also before all other institutions. This system is still functioning today. This system is functioning not as Government employees but rather as party workers, because those who have ruled for sixty to seventy years have entrenched their system and laid down a trap.

My friends have already talked about all kinds of schemes by way of which we have tried to touch the lives of all Indians and all citizens. Fifteen crore MUDRA loans have been sanctioned. Seventy-three percent of those loans have been given to women because at the end of the line, standing last, there is no one else but a woman. The Hon. President articulated very effectively that women have benefited the most from this Government. When it is used to provide relief from triple talaq, it causes discomfort to people like Shri Owaisi. I would like to understand from them whether women are only wives and not daughters. Do they not have children in their lives? Do they not have fathers? Do they not have brothers? When any woman faces distress, her entire family feels the pain. If her life improves, then the life of the Muslim community also improves. What difficulty did they have with this?

Shri Kharge listed many schemes and said that they have only changed the names. Not only have the names changed, but the implementation has also changed. The implementation has changed in such a way that if even a little honesty were there,

and ... *was avoided, then those figures would show how much coverage there was under the 'Indradhanush' scheme. It would have been mentioned how much work was done under the 'Clean India Mission' and how much coverage there was in the previous Swachh Gram Yojana that used to run in your area. Which areas did you demarcate? The difference in implementation is evident to everyone. Digital India, post payment banks, and various such facilities have been provided to the country. Shrimati Sushma is sitting here, so I would also like to mention that during the era of emails, many post offices were closing down. This Government has demonstrated how post offices can be utilised for banking and other Government services, including passport services. Today, three thousand two hundred fifty post offices are functioning as Gramin Sevaks, serving every citizen of the country. ... (Interruptions) The Hon. Minister sitting here has informed us correctly that the figure has reached one lakh thirty thousand.

Farmers in the village should receive fair prices for their produce; however, it was definitely in the files, but the work that

* Not recorded.

needed to be done on those files did not happen. The kind of misleading environment created regarding the farmers is part of the same system I was referring to earlier. In the past ten years, the Uttar Pradesh Government has spent only 54 thousand crore rupees on farmers. Currently, the price of six thousand rupees, which they are saying is going into everyone's accounts under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, is an addition, meaning it is a top-up recharge, and the benefit of other schemes has been received by farmers. Whether it's the benefit of MSP being doubled, the crops of Kharif or Rabi seasons, Soil Health Cards, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Mudra loans, or work related to irrigation, all of these are benefits. They have also received the right along with these benefits. Through 'e-NAM' (National Agriculture Market), both the market and buyers have benefited so that farmers can obtain the right price for their produce.

Madam Speaker, a few days ago, farmers from Karnataka had come. They are workers of our party; we had a discussion with them. I said, "What does this six thousand rupees on the ground mean?" They said, "Madam, the MSP is 1860 rupees, but the officials from the Government System have not come to

us for procurement at 1860 rupees." I am talking about the Karnataka Government. Mr. Kharge is from Karnataka, so I want to ask him about this. ... (Interruptions) They sold millet at 1460 rupees. Meaning that Bajra was sold for less than the MSP. This price of six thousand rupees seems to be a very good price for them. Certainly, all their difficulties may not be over, but this is a great support and honour for them. ... (Interruptions)

In matters of tertiary health care, electricity, shelter, or health care, this Government has worked on all these subjects and has endeavoured to touch every area that was previously untouched. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana,' one crore thirty lakh houses have already been provided, and work has also begun to construct six lakh twenty-six thousand four hundred eighty affordable units since last September.

Electrification was mocked. Today, I want to tell everyone that there was a program under the 'Saubhagya Yojana' to provide electricity to every village, which has been completed for every village. This work has been fully implemented in 25 States. There are approximately ten lakh and fifty thousand families that have not yet received these houses, mainly in four

states - Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, and Chhattisgarh, where this work is ongoing. The journey of development is a continuous journey. You cannot say about any journey of development that we have reached our destination. In the coming years, there will always be new summits to achieve, but in the past approximately five years (four years and nine months), from the spinning wheel to the journey of Chandrayaan, we have completed it.

Hon. Speaker Madam, the address by the Hon. President is indicative of the journey from resolution to accomplishment in the nearly five-year (four years and nine months) tenure of building a Bharat where there is now more transparency, greater integrity, increased employment, improved cleanliness, better health benefits, prosperity for farmers, and growth for traders compared to before. There is prosperity for the poor, respect for women, and opportunities for minorities under the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.' We have completed this journey from conception to creation in nearly five years (four years and nine months), and it has been a dedicated endeavour. This dedication is to our motherland; this dedication is to the society

of Bharat. A difficult journey that was fraught with struggles, obstacles, and tests, but above all, it was filled with possibilities; amidst these possibilities, we have successfully completed this arduous journey, and this is what defines us. This journey was from the impossible to the possible. Could anyone have imagined that every citizen in Bharat would become aware and committed to working towards cleanliness? Could anyone have imagined that in States where the number of women was dwindling and there was gender injustice, initiatives like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) or the fight against female foeticide would succeed to the extent that today, statistics show how many daughters are being born and how people are celebrating this change? Today, if we have reached from resolution to accomplishment, it has been an extraordinary and joyous journey over the past nearly five years (four years and nine months). I would like to share the narrative of this journey with you through a few lines. The first line is from disorder to order. Disorder—Earn black money, keep it, and no one will ask you anything. Such disorder prevailed in this country. There was no hindrance to taking

money out of the country. There was no barrier to purchasing property in someone else's name. There was no law against Black money, whether it was in anonymous accounts or otherwise. You could open as many fake companies as you wanted; there was no law against it. We have corrected that disorder, and therefore, I am speaking of the transition from disorder to order. ... (Interruptions)

Madam, I understand their concerns. Whether it's Rose Valley or a scam worth Rs. 15 thousand crore. It's not a matter of two and a half thousand rupees or two hundred and fifty rupees; we're talking about scams worth crores of rupees, and there was no law to stop them. There was no law against benami (anonymous) property. We have now established that system.

From inequality to equality, only 120 families controlled the entire economy of this country, and these 120 families managed the money of a hundred crore people. We have moved towards equality because people spoke out about eradicating poverty. My childhood has passed by listening to these slogans, but no work has been done to eradicate poverty. Even today, many leaders give the slogan of eradicating poverty, but if a poor

person needs a toilet, they won't get it; if they need a road, they won't get it; if they need money, they won't get it. This country's 52 percent GDP comes from the unorganised sector, but before 2014, there was no policy for them. I say this emphatically: there was no policy for them to get loans or financial support or to enable them to work effectively. Our Government has worked to take the country from inequality towards equality.

From negativity to distributing energy, I'm saying this because no one could have imagined that every household in this country would ever be illuminated by electricity. Every child will be able to study at night. Every woman will no longer have to wait for the darkness of evening or early morning to go for sanitation. Our Government has conveyed this message of new energy over the past nearly five years (four years and nine months). They have spoken about implementing actions after thoughtful consideration. Shri Kharge explained very well that we had this plan, we had that plan, and we had this scheme as well as that scheme. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. All these schemes existed, but only on paper. They did not know how to get the work done or how implementation occurs.

We have demonstrated how to implement them. ... (Interruptions) Let them take each scheme one by one, and we will provide the data for each. ... (Interruptions) They even had a scheme for spectrum, as my brothers and sisters are calling out behind me. ... (Interruptions) I mentioned that there was also the CWG plan, along with many other schemes. ... (Interruptions) Their discussion can be reserved for another day. ... (Interruptions) From inaction to valour, these are the same people who questioned the surgical strikes. These are the same people under whose tenure our soldiers' heads were taken away. ... (Interruptions) We have responded with the valour of those same soldiers. ... (Interruptions) This is a journey from indecision to determination, as every time, every program, and every project has clearly defined goals. ... (Interruptions) Within three months, you are required to complete this task; it must be accomplished within six months. Your budget and other associated matters are already determined. ... (Interruptions) Thus, this journey is from uncertainty to determination and from cruelty to compassion. ... (Interruptions) These are the people who couldn't see hungry children because there were many other

priorities. ... (Interruptions) These are the people who couldn't see a woman who is going alone in the dark. ... (Interruptions) They couldn't see the woman eating in the dark. ... (Interruptions)

A lot has already been said about Ujjwala, so I won't just mention it and won't say much more about it. ... (Interruptions) This is a journey from stagnation to change. ... (Interruptions) Policy paralysis has crippled this country. ... (Interruptions) Until 2014, there was uncertainty about what goods would arrive, which flights would come, where they would arrive, when they would arrive, and what would happen next. ... (Interruptions) This is a fight for change from stagnation and connection from dispersion. ... (Interruptions) Sometimes divide in the name of religion, sometimes in the name of region, sometimes in the name of gender, sometimes in the name of caste—just keep dividing. ... (Interruptions) No one had any idea who would speak about Bharat or its people. ... (Interruptions) Today we have talked about unity, from disappointment to enthusiasm. ... (Interruptions) Today, we all are enthusiastic that Bharat can fulfil its journey of resolve and will continue to do

so. ... (Interruptions) From destruction to creation, there was a time when we were in Fragile-5. ... (Interruptions) Before 2014, our assessment was that our economy was in Fragile-5, and it would destroy this country; this country would have nothing left, and we would be in debt. ... (Interruptions) Not a single tax was increased in the past five years. ... (Interruptions) Within the past five years, our position under GDP was eleventh; today we are at the sixth number. ... (Interruptions) Today, from the World Bank to various countries, everyone praises us, and we haven't borrowed a single rupee. ... (Interruptions) This is our journey from destruction to creation, from injustice to justice. ... (Interruptions) Whoever has taken money and fled, whoever should be behind bars, whoever should appear before the ED (Enforcement Directorate), and whoever should pay Rs 1,600 crore in income tax will have to pay. ... (Interruptions) They will not escape from it. ... (Interruptions) This is a journey from injustice to justice. ... (Interruptions) It is a journey from obstruction to dynamism. ... (Interruptions) Whether it's parliament, roads, or railways, they know how to create

obstacles, but we know how to achieve progress. ... (Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, this journey has been from thought to effort, and this journey has progressed from backwardness to development. ... (Interruptions) I have said before that backwardness or development is never a destination. ... (Interruptions) It is a journey that continues to progress. ... (Interruptions) We need to look at the figures from 2014 and the figures today. Madam Speaker, this journey has been from zero to growth and from determination to achievement. ... (Interruptions) In the past nearly five years (four years and nine months), how we have progressed from there to here, all of that is in front of everyone, and each assessment is among us. ... (Interruptions) We have successfully traversed this liberating path with steadfast determination, leading us today solely towards development, development, and more development, this is the path of our journey, and it has already manifested in creation, connection, victory, trust, potential, and everything. This is the difference in implementation... (Interruptions)

[English]

Madam, I want to tell you that there is no place for imperfect, corrupt, and inertia-ridden systeSushri We are here to destroy those systems, and we shall destroy those systems so that we can have a government and we can have systems of governance which are efficient systems to serve the mother nation. That is exactly what the plan of the Modi government has been, and that is why such a mention is there even in the Presidential Address.

I am grateful to the President for rightly mentioning that we were sensitive to the needs of the countless helpless people. That is why we worked for them and tried to ensure that there is life beyond darkness.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, there are two main points I want to make: First, they talk about the setting sun, and for the past five years, we have indeed been witnessing that setting sun. Times change, and they said that nothing is greater than time; this is absolutely correct. Those who used to flee—the wealthy and the corrupt of this country—are now all facing the ED and the police. Therefore, it is very important, and all those who have done

such deeds should know that no one is above time. Today, I recall that whether it was the issue of controlling corruption or black money, many people in this country have loudly proclaimed democracy, democracy, democracy, but in reality, that cry was for kleptocracy. The kleptocracy was a webcast through which all the corrupt individuals came together on the same platform. On a single platform, and I say that despite their ambitions, they all come together. Someone has thousands of crores in their name, while another has fifteen thousand crores. All of them are accused of various scams. Therefore, let them first pay the 1,600 crore rupees in income tax, and then we can talk. I am recalling a line from Benjamin Franklin that goes, “We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.” This is the reason why all these people are hanging together.

Madam, those who are corrupt today feel that democracy is in danger. In reality, it's not democracy but "kleptocracy" that is in danger. Madam Speaker, due to the prevalence of kleptocracy, it is permissible to stir up unrest, so I do not take offence at anything they say. They have made the constitutional

system unconstitutional, and that too is evident to everyone. The people of the country are watching, listening, understanding, and waiting for their time. Their response will also be heard clearly. The affection of the opposition is ... *based on falsehood, lies, and illusions. Integrity, development, and cleanliness are the policies of our Hon. Modi Government. The next weapon for kleptocracy in the name of democracy is...as written in the report. Ask which report; verifying it is not necessary. In the case of Rafale...while Miraj-2000, one of our pilots, Mr. Abrol, passed away, no one has spoken about the issue because 3.9 billion rupees were spent to make the coffin. Because 3.9 billion rupees were spent to refurbish an aircraft that is 20-25 years old. I want to ask those who talk about the Rafale deal; during your tenure, you gave a loan of 70 thousand crore rupees for the Metro Rail project, which is now facing bankruptcy proceedings. Give an account of that. Therefore, the corruption that exists... is spreading an atmosphere of illusion in this country. When a bankruptcy case of 45 thousand crore rupees is filed, understand that the Bankruptcy Code has facilitated this

* Not recorded.

filing. This is the result of disorder to order. Craft a new conspiracy on EVMS. Questions were raised on surgical strikes, and controversies sparked over intolerance; whatever happens now, it was once said that it's not about rights, their numbers were completely different. Riots were most initiated in the earliest times. The figures say something else, while they say something different here. This... *that these are Government policies and that's why...* getting spread. I would like to conclude the line at the end. ... (Interruptions) If these people do not question the EVM, it will be difficult for them to secure their deposits because they...* * are accused. Therefore, the Kumbh is currently ongoing, go and take a dip.

Those who derailed the economy should be aware that our Government has brought it back on track. The entire country knows what our Government has given to the nation. The Hon. Prime Minister is present; I will conclude my remarks in just a minute. The ten percent reservation introduced under the economic policy did not even allow the opposition to rise before Hon. Prime Minister Modi's Government demolished their

* Not recorded.

remaining courage by presenting an extremely popular budget. The sting of the scorpion (this great dissatisfaction) is still tormenting them. They are still in pain, wondering how such an excellent budget was presented. In 2014, the people's slogan was 'Ab Ki Baar Modi Sarkar' (This time Modi Government) and this time, the people are saying 'Is Baar 300 paar' (This time, crossing 300) and 400 seats for the NDA. With these words, [English] I just want to say one line, Madam: “The Government of the people, by the people, for the people needs to be sensitive to the needs and necessities of the people,” and that is what our Government has done. I support the Presidential Address. I am very grateful to you, and I am very grateful to my Government. There, every Minister has done a fantastic job. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

***SHRI DEVAJI M. PATEL (JALORE):** I support this motion of thanks. Due to the Government's continuous efforts, our sector has progressed during the last four and a half years. Whether it's about the better health of the public or the economic development of the country, whether it concerns foreign policy or national defence. We all know that through the Hon. President's Address, the Government provides an account of its past actions and outlines the strategy to be adopted for the upcoming year to the nation and the Parliament. Our Government does not believe in appeasement but adheres to the policy of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas."

Under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi, our Government has instilled new hope and confidence in the people and enhanced the nation's prestige over the past four and a half years, whereas, before the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the country was going through a period of instability. However, the country is now moving forward in the direction of building a New India. The Government is working to fulfil the hopes and

* Speech was laid on the Table.

aspirations of people from all sections of society. Under the leadership of Hon. Modi Sir, our country is building an inclusive society based on morality, in line with Gandhi Ji's dreams. Our country is progressing with the ideals of social and economic justice as enshrined in the Constitution by Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, more than nine crore toilets have been constructed. Due to this people's movement, rural sanitation coverage has increased to 98 percent today, which was less than 40 percent in 2014. Many of our mothers, sisters, and daughters used to fall ill because of the smoke from the chulhas (traditional stoves), which affected the entire family's health and consumed a significant amount of their time in gathering fuel. For such sisters and daughters, the Hon. Modi Sir's Government has provided over 6 crore gas connections under the Ujjwala Yojana. Despite decades of efforts, there were only 12 crore gas connections in our country until 2014. In just the past four and a half years, the Hon. Modi Sir's Government has connected a total of 13 crore families with gas connections. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan, provisions have been made to cover serious illnesses

for up to Rs 5 lakh per family annually, benefiting 50 crore impoverished individuals across the nation. In just four months, over 10 lakh poor individuals have already received treatment under this scheme.

Under the Pradhan Mantri's Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana, more than 4,900 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across over 600 districts nationwide so far. More than 700 medicines are being made available at very affordable prices at these centres. Under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, insurance coverage has been provided to approximately 21 crore economically disadvantaged brothers and sisters with a premium of just one rupee per month. Similarly, under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, coverage has been provided at a premium of 90 paise per day.

Be it the development of National Highways or the improvement of transportation facilities. Whether it's about digital literacy or improvement in the communication system in the country. Be it the field of space or the development of missiles. In every field, the Government is achieving new milestones and is deserving of congratulations.

I request the Government to kindly pay attention to the following issues affecting my parliamentary constituency of Jalore-Sirohi on this occasion and consider them empathetically for prompt and appropriate action to resolve them.

1. Today, a network of roads is being laid out in our country; several routes in my parliamentary constituency have been declared national highways, and there is an urgent need to start work on them as soon as possible.

2. There is a need to construct overbridges at 48 railway crossings.

3. I want to express my gratitude to Hon. Smt. Sushma Swaraj for fulfilling my demand to establish a Passport Seva Kendra in my Jalore-Sirohi constituency.

4. Considering the expectations of the general public, a 100-bed naturopathy hospital should be established in the Jalore-Sirohi District.

With these words, I extend congratulations for the significant initiatives undertaken by my Government over the past four and a half years for the welfare of the common citizens of the country, and I support the motion of thanks.

Thank you.

[English]

***SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA):** I would like to place my views on Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of India for his address to Joint Session of the Parliament. I welcome and support the motion moved by Hon. Member Shri Hukudev Narayan Yadav and seconded by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

The President's Address spelt out the road map of the Government for the development of the country. After the BJP Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji came to power it has taken several measures for all round development of the country. In order to make education available to all sections of the people of the country, the Government has introduced SWAYAM, is an indigenous developed IT platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. All the courses are interactive, prepared by the teachers in the country and are

* Speech was laid on the Table.

available, free of cost to the residents in India. A certificate is offered at the successful completion of the course. As on 26th January 2019, it has more than 2000 courses.

Hon. Prime Shri Narendra Modi ji has taken number of steps to make the life of our labours, worker comfortable. The Government has amended the Apprenticeship Act for enhancing the skill of youth and make them employable. Some amendments that facilitate Apprenticeship includes mandating a certain percentage of the workforce to be hired as apprentices, and increasing the minimum age for apprentices in hazardous industries.

Another very important achievement of our BJP Government is that it has created a separate Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) to channelize the efforts to promote the non-allopathic system of medicines. Budget allocation to the ministry has consistently increased to ensure that people would get good medical treatment without any difficulties.

As it is known to all of us that India's demographic dividend is contingent upon the healthcare and education facilities

provided to it. Our NDA Government has taken a very comprehensive step to introduce Healthcare policy in the country. The policy is progressive in its approach and robustly covers all aspects of healthcare.

The Government has taken steps to set up a separate ministry for the Fisheries, so it is a very good step for the development of the coastal region and the fishermen of the country. The public investment in agriculture and rural development has increased to meet the demands of the sector.

The Government has introduced the Price stabilization fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crores to ensure support the market interventions for price control of perishable agri-horticultural commodities.

The Government has given priority for improvement of governance and focus on increasing the penetration and usage of broadband across the country. It is one of the major achievements of the Modi Ji. However, there is still some Gram Panchayats need to brought under the broadband connectivity. I hope the Government would do it at the earliest.

I would like to point out that the BJP itself was going around in its campaigns and saying that they will give a MSP which is 1.5 times higher than the total cost of production.

NDA Government led by our dynamic leader Shri Narendra Modi Ji has kept the promise of increasing MSP for farmers. This year also Modi ji is playing with the sentiments and insulting our farmers by announcing just Rs. 6000 to small and marginal farmer. It is not adequate for taking up any farming activity.

With regard to clearance of pending cases in various courts I would like to mention that our NDA Government has taken several steps and special emphasis has given to the alternate dispute resolution mechanisSushri As a result nearly, 3.5 lakh pending cases have been resolved and 11 lakh pre-litigation cases have been settled in the last three years. Our Hon. Prime Minister has ensured that all the irrelevant Acts are repealed. And there are hundreds of Appropriation Acts, including Appropriation Acts for railways, passed during the period of 1950-2012. So, about 1159 such laws have been repealed by our Government.

Thank you.

***SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR):** I would like to express my views on the motion of thanks for the President's Address. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Government on its commendable economy success. We are now one of the fastest growing economies in the world. On any macroeconomic parameter, we are faring well. This has been exemplified by our improvement on various international ranking. In the Ease of Doing business Ranking, we are now at the 77th rank from a rank of 142 in 2014. On the E-Governance Index, our rank is at 96 in 2018. Again we have improved from 2014 where the rank was 118. Historical economic reforms undertaken by this Government has seen fruition. The Goods and Services Tax, demonetization and other legislations that have been brought into place has formalized the economy. This has benefitted all sections of society, especially the poorest sections of the society, who have often been neglected by previous Governments. The tax compliance which was at 3.8 crores has increased to 6.8 crores. This exemplifies the faith that

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the common man has in the system. Indeed, as rightly pointed out in the address, the Government has worked hard towards realization of aspirations of all the sections. Be it a youth who now has an identity of an entrepreneur through MUDRA Yojana or a farmer who is self-reliant with the advent of Soil Health Cards and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, every one is part of the dream of India. Nation Building is no longer controlled by an elite few.

Although India is an agrarian economy, subsequent Governments have neglected the farmers. By reducing the cost of farming, providing the farmers with fair price for their crops, providing access to new markets and helping them with additional sources of income, our Government has restored the farmer's confidence. Additionally, the historic decision of fixing the Minimum Support Price – MSP of 22 crops at one and a half times higher than the production cost of the crop will ensure that each farmer gets what he/she deserves for the hard labour. Investment in the farming sector has been tangible results. According to the National Productivity Council (NPC) in their study, has reported savings of 8-10% of fertilizers and 5-6%

increase in crop yield, as a result of fertilizer application as per recommendations of Soil Health Cards. Farmers no longer have to depend on middlemen for any loans. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has ensured crop insurance to farmers at low premiums to safeguard them from potential crisis due to crop damage. Further, science has replaced speculations in agriculture. The 'Lab to Land' time has reduced and breakthrough technologies are now available for farmers.

In any season, we are with the farmers.

Recognizing that development is not just measured with economic parameters, our Government has worked on a holistic growth. Providing Rural sanitation has been an important goal of our Government and we have delivered. Despite a difficult task at hand when we came into power, with rural sanitation levels as low as 39%, we are moving towards our targets steadfastly. Almost 5.45 lakh villages have been covered in last 4 years. India has now acquired a 98% figure in rural sanitation. This has helped restore dignity to every individual. Worrying about food to eat, basic health care and a roof above one's head is a thing of the past.

Infrastructure creation and timely completion of projects has been delivered by our Government. Before Prime Minister Modi assumed office, 3.8 lakh kSushri of regular roads existed in the first 67 years after India's independence. As of November, 2018, this figure has already touched 5.7 lakh kms of roads. Before 2014, only 0.02% Gram Panchayats connected, after 2014 – 50% Gram Panchayats connected. As of 2013-14, only about 70% had been electrified in the first 67 years of India's independence. Today, as of November, 2018, 16.53 Crore households (95%) have already been electrified.

Although New India will have New Challenges, the strong foundation and vision of our Prime Minister will ensure we rise even higher. Indian entrepreneurs are to build the next big companies of the world. The base has been provided through Start Up India. In just 4 years, we now are at the 3rd position in terms of number of start-ups in the world. Other historical decisions such as getting loans amounting up to 1 crore are now approved within 59 minutes. Our Government has created a domino effect of prosperity.

I support the vision of New India stated by the President and I am confident that we will move forwards the same. Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas is now a reality. Thank you.

[Translation]

*__SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH):__ The year 2019 is a significant milestone in the history of our democracy. As we all know, we are celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, with great enthusiasm. Along with this, we are also commemorating the 100th anniversary of the tragic massacre at Jallianwala Bagh on 13th April this year, which we observe with profound reverence and respect. The Hon. President has shared his vision of transforming Bharat into a new Bharat. A Bharat where there is no inadequacy or inefficiency in systems, where there is no corruption, and where there is no place for uncleanliness. Our Government has always upheld the goal of transparency.

Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, more than 9 crore toilets have been constructed. Due to this mass movement, rural sanitation coverage has increased to 98 percent. In this year of

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, we must remember that we have resolved to make the country completely clean by 2nd October in his memory.

Under the Ujjwala Yojana, more than 6 crore people have been provided with gas connections, contributing significantly to their welfare. Through the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, the health-related issues of approximately 10 crore poor families are being addressed, ensuring their welfare.

Behold the form of national strength; now the dawn is breaking. Let's light a lamp where darkness still prevails.

[English]

***SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG):** I would like to place my views on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 31st January, 2019,

I would like to briefly offer my comments particularly relating to the functioning of BSNL in my Constituency Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts of Maharashtra. BSNL is the largest State owned telecom provider in the country. Large population of the country particularly in the coastal, hilly and rural areas of the country are dependent on the BSNL landline, mobile and internet connectivity.

Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri district of my Constituency are coastal and hilly areas. Both the districts have about 3.5 lakhs BSNL consumers and its numbers are increasing rapidly. Unfortunately, for the last more than 2 months, BSNL connectivity in these two districts is very poor. The connectivity from BSNL Towers to consumers is provided through the electricity supply. However, BSNL is unable to pay the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

electricity bills due to which electricity service provider is disconnecting the electricity supply resulting in the collapse of BSNL services. BSNL is also unable to meet expenses towards the cost of diesel for Generators alternatively attached to BSNL Towers for providing connectivity to consumers. There are main reasons behind the malfunctioning and collapse of BSNL services. I think same is the situation in entire Maharashtra State. Further, I would like to mention that BSNL is also unable to pay salaries to its employees.

Due to total mess of BSNL services, private Mobile companies such as Jio and Airtel etc. are encroaching in the arena of BSNL and encouraging people to switch-over to their services. These are not the good signs for this latest State owned Telecom Company.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take some urgent steps to improve the functioning of BSNL in the country.

[Translation]

***KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):** I present my thoughts on the Hon. President's Address.

The nation's pride, honour, capacity, strength, agricultural output, and facilities for the poor have all increased. How to work with integrity, from zero to prosperity with harmony, under the leadership of Hon. Modi Sir, the Government is continuously and consistently setting new milestones. There has been a record-breaking improvement in the citizens' standard of living. I express my gratitude to the Hon. President. In his address, the Hon. President enlightened the citizens about the current state of the country, instilling a sense of pride by highlighting how the Government has benefited the poor and resource-deprived citizens through numerous welfare schemes. The world has acknowledged that the largest and most significant schemes for the underprivileged have been created by the Government of India.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

The Ayushman Bharat Yojana provides free treatment for 50 crore people, a feat that seemed unbelievable in a country with a population of 130 crores. Crores of gas connections, crores of toilets, and crores of houses and so on, have been constructed. Crores of bank accounts have been opened for the people. Through the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme, funds are being directly transferred to the beneficiaries' bank accounts. Without any corruption, beneficiaries are able to spend the funds with confidence. Through the Kisan Samman Yojana, a significant effort has been made to provide financial assistance to every small and marginal farmer.

Time is very limited, and there are many topics to cover. Therefore, in conclusion, I express my gratitude for the Hon. President's Address and conclude my remarks. The country's population is progressing with assurance. The country is advancing robustly due to the efforts of Hon. Modi Sir. This leadership is dedicated to making the country supremely influential. Certainly, our dream will come true.

***SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI):** I support the motion of thanks and endorse the address delivered by the Hon. President on January 31st.

Our Government not only addressed the challenges of 2014 by working on various schemes but also delivered results.

Over the past four and a half years, the country has enhanced its respect in the world by focusing on poverty alleviation, building fundamental infrastructure, empowering women, increasing farmers' incomes, and securing the nation's borders. Simultaneously, efforts have been made to control inflation, corruption, and terrorism. Today, there is a conducive atmosphere in the country, and the country is moving forward.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

***SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** I wish to express my support for the motion of thanks to the Hon. President's Address, presented by Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav, and extend my congratulations to our Central Government and the Hon. Prime Minister. Under their leadership, the Central Government has undertaken historic actions over the past four and a half years. Following the policy of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas [Inclusive support, Inclusive growth], we have provided constitutional status to the Backward Classes Commission, while also providing reservations in jobs and educational institutions for the economically weaker sections of the general category, thus ensuring justice for these underprivileged groups. The Ayushman Bharat scheme, the world's largest healthcare program, has been brought to the country, benefiting millions of poor families and saving lives. 50 crore people will benefit from this scheme. The Ujjwala Yojana has provided free gas connections to 6 crore people and assistance in constructing toilets for crores of families. Various schemes have been implemented to double farmers' income. The

* Speech was laid on the Table.

support price has been announced at one and a half times the cost. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, efforts have been made to provide shelter to the poor in both rural and urban areas, with the goal of providing housing for all by 2022. Special attention has been given to my Bundelkhand region. Whether it is the project to link the Ken-Betwa rivers, the construction of the Bundelkhand Expressway or the Defence Corridor, the doubling or electrification of the Jhansi-Manikpur and Khairar-Kanpur railway lines, or the declaration of Chitrakoot District as an aspirational district for development, a passport office has been opened in Banda. Developing Chitrakoot Dham as part of the Ramayana Circuit, the construction of the Bharat Mata Project and the Ram Van Gaman Marg. With this, I support the motion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): Madam Speaker,

"Tod Kar Congress Walo Ka Bandhan

Karta Hun Rashtrapati Ji Ke Abhibhashan Ka Abhinandan.

Modi Ji Karenge 2019 Mein Virodhiyon Ka Ranakandan.

Aur Baat Denge 130 Crore Logo Ko Vikaas Ka Sugandhi Chandan."

(I congratulate the Hon. President on his address, Mr. Modi will defeat his opponents in 2019, And will distribute the fragrant sandalwood of development to 130 crore people.)

Speaker Madam,

"Rahul Ji Ko Lag Gayi Hai Ek Chahul

2019 Ka Narendra Modi Ji Ne Banaaya Hai Mahaul

Rahul Ji Bolte Hain Yeh Hai Jumla,

Lekin Unko Maaloom Nahi Hai, Yeh Hai BJP Ki Kamla.

Yeh Nahi Hai Asli Jumla,

Narendra Modi Ji Karenge Congress Par 2019 Mein Hamla"

(Mr. Rahul has suffered a concussion. Mr. Narendra Modi has created the atmosphere of 2019. Mr. Rahul says this is a phrase. But they don't know, this is BJP's Kamla. This is not a real phrase. Mr. Narendra Modi will attack Congress in 2019).

Madam, the Hon. President's Address is very commendable. The Hon. President has highlighted the government's role in empowering the people. The Congress Party members are

waiting to see when they will come to power here. But you don't have a chance to come to power here for the next 10-15 years. Make an effort, but do not engage in activities that threaten democracy. What has happened in Bengal recently is that if there is any inquiry to be conducted into the chit fund, the CBI has the authority to do so. In Maharashtra, the Mumbai Commissioner was convicted in the Telgi case. In the Telgi case, when our police commissioner's name came up, no one was above the law; whether they are Ministers, MLAs, or any leader, the law is supreme. If the CBI received information that some files related to the chit fund have gone missing, they have the authority to seek information from the Commissioner. The work of tearing apart democracy has taken place, and efforts have been made to stop them there. If this happens... (Interruptions) The CBI has the authority to conduct an inquiry... (Interruptions) We need to awaken the people of Bengal and drive out Madam Mamata from there... (Interruptions)

18 00 hrs

... (Interruptions) We hold respect for Madam Mamata in our hearts. Madam Mamata was in the NDA. Madam Mamata is

the Chief Minister there, and we hold respect for her in our hearts. She is a very active lady. She was the Railway Minister in Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government. ... (Interruptions) Back then, I was there, but now I have come here. ... (Interruptions) Madam Mamata was in the NDA; we hold respect for her in our hearts. ... (Interruptions) She is a very good lady and a very good Chief Minister. But her act of supporting the Police Commissioner was not a good move. ... (Interruptions) No matter who the Police Commissioner is, the CBI has the authority to conduct their inquiry. If that happens and the police start to control everything, democracy will be in danger. ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I think that the address of the Hon. President... (Interruptions) in relation to the Hon. President's Address, our Government has, in the last four and a half to five years, regarding Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Baba Saheb Ambedkar's memorial, Hon. Narendra Modi Sir has taken a very good role. I want to remember that there is a valley named Damodar Valley, where Baba Saheb Ambedkar Ji built four dams when he was the Water Resources Minister in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet. ... (Interruptions) My suggestion is

that Damodar Valley should be named after Baba Saheb. There should be a statue of Baba Saheb at the Maithon Dam. Mr. Narendra Modi Ji will surely consider this matter, so I think that... (Interruptions) So here I want to mention that -

Narendra Modi Ji Ki Sarkar Khol Rahi Hai Vikas Ke Dwaar,

Jahan-Jahan Ho Raha Hai Brashtachaar Vahan Karenge Narendra Modi Ji Karenge Var ... *(Interruptions)*

Hum Yeh Kaam Karte Rahenge Aur Isiliye Aap Logon Ka Sehyog Humein Milna Chahiye. ... *(Interruptions)*

(The Narendra Modi Government is opening the doors to development, Wherever corruption is happening, Shri Narendra Modi will take strict action.We will continue to do this work, and therefore, we should receive your support.)

Don't worry about the year 2019. There is absolutely no unity among you all. ... *(Interruptions)* There is no unity among you all. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please allow me to extend the time.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: There are candidates for the Prime Minister's position, including Shri Rahul and Madam Mamata, and many others vying for the position of the Prime Minister. ... *(Interruptions)* Here we have only one candidate, Shri Narendra Modi. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: One minute.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: With the consent of the House, the time of the session is extended until the Hon. Prime Minister's reply is completed.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Shri Narendra Modi's Government will come again in 2019. Jai Bhim, Jai Bharat.

***SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):** I support the motion of thanks.

The Modi Government has taken historic and courageous steps in the interest of the country. Today, not just the country but the entire world has pinned its hopes on Mr. Narendra Modi.

It is globally recognised that the Congress Party has always prioritised the concerns of the party and the family over those of the nation. Since Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of the country, he has prioritised the concerns of the nation and society.

The Hon. Narendra Modi Government has launched numerous schemes dedicated to the welfare of the poor society.

Through the Ujjwala Yojana, the tears of poor sisters were wiped away. In a program distributing gas cylinders and stoves, one sister was being given a gas cylinder while another sister standing nearby was crying. When asked, she explained that her name was on the list as well. Then why are you crying? she was asked. She replied tearfully that she was overwhelmed with joy because she couldn't afford to buy the cylinder herself, but Shri

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Modi had given it to her for free. Shri Modi has also realised Mahatma Gandhi Ji's dreams.

By constructing 9 crore toilets, dignity and respect have been accorded to our daughters-in-law and daughters. Despite ruling the country for 60 years, the Congress Government failed to build toilets and consistently deceived farmers, neglecting agriculture. Whereas, under the Hon. Prime Minister Modi, efforts have been made to double farmers' income, providing an annual aid of Rs. 6000, reducing corruption by neem-coating fertilisers, ensuring timely availability of fertilisers to farmers, and offering relief through the crop insurance scheme.

Providing Rs. 5 lakh assistance for the treatment of illnesses among the poor has been a significant achievement. Reserved 10% quota for the general category (economically weaker sections). No tax on income up to Rs. 5 lakh. Pensions for the labourers as well. To deposit Rs. 100 or Rs. 55 per month and receive a pension of Rs. 3000 after reaching the age of 60 is a significant step forward. Saubhagya Yojana, Electricity had not reached villages for 70 years. Through the Saubhagya Yojana, electricity has reached every household without any cost.

I'll talk about the development of my parliamentary constituency, Jammu: upgradation of Jammu Station, a new airport, a passport office, a medical college, AIIMS, IIT, and a package of Rs. 2000 crore for refugees, etc. The work on the Jammu-Poonch rail line will start soon. Jammu Metro, which includes Samba, Jammu, and Akhnoor. Compensation will be provided for land beyond the Jammu border fencing and compensation for the land where mines are located. Finally, I thank Mr. Narendra Modi for conducting local body and Panchayat elections in Jammu and Kashmir, thereby restoring democracy and peace with harmony. Thank you.

[English]

***SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):** I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to the Joint Session of Parliament. I am extremely grateful to the Hon. President of India for his visionary ideas which have found its fullest expression in his Address. 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 every nook and corner of the country. I express my heartfelt thanks to the Hon. President for his Address to the Joint Session of Parliament. It's a fact that in the last four and half years of NDA rule, the Government has been able to infuse new hope and confidence among the people of the country. The people have found a Government which is really concerned with the welfare of the common man. The Government under the leadership of Narendra Modiji has made all out effort to improve the life of every Indian. Hon. President has rightly said that the schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Ujjawala Yojana, Ayushman Yojana, Bharat Yojana for free treatment. Pradhan

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana will definitely transform the destiny of the poor and the needy.

The Social Security Scheme launched by the Government for upliftment the poor is a commendable step for which the Government deserves accolades. The grant of Constitutional status to the Other Backward Classes Commission is a historic step towards securing social justice. I whole heatedly thank the Hon. President of India for his concern for the people of North-East India. Hon. President has mentioned about the completion of India's longest Bogibeel railroad bridge and the Dhola Sadiya Bridge (named as Dr. Bhupen Hazairka Setu) in Assam. These two bridges over the river Brahmaputra will benefit lakhs of people of the region. I convey my heartfelt gratefulness to the Government for developing rail connectivity in the North East region. Government's plan to build new airports in the region is another bold step for which everybody should praise the Government.

The Hon. President in his speech has mentioned about a lot of welfare measures for the poor and downtrodden. The passing

of 103rd Amendment to the Constitution to extend the benefit of reservation to the poor belonging to the general category is a historic step towards eradicating social disparity.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Hon. President for his Address in which 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]

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI): Madam Speaker, I am present here to express gratitude to Hon. President for his address. In this year's address, the Hon. President has provided direction to the nation and articulated the Government's vision. As the head of the Government, I am deeply grateful to him from the bottom of my heart. This Government's identity is based on honesty. This Government is known for transparency, for the welfare of the poor, for compassion, for prioritising national interest, and for taking action against corruption. ... *(Interruptions)* And for working at a rapid pace. ... *(Interruptions)*

The television scene where notes used to be kept in such pockets is still remembered. ... *(Interruptions)*

Today in this discussion, respected Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji, Shri Bhartrihari ji, Shri Venugopal ji, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal ji, Shri Dinesh Trivedi ji, Shri Mohammad Salim ji, Shri Soumitra Khan ji, and many other Hon. Members have shared their thoughts and expressed their opinions.

Efforts have been made towards a meaningful discussion, and the way in which the House heard everyone's views and encouraged their statements, therefore, I thank the entire House, both those who expressed their thoughts and those who encouraged the expression of thoughts. There were some criticisms, some discussions without much substance, and those who have a habit of repeatedly expressing what they feel is good also spoke here. But I believe that in an election year, it is natural; everyone has some compulsion, and something has to be said. Therefore, it was quite natural for that impact to remain significant. But it is also true that after we leave from here, we are accountable to the public for our actions and deeds. Because it is the election year, we have to go to the people and give an account of our actions. I extend my best wishes to all of you for healthy competition in the upcoming elections.

I also want to congratulate the crores of young people who will be voting for Parliament for the first time in this century; they all deserve recognition. Because casting a vote or obtaining the right to vote is not a small event. We should also welcome our new generation, who are becoming voters for the first time

in the 21st century's parliamentary elections, as they are about to become part of the process of shaping the nation's policies. Therefore, I extend many congratulations to those new voters and those young people, and I am confident that the new generation will play a significant role in guiding the nation.

Hon. Madam Speaker, when we talk about New India, we talk about hope and confidence; it is also true that a person or society submerged in the depths of despair neither does anything for themselves nor for the future generation. Only those filled with hope and confidence can do it. Those who keep lamenting will find 5-10 people around them to offer assurance, but those who are determined to bring about change never approach them. When I talk about New India, I would like to quote Swami Vivekananda. Swami Vivekananda has said... (Interruptions) Is it done? ... (Interruptions) The phases we had to go through in the past were all necessary because the periods of destruction that occurred intermittently in the past are what Bharat's future is emerging from.

It has sprouted. Its new leaves have emerged, and the growth of that powerful, gigantic tree has begun. In adverse

circumstances, hope and belief in development are what propel the country forward. To challenge challenges is the nature of this country. The country overcomes challenges. Those who run away from challenges end up inviting new challenges. Therefore, by challenging the challenges themselves, we are fully committed to fulfilling the hopes and expectations of the common people with all our strength. Today, some things from the year 1947 are mentioned here. That's good, but sometimes it feels like when we talk about history, we refer to two periods, BC and AD. Today, when I heard the speech about the period from 1947 to 2014, it seemed to me that they have their own interpretation of BC and AD. BC's interpretation is theirs, before Congress. It means that before Congress, there was nothing in this country. Everything was in ruins, in the abyss, and AD means, after Dynasty. So, whatever happened, it happened only after them. However, ultimately, one must view any work comparatively, and there is no reason to believe that it is bad. Why should we be so perturbed about this? What was happening four and a half years ago, and what is happening today? In the past four and a half years, how have we progressed? In the last

four and a half years, Bharat has moved up from being the 10th or 11th largest economy to the sixth position today. Let's not forget that when we reached the 11th position, people sitting here in this very House, who are nowhere to be seen today, celebrated reaching 11th place with great pride. I fail to understand why those who felt pride in reaching the 11th position now feel pain and distress in reaching the 6th position. Compared to before, the highest amount of foreign direct investment is coming into Bharat today.

The strength of Make in India is establishing new benchmarks in manufacturing. Today, Bharat is the world's second-largest steel producer. Bharat is the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones. Today, Hindustan is the world's fourth-largest automobile manufacturer. Today, Bharat is achieving record production in crops and milk. If there is anywhere in the world where internet data is the cheapest and internet data consumption is the highest, it is in Hindustan. The startup ecosystem, with the way it has established itself and rooted its foundations, is now challenging even large multinational corporations today. The aviation sector is

advancing at the fastest pace, but they are in opposition, and it is necessary to voice dissent. You should protest. Criticism of Shri Modi should be done, and criticism of our policies should be done; it's a good thing. It's indeed essential in a democracy, but I observe that while criticising Mr. Modi and the BJP, we often get caught up in criticising the country itself. This won't be beneficial for the country.

None of us should speak ill of our country, whether intentionally or unintentionally. ... (Interruptions) There are many things to discuss. ... (Interruptions) By holding press conferences in London, how are you enhancing the dignity of our country? By holding a fake press conference and now telling me that you haven't said anything? I should maintain my dignity; that is better. ... (Interruptions)

Today, Shri Kharge was telling us that what Shri Modi says publicly, the Hon. President also said the same thing in the House. This means it has been proven that for those who speak the truth, it is not the case that they say something different outside and something different inside. Someone who speaks the truth says the same thing both outwardly and inwardly. I am

very grateful that you have acknowledged that we speak the truth, whether in public meetings, town halls, or in the Lok Sabha. The Hon. Prime Minister speaks the truth, and so does the Hon. President. Now it is your trouble that you have also lost the habit of listening to the truth.

You said that Shri Modi is ending and ruining institutions. We have a saying 'here - 'Ulta Chor Chowkidar Ko Daante' (The thief scolds the guard). Could you please tell me? I think it's necessary to contemplate. The Congress imposed an emergency in the country, but they say that Shri Modi is destroying institutions. The Congress disrespected the army, yet they accuse Shri Modi of ruining it. Congress, whose members called the Chief of Army Staff a thug, now accuses Shri Modi of destroying institutions. Stories are woven around the turning of thrones and the deep wounds inflicted on the dignity of Hindustan's army. You are unaware. Perhaps you've done your politics over the past week or two. However, whatever the sin you have committed, I understand the wounds inflicted on the hearts of our army should the Indian Army work to plan the coup. Whether we have seen good days or bad days in all these

years of independence, whether we have had weak Prime Ministers or weak Governments, single-party Governments or coalition Governments, the country's army has never committed such a sin. We should say these things, just for your politics! I believe we have done a lot of wrong. We are responsible individuals. When such statements are made by those in power, and you claim that we are the ones destroying institutions?

The Election Commission of this country can become a centre of pride for the world. Despite minor complaints, all political parties are abiding by the decisions of the Election Commission. Are we going to ruin that as well? Today, we are engaged in ruining it. Can we think in that direction?

Similarly, blaming the EVMs for their failure, I am astonished! The country discusses the budget, and they were lamenting over the EVMs. What has happened to you all that you are so scared? …*(Interruptions)*

The Congress intimidates the judiciary. The manner in which individuals associated with the Congress are commenting on the judiciary's decisions is unprecedented. The judiciary's decision may be good or bad, but it is being honored because the

institution will ultimately be saved. But just because you don't like something, does that mean you can say anything, make anyone say anything, or write anything? You are trying to shake the entire system by threatening the judiciary with impeachment, and you are questioning us?

This is the same Congress party that once called the Planning Commission a 'bunch of jokers.' Do you know who said that? Today, you were singing praises of the Planning Commission, but a former Prime Minister from your party called it a 'bunch of jokers.' Institutions should be honoured. You focus on one word, but you should also look at your own actions.

You have misused Article 356 almost a hundred times. You dismissed elected Governments, and Shrimati Indira Gandhi alone used it 50 times. 50 Governments were toppled. I would like to remind our friends from Kerala to recall what anniversary is in 2019. ... (Interruptions) In 1959, when Nehru was Prime Minister and Indira Gandhi was the President of the Congress, she went to Kerala. For reasons unknown, upon her return, the elected communist Government in Kerala was dismissed. This is the anniversary of 2019. And you talk about respecting

institutions? In what manner have you worked with the country? What have you done with NTR? What have you done with MGR? Moreover, how are you going to press Congress on the decisions of the council of ministers and the cabinet? Which sanctity, which institution' respect? Therefore, before raising a finger at Modi, you should know that your four fingers are pointing towards you.

Shri Kharge is a decent person; there's no doubt about it, but I don't know what compulsion he is under or what difficulties he is stuck in. ... (Interruptions) A decent person, every time dissenting, every time dissenting, every time dissenting... (Interruptions) But you are decent; I will say this in front of this house. It is true that today he said I should get first aid, but nearly 36 hours later he was asking if first aid was necessary. As a senior figure, you are worrying about people like us; I am grateful for that. ... (Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson, at the root of all these troubles is the biggest reason that a person who rose from poverty, who had never seen the streets of Delhi, challenged such a big authority: they cannot digest it. They accept that the throne of this country

belongs to us. A person stuck in a corner has come here; this fact doesn't go through their minds. What is that intoxication? That intoxication is troubling.

Hon. Chairperson Madam, now let's talk about accountability: our Government, your Government, let me also tell you. 55 years, my 55 months. Look at the scope of cleanliness; it was 40 percent in 2014 in 55 years; today, within four and a half years, it has crossed 98 percent in 55 months. More than 10 crore toilets have been built in just 4 years. To those who say this Government is for the rich, I am happy that for my country's 10 crore rich, I have built toilets. They are my riches; they are my honesty; they are my life; I live for them; I came here for them. 12 crore gas connections in 55 years and 13 crore gas connections in 55 months, including 6 crore Ujjwala. You can estimate at what pace work is done and for whom it is done.

Nationalisation of banks. Talked in the name of the poor, political, won elections, and counted votes, but in our country, 50 percent of people had bank accounts in 55 years; now, within 55 months, we have been successful in making it 100 percent.

You feel pain that electricity was provided in 18 thousand villages. You provide statistics, suggesting that before 1947, no village in this country had electricity. Before 1947, there was no electricity in any village of this country. You are starting from there, talking about BC and AD matters. If truly the Government has been running at the pace it has in the past 55 months, after independence, there were not so many obstacles, not so much opposition, not so many problems with laws, and not even so much media; if you wanted to work at that time, electricity would have reached every village of Hindustan in the first two decades. This work that should have been done in twenty years, I have had to complete. Not only that, look at your manifesto of 2009, and look at your manifesto of 2014. In your manifesto, you stated that within 3 years in 2009, you said within 3 years, and again in 2014, you said within 3 years, you would ensure electricity reaches every household. It is in your manifesto that you will deliver electricity. I am astonished. You have been extending the "Remove Poverty" slogan continuously. In 2009, you promised 3 years, and in 2014, you promised 3 years again. Yet today, I find myself having to work day and night to ensure

electricity reaches every household. We have completed the work of providing electricity to two and a half crore families, and in the coming days, we will be proud to work towards one hundred percent electrification; I am telling you with confidence. Some people will try to mislead, but they cannot falsify the figures. … (Interruptions)

After 30 years, in 2014, the people of the country elected a Government with a full majority.

The country experiences what happens when there is a coalition Government, and now a mega-coalition is coming. When there is a Government with a full majority, how many decisions can be made, and how fast can it move forward? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Thank you very much.

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: The grand alliance is not going to reach here. This grand alliance gathered them in Kolkata. Observe the state of this grand alliance; in Kerala, they won’t be able to face each other... (Interruptions) The leaders of this grand alliance have been ousted by Uttar Pradesh. ...

(Interruptions) Those witnessing the grand alliance... (Interruptions) this game of the grand alliance... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please, now it's done.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: An unstable Government, an unimaginable Government, this mega-coalition ... (Interruptions) the country has seen this situation for 30 years. ... (Interruptions) Even the health-conscious society stays away from adulteration. Those who believe in healthy democracy will also stay away from the mega-coalition... (Interruptions)

When there is a Government with a full majority, a Government dedicated to the citizens, then how does the work happen? Your Government was there before 2014; the poor should have gotten a house. Since 1947 every Government has thought about it. Before 2014, your Government built 25 lakh homes in five years; we handed over the key by building 1 crore 30 lakh homes in 55 months. Homes with toilets, electricity, and gas connections. Just by building four walls like this, the work is not complete. Today, even your people come and say, "Please arrange for housing allotment in our area; money is being

directly deposited into the accounts of the poor; there are no middlemen."

It was in your manifesto in 2009, and it was also there in 2014. Where did you get the idea of three years? I don't know; what is your definition of three years? I also don't know. You said that within three years, we will connect every panchayat with the optical fibre network, advancing towards Digital India. The same thing was said in 2009; the same thing was said in 2014. When we came, the optical fibre network had reached 59 villages, meaning the idea was new. Now you will say it was our plan. It was your plan; it is written in your manifesto that you will do it; you wrote it. You started the work; by 2014, broadband connectivity, which was in 59 villages, gradually reached 1 lakh 16 thousand villages in our government's 55 months. You kept making promises.

Today, Shri Kharge's mood was inclined towards Sher-o-Shayari; it's possible that the poem that started with beauty caught his eye. I couldn't understand why he liked a line about beauty. I know the environment in which you were born and the

struggles your family has faced, and I take pride in your family's life.

If those things were remembered by you, your gaze wouldn't have gone towards this beautiful line. If it had, you would have looked at this, and it would have stayed on my mind day and night because of you all. ... *(Interruptions)* It's written in that poem –

"Jab kabhi jhoot ki basti mein sach ko tadapte dekha hai,

Tab maine apne bhitar kisi bachche ko sisakte dekha hai."

(When I've seen truth agonising in the midst of falsehood, then I've seen a child crying inside me.)

What happens to your business of lies? This poem should show you, but it doesn't... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: This is the deception of the Congress... (Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: In the same poem, it is further written that there was something called sensitivity left, but it might have been left out due to being in the corridors of power.

If it had been saved, then its subsequent line would have touched your heart for sure. The next line is –

"Apne ghar ki chardiwari mein ab lihaf mein bhi sihran hoti hai',

Jis din se kisi ko ghurbat mein sadkon par thithurta dekha hai"

(In the courtyard of my home, even the walls of the quilt now whisper, Since the day I saw someone shivering in poverty on the streets.)

When there is empathy, there is pain, and then this matter becomes relevant. ... (Interruptions) 55 years of Congress's rule, 55 years of enjoying power, our 55 months, 55 months of dedicated service. The result of 55 years of enjoying power and 55 months of service, and when policies are clear, intentions are honest, and commitment is steadfast, we continuously find new energy and new inspiration to dedicate ourselves 24/7 for the poor, for the country's welfare, and for the country's development. ... (Interruptions) How do you operate? I would like to remind the voters of the 21st century about the intentions behind 55 years of enjoying power. ... (Interruptions) You see,

when the Commonwealth Games happened, it was a golden opportunity to showcase the country's pride globally, but at that time, while our athletes were striving to win medals, they were also competing to enhance our wealth in the Commonwealth. 2G spectrum allocation, just look at it. What happened in the 2G spectrum? ... (Interruptions) This was the consequence of enjoying power, and their intention was benefiting themselves and their own; our intention was reducing costs for people and reducing phone call expenses. And for this, we developed the auction system for spectrum.

The banking system, what state did they leave it in? They used to engage in phone banking. The elite would find out that help was needed; the bank would make a call, money would be withdrawn, and it would be delivered. For what work? Who will take it? Where will it take place? Now everything is coming out, so the troubles are increasing... (Interruptions)

One cannot forget that after independence, until 2008, banks had given a total loan of Rs. 18 lakh crore; however, the politics of enjoying power and the way the country was run during those 55 years of power show the result of those years of enjoying

power. From 2008 to 2014, in six years, this 18 lakh crores increased to 52 lakh crores. This was the result of phone banking; people's money was there, they were being robbed, and no one was asking questions. This was your way. Now the voters of the 21st century should know that their age must have been so short when all these games were played; now it is our job to educate them. ... (Interruptions) Through the Mudra Yojana, we gave 7 lakh crores. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: How much is NPA? Tell us.

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: It's the same as when you left in 2014; it's the interest that's increasing. The interest is increasing; a new NPA is not increasing. You abandoned it, and its interest is accruing. We have brought laws so that 3 lakh crores have started coming back. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, through the Mudra Yojana, we gave 7 lakh crores. Those who had no collateral to offer were given opportunities to create self-employment and generate employment opportunities. This is work we have undertaken. ... (Interruptions)

PRO. SOUGATA RAY (DUMDUM): How much money did Nirav Modi take away?

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Those who have fled are crying on Twitter that I had escaped with 9 thousand crore rupees, but Modi seized 13 thousand crore rupees from me. They are crying and tweeting, and saying that when I wake up in the morning, I will find out that my property has been confiscated. If there is property in any country in the world, it has also been confiscated. We have made this law. We made this law. You let the looters loot; we tried to bring them back by making laws. ... (Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson, I think our Congress friends have outsourced some work. By the way, two days ago, I needed help, so I had to do something. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Madam Chairperson, when Congress said about the surgical strike, I am not discussing the film Uri here; I am talking about the surgical strike. Then Congress said that even in our time there was a surgical strike. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: It happened six times. Should I tell the database?

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Certainly, you have everything you need. Hold on; you've got everything. You have been given the opportunity to speak for hours. ... (Interruptions) At that time, you did not let the condition of the army remain like this; you had made the army helpless in a way. That situation was not such that a decision could be taken to conduct a surgical strike. You had made this situation. Those were the days when there were no bulletproof jackets available. How could you even think of a surgical strike and throw dust in the eyes of Hindustan? There were no communication devices, no helmets, and no good boots. I am not talking about war material; I am talking about basic arrangements. In 2009, the Indian Army demanded one lakh 86 thousand bulletproof jackets; even five years later, by 2014, these jackets were still not procured. Now they talk about surgical strikes. After realising this situation, in 2016, we purchased 50 thousand bulletproof jackets.

In 2018, we ordered 1 lakh 86 thousand bulletproof jackets to reach our soldiers. If, after 2014, the people of the country were more intelligent, they would not have made a mistake; but if the Government of the UP had been formed after 2014, the

pride of the country, Tejas fighter planes, would have been standing on the ground, not in the air. There would have been a parking space, not in the air. In July 2016, we included 45 squadrons and approved the purchase of 83 Tejas aircraft. You didn't worry about it. The army is powerful; you never thought about it. ... (Interruptions) Why were you so insensitive to the soldiers defending the country? Why did the previous Congress Government ignore the needs of the Army, Air Force, and Navy for the last ten years? Imagine, if at that time our enemy countries had made any move, where would the country be standing today? You have done so much criminal negligence. This act can never be forgiven by the nation. Today, it is necessary that, considering the environment in which we are living, our military should be modernised. Please tell me, after three decades, what is the reason that the country has not provided even next-generation fighter planes to our military, not a single one in 30 years? While all kinds of military capability are increasing in our neighbouring countries, wasn't this an issue of the country's security, a betrayal of the country? Isn't there any responsibility for this? ... (Interruptions)

Grandpa wants to hear about Rafale. Each allegation has been counted by Shrimati Nirmala. The Supreme Court has searched every aspect, and the question is that the Congress party does not want our Air Force to be strong. I am making a serious accusation. ... (Interruptions) The Congress party is unwilling to strengthen our Air Force. ... (Interruptions) Cancelling the Rafale deal, whose benefit are you pursuing? ... (Interruptions) Whose interests are you serving by favouring which company? ... (Interruptions) Who are the people who have accused you? ... (Interruptions) Are you engaging in this behaviour with the country's defence forces? You kept the country's army helpless for thirty years. ... (Interruptions) History is witness. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker,... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

… (Interruptions)... *

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: History is witness that the Congress party and its UP Government's power period never

* Not recorded.

worked without 'broking' in defence deals. ... (Interruptions) I was thinking, why do they speak with such confidence about these 'lies' regarding Rafale? As I started looking into the details, I found that they are assuming that in the past 55 years, during times of power, not a single defence deal has occurred without 'broking.' From where do these uncles and aunts come... (Interruptions) When transparently and honestly strengthening the country's Air Force is happening, these Congress people get a little jittery.

They are not used to hearing the truth and are troubled now. Their faces are fallen, and the reason is that they have now caught the secret-keepers. Not just one, not two, but three secret-keepers have come forward. Your concern is how they are caught, how they are brought, and how they are questioned? Secret notes are caught secretly, and therefore I understand your restlessness. As far as the question of black money and corruption is concerned, we are still committed to zero tolerance. Like termites, corruption has ruined the country. There won't be anyone here who wouldn't want corruption to end in the country. Everyone wants corruption to end, but

someone or the other was trapped, so even while wanting, they couldn't do it. We have no baggage, and neither do we have to favour anyone, nor are we alive on anyone's favour. We are alive with the blessings of over 1.25 billion countrymen, and therefore, whether it's black money or corruption, we have a commitment to fight against it and haven't backed down yet and are doing those processes. Eight crore people who were in this system who used to take broking were removed from the Aadhar system. What did Grandpa do? He did this. The law of benami property was made so many years ago, debated in Parliament, gave a message to the world, and took votes, but that law was not advanced. In the same way, we made a law on it, and benami property is being seized today. Because of that, people are troubled, and property is coming out today. Where, how, who, for whom, and when? Therefore, it is very natural to be troubled.

Hon. Chairperson, I want to assure the House and, through the House to assure the country that the resolve we have taken, we are not going to back down from it. There are very big challenges; there are many obstacles, but as many obstacles as there are, our resolve is stronger than them. As many obstacles

as there are, our intentions are stronger than them. You are troubled by demonetisation. After demonetisation, three lakh fake companies engaged in money transactions, donations, etc., have ceased to exist. This business would have continued if the old system had persisted. This is a Government dedicated to the nation, a Government of service for 55 months, so this became possible. Under the IBC law, three lakh crore rupees have been recovered. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, another piece of information that might surprise many in the House. We sent letters to various organisations in the country. We said you receive money from abroad. Under the FCRA law, you have permission. Provide a detailed report of your finances. Where do you use the money that comes from abroad? It didn't take much red tape; there was no need to visit anyone from the income tax department. A small note had gone. You will be surprised that in this country, more than 20 thousand organisations have closed their shops, which used to receive money from abroad. ... (Interruptions) What did these 20 thousand organisations do? From border villages to parliament, the task was to influence everything from the

judicial system to legal procedures. ... (Interruptions) We have taken action against them. ... (Interruptions) 20 thousand organisations? Couldn't you have stopped them? Why did you let them run? What were the excuses? What good did it do for you? For whom were these routes for bringing foreign money? (Interruptions) We are fighting this battle, so we hear uncouth language from all sides, we hear abuses, and we hear dirty allegations. ... (Interruptions) The reason is that so many people are troubled that when an honest, truthful Government, a Government that thinks in the interest of the country, comes, then what happens? This becomes evident. 20 thousand organisations is a very large figure... (Interruptions) Now I see that those who were once prominent names have officially shut down their businesses in Hindustan and are seeking new avenues under new names; this situation has arisen. ... (Interruptions) You may have seen. I remember the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River in Gujarat. Pandit Nehru laid its foundation stone, and I inaugurated it just now. ... (Interruptions) Behind this were the NGOs that played with foreign money. " They were not hindered by anyone. 20

thousand organisations have closed. In the coming days, this figure may increase as we are keeping a close watch.

Madam Speaker, 55 years of power have corrupted the habits of some parties. They consider themselves as emperors and others as vile. ... (Interruptions) They consider every system vile. ... (Interruptions) It seems to be in their nature to disrespect everyone. ... (Interruptions) Disrespecting everyone is inherent in their nature. ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I understand that due to the enjoyment of power, there is a distortion within you to surround the Chief Justice in controversy, to attempt to disrupt the entire environment, to disrespect the judicial system, to disrespect the Reserve Bank, to disrespect the Chief of Army Staff, to disrespect the Election Commission, to disrespect the country's largest investigative agency, and to disrespect democracy. Mahatma Gandhi had said a long time ago. He had realised that the receiving capacity of all diseases is the highest, so the Congress has it. Therefore, Mahatma Gandhi had said at that time to spread the Congress. Congress-free India - This is not my slogan; I am fulfilling the wish of Mahatma Gandhi. ... (Interruptions) It's been 150 years since Mahatma Gandhi's birth

anniversary; this work is to be done in the form of tribute. ... (Interruptions) No matter how much you adulterate, you cannot save. ... (Interruptions) Our values stand apart from others'. ... (Interruptions) For us, our party is bigger than us; our country is bigger than our party. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, disrespect of constitutional institutions, corruption, nepotism, in a way, Congress colleagues have also accepted this culture of adulteration. No supporter of nepotism can stay outside, not one, because it has become their culture; it has become their civilisation. ... (Interruptions) Therefore, this grand coalition game can be played very easily because everyone is dynastic. ... (Interruptions) Almost everyone is on the bell... (Interruptions)

19 00hrs

It is quite natural. ... *(Interruptions)* If even Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee had received a more resounding mandate than mine, the country would have achieved far greater heights today. We know that what you possess today was also with us at that time, and at that time too, they betrayed us just the same. ... *(Interruptions)* Continue to expose these deceitful individuals

with their culture of manipulation, which has caused massive turmoil in the country. Today, there was a mention of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Today, there was a mention of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Once, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had said, and perhaps those who are on the path of manipulation would benefit if they had faith in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had said that joining Congress would be akin to committing suicide. This is a statement by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Joining Congress would be akin to committing suicide. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar said, "Congress is a burning house." "... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: ongress had appointed him as the Chairperson of the draughting committee. Did you appoint him, or did Shri Modi? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Shri Kharge, your CR will not be disrupted; do not worry.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: There is no worry about CR; whatever I am living, I have a lot to live for. My age was sixty, but I have been living for 77 years. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: You have to live long; our best wishes are with you. Hon. Madam Speaker, today there have been discussions in the House about inflation. Completely disconnected from realities, beyond truth. I want to remind everyone of that. In our country, two songs became very famous in the cinema. One was, "If anything remained, it was killed by inflation," and the other song that became popular was about inflation: "Inflation eats away at everyone." Now, which term did these two songs belong to? The first song became popular when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, and inflation was more than 20%. The second song was during the Remote-Controlled Government, and inflation was more than 10%; then these songs were written, and then these songs became popular. Inflation and you have an unbreakable bond. In this country, whenever Congress has come, inflation has always increased. During Shrimati Indira's time, inflation was running at more than 30 percent. This business you have done. Now, you were starting from 1947. If I open it up, I don't know what will come out. Therefore, in the past 4.5 years, the Government, operating on a service-orientated basis within 55 months, has

kept the inflation rate within a 4 percent limit. Our Government has consistently worked to assist the middle-class society because the economic activities in the country have raised the expectations of the middle class. I believe that they are essential components for the progress and development of any country, which the nation has been experiencing in the last 55 months.

I believe that many new aspirations, expectations, and desires for development are the greatest signs seen in the country today. For some people, expectations feel like a burden. I see this with pride because it gives them the strength to run and the inspiration to seek justice.

We have done the work of removing essential goods from the tax bracket after GST. You remember, you also used to tax milk; who knows what else you used to tax? You don't even have the right to speak. The average tax was more than 30 percent before GST. What are you talking about? The GST Council decides, in which people from your party also exist, the chief ministers of your party and the people of your Government also exist. Today, taxes have been reduced to 18 percent or less on 99 percent of goods. In this budget, we have also done the

work of providing relief under income tax at five lakh rupees. This demand came during our time; it was not like that. When economists were prime ministers, it also came; in 1992, also, such a demand came, but for so many years you never paid attention. We have worried about it.

Education loan: Our middle-class family takes out an education loan. We have reduced the interest on it from 15 percent to 11 percent. Because of this, if a young student takes a loan of ten lakh rupees, then today he has savings of one and a quarter lakh rupees while paying off the loan. Similarly, if a middle-class family takes a loan from the bank for housing, they save between 5 and 6 lakh rupees by depositing money in the bank. We have accomplished this task.

Similarly, LED bulbs. I am surprised. What was the reason that during the time of the UP Government, LED bulbs were sold for 300, 400, and 450 rupees? What is the reason that after our arrival, it has come down to 60-70 rupees? Millions of LED bulbs have been sold in the country. You can estimate how many crores of rupees have been saved in the pockets of poor and middle-class families because of this LED bulb. Due to this

LED bulb, electricity bills of 50 thousand crore rupees have decreased in the country. 50 thousand crore rupees per year have been saved in the pockets of middle-class families. This significant accomplishment has been achieved through the use of an LED bulb. Had I announced a package of 50 thousand crore rupees, it would have been discussed around the clock in the media and would have made headlines in every newspaper. Our Government has saved 50 thousand crore rupees and utilised it to assist middle-class families in our country.

The stents for heart disease were extremely expensive, but we have made them affordable. We have demonstrated how the cost of knee implants has been significantly reduced. We have extended free dialysis services to the district level. Previously, a poor individual had to spend two to three thousand rupees for dialysis. Today, we have ensured that this service is provided free of charge. We have established more than five thousand Jan Aushadhi Centres. As a result of those Jan Aushadhi Centres, today, poor families, including joint families where individuals above the age of 60 reside together, find it easier to purchase their medicines. Today, generic medicines that used to cost one

hundred rupees are now available for 30 rupees. We have undertaken the task of providing the greatest benefit to the middle class. In the same manner, we have been concerned about the treatment of the poor. I am surprised that people are worried about Mr. Modi's letter in Ayushman Bharat. When the Hon. Prime Minister writes a letter, it signifies a significant responsibility and a profound commitment and reassures ordinary citizens that they are not alone; they have our support. Today, this Assembly should truly rejoice that the poor of this country, who used to wait for death due to their poverty, lacked the courage to go to the hospital and managed with ordinary herbs, even enduring serious illnesses with severity, and the situation of their family members was such that what could be done for them? People suffering from serious illnesses for two, three, or four years have benefited from the Ayushman Bharat Yojana; in just about a hundred days, nearly 11 lakh poor individuals have already availed of its benefits.

Benefits have been provided for serious types of illnesses. Every day, more than 15 thousand poor people are benefiting from the 'Ayushman Bharat' Yojana. This is our collective

responsibility. I have observed that all our MPs write letters for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, stating that there are cases of cancer and other diseases in their constituencies, requesting funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. This practice has been continually followed, and previous Prime Ministers have also engaged in this. However, after the introduction of 'Ayushman Bharat,' today no MP is finding the need to write such letters. They receive a gold card, and their work gets done immediately. Previously, funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund were allocated up to a certain extent, but now the entire expense is covered. I always used to meet them regarding the funds received from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, and they would express satisfaction that so many people in my constituency have benefited. It happened in the first week; it happened in the third week. I also write them letters. I write letters to those who receive money from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, ensuring that it is confirmed whether they were genuinely ill or not.

When I was in Gujarat, we conducted an experiment. People used to reside in the Circuit House. If they are leaders, they get

access to the Circuit House through concessions. There was a manager at our Circuit House who used to write letters to the residents, asking them when they and their wives arrived on certain dates, ensuring there were no inconveniences. The situation had reached a point where people simply stopped coming... (Interruptions). I used to write letters... (Interruptions). Due to your illness, I have sent you this amount of money. I hope your health has improved. It was then linked to Aadhaar, ensuring there is no leakage of funds and no involvement of 'middlemen.' However, as you approach the elections, I urge all MPs to maximise the number of poor individuals in your constituencies who benefit from 'Ayushman Bharat.' I invite you to participate in the healthy competition. The welfare of the poor will be ensured; elections will come and go. There are still two to three months left; please get some work done. You have an opportunity, so I am informing you... (Interruptions).

Madam Speaker, I would like to explain a subject in detail. I am starting to explain the matter in detail now... (Interruptions). By amending the Constitution, we have provided a facility for the poor youth of our country to achieve their dreams; however,

we have chosen a path that can minimise social tension as much as possible. SC, ST, and OBC have been given reservations without even touching that system, providing reservations to 10 percent of the poor. This subject has not arisen after our arrival; it is not like that. This existed previously. We have shown courage, and I am grateful to this House; I am grateful to everyone for unanimously supporting this. Today, I seize this opportunity and express my gratitude to all of you. I express gratitude to everyone, but alongside this, to ensure fairness, we have also decided to increase seats in the field of education in proportion so that our journey of progress remains unobstructed. Despite 55 years of governance... (Interruptions). Now I am curious about the current state of power... (Interruptions). Regarding jobs, for 55 years, there hasn't been any developed standard system. Previous governments did not prioritise developing systems focusing on employment as part of their agenda. There is no system in place for employment. The responsibility for this lies more with those in power who are immersed in enjoying their authority. We have made efforts in this regard. If new jobs are being created in 100 sectors, only

about 7-8 sectors have been roughly estimated. Today, the method is such that there is employment in 100 sectors, with token surveys conducted in 7 or 8 sectors, and estimates are extrapolated accordingly.

Now the times have changed; all parameters have changed, and the types of employment have also changed. Therefore, today I want to tell this Assembly the truth and speak bluntly. I want to base my statements on facts and especially address the citizens watching on TV. Instead of my usual speeches, I urge them to listen attentively so that those in power, who are not speaking the truth anywhere, can receive a direct and straightforward response from the people of the country.

Now, look, the unorganised sector provides nearly 85 to 90 percent of the jobs in the country, while the organised sector provides jobs only to 10 to 15 percent. This truth must be accepted. In the unorganised sector, the percentage ranges from 80 to 90, whereas in the organised sector, it is only 10 to 15 percent. The sector that represents only 10 percent of the employment; I would like to provide some figures for it. I would like to provide a calculation based on that 10 percent figure.

Let's consider the calculation based on the 90 percent figure later. From September 2017 to November 2018, approximately 1 crore 80 lakh people started investing in Provident Funds for the first time, spanning roughly 15 months. Does this occur without employment? Out of these, 64 percent of people are under the age of 28. Therefore, the argument presented this morning by Shri Khadge lacks any logic. A person under the age of 28 means someone who is likely to obtain a new job.

Apart from this, I would like to give you one more fact. In our country, around 65 lakh people were registered in the National Pension System (NPS) in March 2014. This number increased to 1 crore 20 lakh in October last year. Would this have also happened without jobs? Could someone have done this just like that? ... (Interruptions).

Therefore, I would like to provide one more statistic. Every year, when non-corporate taxpayers file their income tax returns declaring their income, they themselves do not receive salaries, but they do pay salaries to those they employ locally. In the past four years, approximately 635 thousand new professionals have joined the country. Do you believe that when a doctor opens

their clinic or nursing home, they do not employ anyone else? When a chartered accountant opens their office, do you think they do not employ anyone else? Does he not maintain a staff of one, two, or three people? 6 lakh 35 thousand professionals who would have employed others. I would reiterate that this is a figure for the formal sector, representing only 10 percent representation, based on what I have mentioned.

Now, let me provide you with the figure for the informal sector. In the informal sector, especially in the transport sector where there are unorganised workers, there is the highest opportunity for employment. In the last four years... (Interruptions).

PROF. *SOUGATA* RAY: Sir, please have some water.

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Thank you, thank you, sir. Thank you, sir... (Interruptions). People like you should be present in the Assembly so that there is concern. In the past four years, approximately 36 lakh large trucks or commercial vehicles have been sold, and around one and a half crore passenger vehicles have been sold.

More than 27 lakh new autos have been sold. Have all these vehicles that have been purchased been parked for display purposes? Won't there be anyone to drive them? Wouldn't they require any servicing? Wouldn't there be any mechanism working for their maintenance? It is estimated that in the last four and a half years, about one and a quarter crore people in the country would have gotten new opportunities in the transport sector itself.

Similarly, if I talk about the hotel industry, there has been a 50 percent increase in the number of approved hotels. Are these hotels vacant? Are they not providing jobs to anyone? It is also estimated that approximately one and a half crore new jobs have been created in the tourism sector. There is extensive expansion of taxi aggregator services in the country; however, my Opposition colleagues feel that all these app-based companies are doing this. Is this app-based? Are driverless cars being driven? If it's app-based, does it mean it's driverless? In it, someone or the other drives the car. Someone or the other finds employment in it every day. ... *(Interruptions)*

The number of people receiving loans for the first time under the Mudra Yojana exceeds four and a quarter crore. First-time users, meaning four and a quarter crore people, have started their work, but these individuals are not included in the job data. ... *(Interruptions)*

During our government's tenure, more than two lakh new Common Service Centres have been opened in rural areas across the country. Could anyone still not have found employment as a result of this? There was a time when STD booths were set up, and they were presented in Parliament as employment figures. Today, approximately two lakh Common Service Centres operate for around 18 to 20 hours. In each Common Service Centre, approximately 3-3 or 5-5 young individuals have started working and are providing common services.

Similarly, highways are being constructed at double the pace in the country. New airports are being constructed, and the modernisation of railway stations is underway. Crores of new homes are being built. Do these also not provide employment opportunities to anyone? Today, the youth of our country stands on its own merit. Skill India, Startup India, Stand-up India,

Mudra Yojana, and so forth. These are our strong initiatives in self-employment that are vital for the country's... (Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, the youth of our country are directly involved in shaping the future, but alongside this, please consider the concern for our farmers as reflected in the budget allocation. Compare the budget expenditure during your tenure with what it is during ours. How much money were you investing in MSP? How much do we invest in MSP? You may observe the figures yourself. Compare how much procurement was done at MSP (Minimum Support Price) during the tenure of your Governments to how much is being done under the Bharatiya Janata Party's Governments today. When you review these statistics, you will understand the extent of our commitment to farmers and how effective our actions have been in supporting them. The 55 years of enjoying power versus the 55 months of dedicated service—this distinction will be clearly evident in our service to the farmers as well. Over the past ten years, you have devised a cycle of loan waivers with the primary aim of winning elections. You have commenced this game for your own benefit. For ten years, you have been fabricating

narratives and misleading the public. Then you try to gather votes for yourselves. ... (Interruptions) This is your 10-year-long strategy. To win the 2009 election, you announced a loan waiver. The farmer's debt amounted to 6 lakh crore rupees. They made such a big fuss and created a commotion, and nobody dared to question them about their economic policies. They also start playing ornamental tunes.

It was a debt of 6 lakh crore rupees, and you waived only 52,000 crore rupees. ... (Interruptions) What is this, and who does it benefit? The money taken by wealthy individuals in banks goes to them. The poor farmer, if in need, has to go to a moneylender. He ends up dying paying interest, but you didn't care about him. The report by the CAG was presented in this very Assembly at that time. However, at that time, such large-scale corruption was rampant that attention was hardly paid to many things. 2-G was operational, coal was operational, and who knows what else was operational and how many people were involved? At what times were they operational? However, according to the CAG report at that time, out of the 52,000 crore rupee loan waiver, 35 lakh people were found to have received

benefits who were not eligible for it; yet they were taking the money. ... (Interruptions) This also involves 'dalali' (broking); this also is a game! Not only that, but when we brought this scheme, it was clear how we would execute it for the good. What are we thinking for the farmers? We could have also chosen the path of loan waivers. However, the empowerment of farmers, addressing their issues, and implementing 99 irrigation schemes were prioritised. Today, you were facing problems with the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.' There were 99 irrigation schemes. As I mentioned, Mr. Nehru laid a foundation stone here, and I inaugurated it. We completed 99 such projects that were stuck, spending thousands of crores to fulfil those schemes. ... (Interruptions)

We have focused on new Mega Food Parks and new cold storage. Work is progressing rapidly towards establishing 22,000 rural markets. We have implemented an online system through e-NAM to enable farmers to sell their produce, ensuring they receive full value for their crops. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, in this scheme, we have allocated 6,000 rupees annually for farmers in this year's budget. This decision

will yield far-reaching benefits in the times to come. 12 crore farmers will benefit from it. Your schemes until now were limited to one crore, one and a half crore, or two crore farmers only. They were meant for people at the upper levels. They never reached farmers with one acre or two acres of land. However, this scheme is meant for small farmers with one acre or two acres of land. 85 percent of the farmers in this country are like that. These benefits will reach them directly, and around 12 crore farmers will receive their direct benefits in their bank accounts without any intermediaries. I’m surprised. Some States are boldly stating that they will not accept Mr. Modi's farmer scheme. Please ask the farmers there whether they want to receive the 6,000 rupees or not. You don't even have to give a single rupee. This will reach their account directly. However, in politics, some individuals become so "irrational" that they declare not to avail themselves of the benefits of this scheme. Please worry about your farmers. We will not accept the 'Ayushman Yojana.' Please consider the welfare of the poor in your own region. Politics will continue, but stop playing these

games and focus on the concerns of your poor and farmers. ... (Interruptions)

Small farmers who borrow from moneylenders do not receive any loan waivers. ... (Interruptions) I would like to give an example from Karnataka. ... (Interruptions) You are from Karnataka, and the farmer leader himself is seated here. Our former Prime Minister, the respected Mr. Devagowda, always presented himself to the people as a farmer's son. ... (Interruptions) Your Government made big announcements, and they say Mr. Modi won votes by making announcements. You had mentioned loan waivers for farmers in Karnataka. The beneficiaries of this are 43 lakhs. According to the Government’s record of Karnataka, 43 lakh people benefit from this, and so far, only 60 thousand people have received benefits. ... (Interruptions) I convey the words of your Government. Out of 43 lakh people, only 60 thousand have been helped, and you are telling the world about debt forgiveness—'Debt 'forgiveness in ten days, debt forgiveness in ten days.' Please visit Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. There, they are not able to finalise the paperwork yet. You used to make grand statements.

I tell you that you used to forgive debts of 50-60 thousand crore rupees in your ten-year tenure. In the past ten years, you used to do it once, and those two to three crore farmers on the surface level would have benefited from it. While not everyone benefited, our plan is annual. If I calculate for ten years, approximately seven and a half lakh crore rupees have been deposited in the accounts of farmers. Where is the game of 50-52 thousand crore rupees, and where will over seven and a half lakh crore rupees go into the hands of the country's farmers? Not only that, but in this budget, we have also made special provisions under the 'Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog' for farmers engaged in fish farming and for those involved in animal husbandry. Farmers who used to receive benefits from the Kisan Credit Card Scheme will now also be extended to benefit livestock rearers and fish farmers. Now, they will benefit from this. We have thought about those people. How can a sensitive Government function effectively? You would say that it was also during our time; it was also during our time. Sir, everything existed during your time, but it falls upon my considerable effort

to complete what you began, as you engaged in tasks that now require our fulfilment. However, I will happily complete it.

Now, please tell me about vaccinations. Has this come after Mr. Modi's arrival? Vaccination existed previously as well, but it should have been administered. That child and mother should have received its benefits, but that was not being done. Our poor, tribal, Dalit, oppressed, exploited, and marginalised individuals were left behind. We launched 'Mission Indradhanush,' and today we have expanded the scope of vaccination and have successfully advanced it. Vaccination existed during your time as well, but it remained limited to a selected few. That vaccine did not reach the homes of the poor. We have undertaken the task of accomplishing this.

We have initiated a significant campaign for skill development and self-employment opportunities for those who had to leave their studies midway. We have trained lakhs of youth under the 'Skill India Mission.' The 'Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana' has been a longstanding demand of people associated with the Communist Party for several years, especially for unorganised labour. There are 40-42 crore

unorganised labourers. For the first time, we intervened on their behalf and introduced a pension scheme providing three thousand rupees for unorganised labour. I believe that the Communist Party of India, which remained dormant, could not achieve this. However, we have undertaken the task of doing that work. In our country, there was a demand from fishermen that there should be a separate Ministry for us. Our Government has mentioned this in this year's budget. We have proposed the establishment of a separate Ministry for fishermen.

Similarly, traders play a role in the country's economic activities, but there was no owner to address their concerns. Our Government has transformed the D.I.P.P. into the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, integrating it with internal trade, to ensure that there is also a department in the Indian Government dedicated to caring for traders.

The nomadic community, this community did not become nomadic after my arrival; rather, they have been a nomadic community for centuries. You used to raise slogans for the poor, but for the nomadic community, who are snake charmers, you later accommodated snake charmers to showcase to foreign

guests. However, you did not have the time to worry about them. We have taken the first step to establish a board for the welfare of the nomadic community so that schemes can benefit that section of society as well. My experience is that when I was in Gujarat, I was working on housing for the nomadic community. My desire was for their children to receive an education as well. But they used to say, 'Sir, we don't even have a home; where will we stay? How can we attend schools?' I provided them with a home, and thus today I can proudly say that their children are operating computers and living their lives with great dignity. If these communities have strength, then let us work for their welfare, and we can indeed achieve this.

Madam Speaker, in matters related to foreign affairs, Shrimati Sushma has already addressed several points on numerous occasions; therefore, I shall not delve into the details. However, this is not just a singular issue. It is certain that today, India's voice is heard on the global stage. On this matter, what India will think is something the world must consider in advance today. In contemporary global decision-making, prior to finalising any decision, please consider the Paris Agreement;

before the finalisation of the Paris Agreement, prominent international figures consistently engaged in telephonic discussions with India about whether to retain or omit certain words.

It means that today, India has carved out its place in the world. There may be tension between Palestine and Israel, but both Palestine and Israel can be our friends. There may be tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran, but both Saudi Arabia and Iran can be our friends.

We have never recognised the importance of the Indian community living abroad. I am pleased that after my efforts, all political parties have also started paying attention to the Indians living abroad, and I consider this a positive development. Indians living abroad are a significant strength for our country. We have recognised this, and today we are experiencing its impact. They are reaching out to us in every field. I am delighted that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held recently in Varanasi had the highest representation among all previous Pravasi Bharatiya Divas so far.

It is a matter of joy that Kumbh has been recognised as a heritage by the world. However, we were stuck in such a mental illness that when Kumbh was mentioned, we ran away for fear of tarnishing communalism. But today, representatives from all countries of the world are coming to the Kumbh Mela. All the staff from the embassies around the world went to the Kumbh and proudly carried their country's flag. This is India's strength, India's soft power. We also overlooked this earlier. Now we are also emphasising those aspects, so we are successfully moving forward in that direction as well.

For me, it is a matter of happiness that whatever thoughts we may have considered, faced criticism, or spoken without facts may have been recorded. But Madam Speaker, today, through this Assembly, I want to assure you that in 2014, the path we embarked upon, the determination we made to fulfil the dreams of our nation, the relentless day and night hard work we are putting in, the task of freeing the country from the diseases it is mired in, the efforts to move forward systematically with the dreams the country is pursuing, and the optimal utilisation of the country's resources, every moment contributing to the country's

development, and every step taken for the welfare of the country, we have consistently fought for these. We have been doing it; we will continue to do it, and I assure the citizens of the country.

In 2018, during the No-Confidence Motion, and even after the No-Confidence Motion in 2018, I saw that there was a concerted effort to silence my voice, to choke my throat. Even amid the uproar of slogans for an hour and a half to two hours, it was by God's grace that I managed to present my views before the nation and the world. At that time, I had offered you good wishes, and today, I wish to extend those same good wishes again. Prepare yourself so thoroughly that in 2023, you have another opportunity to bring a No-Confidence Motion. ... *(Interruptions)* This is a gesture of dedication. This is the result of arrogance; it has reduced from 400 to 40. ... *(Interruptions)* This is the result of arrogance; the numbers have dwindled from 400 to 40, and the result of humility is that we are sitting here despite starting at 2. We have risen from 2 and are now seated here. ... *(Interruptions)* Look at where you've reached. Hey!

Surviving in a deceitful world. If you indulge in lengthy discourse, it would not be seemly.

To those who claim that the country has progressed, as indicated by the figures, I would say that Kharagjeet is a senior figure. For the sake of their practice, if possible, look at what progress was made from 1947, when the country gained independence, to 2014. If you tally the progress India made after gaining independence in 1947, you will realise that your failures will be visible everywhere. Countries around the world have overcome some of the most powerful disparities in global history during this era. We had possibilities; you lacked momentum, policy, and vision; hence, you sing songs by naming 5 or 15 organisations.

Had you proceeded at the same pace, had you liberated the country from its problems, oh, had you ensured water for the farmers, had electricity been delivered to people's homes... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Did you deliver?

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Yes, we have accomplished it in 55 months, and in the days to come, we are committed to continuing this work in the country. We will keep on doing it.

Finally, I would like to say that this morning, Shri Khadge was reading some words from Basavanna.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You had read it; that's why I was reading it.

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Shri Khadge, you are from Karnataka; why did you read it after so many years? Had this been read 25-30 years ago, you would not have embarked upon the wrong path that you did. Those who embark on the path of wrongdoing do not end up well. ... (Interruptions) I would like every Congress Member to keep a copy of Basavanna's words, which you read today, hanging in their House. ... (Interruptions) Wherever there is Government currently, wherever there is opportunity, it should be prominently displayed so that these diseases, which are rampant in your realm, may cause some to fear. Therefore, do not even consider keeping a photo of Mr. Modi there; otherwise, the poor might fear that trouble will come. ... (Interruptions) Yes, indeed, don't worry. Mr. Modi will

scare those who want to loot the country. He will scare them; the country has appointed me for this very task. ... (Interruptions) The country has entrusted me with this task. ... (Interruptions) Those who have looted the country, those who have destroyed the country, they must fear. ... (Interruptions) They must fear. ... (Interruptions) That's why I spent my life. I have spent my life battling against such people... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: They are attempting to instill fear in everyone.

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Indeed, the fear of 'thieves', 'plunderers', and 'outlaws' had completely vanished from this country, which is why the nation has been ruined. The country has appointed me here to instill fear in them... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, we are proceeding to advance this work. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, finally, I would like to conclude my remarks by saying,

> Suraj Jayega Bhi To Kahaan, Suraj Jayega Bhi To Kahaan.

Use Yaheen Rahna Hoga, Yaheen Hamari Sansoon Mein,

Hamari Ragoon Mein, Hamare Sankalpo Mein, Hamare Ratjagoon Mein.

Tum Udaas Mat Ho, Tum Udaas Mat Ho,

Aab Mey Kisi Bhi Suraj Ko Nahin Doobne Doonga.

(Where will the Sun go, where will the Sun go, It must stay right here, within our breaths. Within our veins, our resolutions, our day and night vigils. Don't be sad, don't be sad, Now I will not let any Sun set)

Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI V.S. UGRAPPA (BELLARY): Madam, today we have seen the *... ... in this House! …*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks.

… *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall put all the amendments to the vote of the House together.

The amendments were put and negatived.

… (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

> "That an 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 31, 2019'."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Friday, the 8th February, 2019 at 11.00 am.

19 45hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 08, 2019/Magha 19,1940 (Saka).

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