

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

**(English Version)**

**Third Session**

**(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. VI contains Nos.11 to 22)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Monday, December 22, 2014/Pausa 1, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

## **OBITUARY REFERENCE**

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri H.A. Dora who was a member of the Eighth Lok Sabha representing the Srikakulam Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh. Shri Dora was a member of the Committee of Privileges; Committee on Petitions; Committee on Subordinate Legislation and the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit during the Eighth Lok Sabha. Shri Dora worked relentlessly for the welfare of the poor and under-privileged sections of the society. Shri H.A. Dora passed away on 5th September, 2014 in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 79.

We deeply mourn the loss of Shri H.A. Dora and convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

**11. 01 hrs.**

*The Members then stood in silence for short while.*

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, the Question Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

**11. 02 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Dharmendra Yadav, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, there shall be no suspension of the Question Hour. The Adjournment Motion, notice for which has been received in accordance with the rules, shall be taken up at Zero Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** You can raise your matters in 'Zero Hour'.

... (*Interruptions*)

**11. 04 hrs.**

**\*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question 401 – Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss.

... (*Interruptions*)

**(Q. 401)**

**DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:** Madam Speaker, we all know that the total tribal population of India is about 8.4 percent of the total population and in numbers it is approximately about 8.5 crore. ... (*Interruptions*) This population of 8.5 crore is sometimes more than the population of certain countries like Germany, Iran, Egypt, etc. ... (*Interruptions*) But the pace of development for the tribal population is sickeningly very low. We have had numerous programmes in the last 60 or 70 decades. We have had numerous Articles in our Constitution like 342, 164, 244 – the 5<sup>th</sup> Schedule, 275, 330, 332 and so on. ... (*Interruptions*)

We have spent thousands of crores of rupees on the tribal population but today the results are not there. There is a very slow pace of development. I will specifically ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government have on a mission mode any time-bound programme for increasing the literacy rate of the tribal population from 47 percent today to above 60 percent in five years and also for bringing down the infant mortality rate from 82 today to about 60 per 1,000 live births in five years. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like the Hon. Minister to answer my specific question whether the Government is on a mission mode and also whether the Government shows any urgency to sort out the developmental programmes of the tribes which are very important for the development of India. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI JUAL ORAM:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the Government of India is seriously concerned about the tribals, hence a separate ministry has been created for them. In the crew of Integrated Tribal Development Project/Agency we do a lot of work, especially development of education among women etc. Due to low literacy among women, we make a separate special plan. Due to this, there has been a lot of relief in the ten-year growth.

I agree with the concern of the Hon. Member that it has not developed as much as we would like, but the Government is continuously working in this regard. We are working in mission mode for education and health. We are also working for their livelihood. For this, we are running an independent scheme.

[English]

**DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:** Madam, the Hon. Minister has not answered my specific question whether the Government shows urgency in having any mission mode programmes. Nevertheless, Madam, we need to learn a lot from the north eastern part of the country, for example, their love and compassion, their love for women and children. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, the statistics shows that in the entire country, the female sex ratio is very low. In Punjab, the female sex ratio is about appropriately 850 females/ 1,000 males. In South Delhi, we have a very dismal female sex ratio. In Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, the female sex ratio is very low. But in the North Eastern States, the female sex ratio is more than the male sex ratio. So, we have to learn on that from the North Eastern States.

Nevertheless, Madam, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry proposes to have any nodal agency in his Ministry to coordinate with the programmes of other Ministries. For example, my Constituency has 60,000 tribal population. In the areas like Chitling, Chitheri, Palamalai, Vattalmalai, we have people living there without any basic infrastructure such as electricity and roads. When I asked the officials, they said that the problem is in the forest area. ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, we have to have a finer balance between the forests and the habitations. But then, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister a specific question whether he is prepared to have a nodal agency in his Ministry to coordinate with other Ministries like the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Ministry of Drinking Water so that all these problems could be sorted out at a quick level. ...

[Translation]

**SHRI JUAL ORAM:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the Government of India has taken Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana in mission mode, for which an amount of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated. In the PSP area, this time we have taken ten blocks of ten states of the Fifth Schedule area. We are trying to converge so that everyone can develop. . . . (*Interruptions*)

As far as sex ratio is concerned, the Hon. Member has rightly said that sex ratio is good in North-East but less in the states of Haryana and Punjab. These states are not tribal. There is a coordination committee headed by the secretary, in which we allocate the money. The nodal ministry is a ministry in itself, so there is no need to appoint a separate nodal ministry. We do this work in coordination with every ministry. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your interest is also being discussed. The question about tribals is going on.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** One does not just come and create noise.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Such shouting does not work.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am requesting you. Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** This will not do.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mulayam Singh Ji, I will give you a chance to speak after Quest Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** It doesn't happen right now. There is no topic-less conversation like this every day.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** No particular subject has been given. It doesn't happen like that.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Go to your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mulayam Singh Ji, after Question Hour, I would call you.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am sorry; this is not good.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will give you a chance to speak later. It doesn't happen like that.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please don't do that.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI CHINTAMANI NAVASHA VANGA:** Hon. Speaker, even after Independence, the percentage of education among tribals has not crossed 50. Even today, tribal children study till 10th class. The percentage of education after class 10 is very low. Ashram schools are run through the Union Government, but they are up to Class 10. I ask the Hon. Minister through you that Ashram schools are up to 10th, can you start them up to college after 12th? ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI JUAL ORAM:** Hon. Speaker, so far Eklavya Model Residential School is a school like Navodaya, we are running it and it is up to plus two. Till 10th there are ashram schools and the rest

are schools. The Government of India has not yet considered for plus three i. e. Graduation. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI GODAM NAGESH:** Hon. Speaker, through you, I want to tell the Hon. Minister that Article 275(1) contains allocation of grants on the basis of population of the states. In 2013-14, only Rs. 3.50 crore allocation has been made in United Andhra Pradesh, released. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to how much has been allocated in Article 275(1) in the year 2014-15 for the State of Telangana, will you give information about it?. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI JUAL ORAM:** Hon. Speaker, the State of Telangana has just been created. The allocation that we made earlier was for Andhra Pradesh. So far this year's allocation figure is not there, because, it is in the release stage. I will give the Hon. Member a separate information after the full release. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mulayam Singh Ji, what do you want to say?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Go to your seat. Then I will give them a chance to speak.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. Then, I would hear Mulayam Singh Ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

**11. 15 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Shri Dharmendra Yadav, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Kalyan Banerjee and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.*

**11. 15 ½ hrs.**

**SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS**

**(i) Re: Waiving of loans of farmers in the country, bringing back black money from abroad and reported intrusion by China and Pakistan in Indian territory**

[Translation]

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH):** Hon. Madam Speaker, there are many things to say. . . . (*Interruptions*) In the election, the Hon. Prime Minister had promised to the public that loans up to Rs 15 thousand would be waived off for all the farmers. . . . (*Interruptions*) Secondly, he said that the lands which have been

suppressed by China and Pakistan will be withdrawn. Apart from this, there are many things about which he said, but not a single promise has been fulfilled. . . . (*Interruptions*) I am happy that the Hon. Prime Minister has come here. . . . (*Interruptions*) Then, he said that he will provide employment to the youth and give them jobs. . . . (*Interruptions*) By provoking them, you took votes from all the people and you became the Prime Minister. . . . (*Interruptions*) Now please do one thing at least. . . . (*Interruptions*) Remove the occupation of China and Pakistan from our lands. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Mulayam Singh Ji cannot take up adjournment motion now.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** You have not done a single thing. . . . (*Interruptions*) Hon. Prime Minister has come, I am happy. Hon. Prime Minister, please answer this. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** No it does not happen like this. I am sorry.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** You may kindly respond and ensure the House is conducted properly. . . . (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Prime Minister should clarify this. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is no question-answer in this way.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mulayam Singh Ji, you have spoken. Now please sit down.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** The Hon. Prime Minister has promised, . . . (*Interruptions*) So the Hon. Prime Minister will take. Today lakhs of people are on the roads, . . . (*Interruptions*) These will be in districts and in villages. . . . (*Interruptions*) So, we want that there should be a satisfactory reply from the Hon. Prime Minister. . . . (*Interruptions*) We would like to hear the reply from the Hon. Prime Minister. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, it does not happen.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Hon. Madam Speaker, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji is very experienced. . . . (*Interruptions*) He has served as

Chief Minister. Of all the promises we have made, . . .  
(*Interruptions*) we have fulfilled maximum promises. . . .  
(*Interruptions*) If it is not followed, we will go to the public and tell.  
. . . (*Interruptions*) This is not the way. . . . (*Interruptions*) This is  
not a general meeting. When the time comes, we will respond. . . .  
(*Interruptions*) We are undertaking commendable work, as a result  
of which the countrymen are satisfied. . . . (*Interruptions*) You shall  
witness this in Jharkhand as well, in Jammu and Kashmir, and also  
in Delhi. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**11. 18 hrs.****ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.... Contd.**

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Q. No. 402, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat –  
Not present.

**(Q. 402)**

**COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY:** Hon. Speaker, a few years back, rich oil fields had been discovered in Barmer and Jaisalmer. ... *(Interruptions)* As of today, about 25-30 percent oil is made from my Constituency. ... *(Interruptions)* Those oil fields are in my Parliamentary Constituency. Both ONGC and Cairn India are operating there. Cairn India has got 70 percent share and ONGC has got 30 percent share. ... *(Interruptions)* As you know, to reduce the shortage of oil and to save foreign currency, still a lot of blocks, which are left there, are to be explored. So, my question is this. Is the Government planning to allot the remaining blocks to the ONGC and Cairn India? ... *(Interruptions)* But I think 30 percent share for the ONGC is less. My point is that out of the remaining whatever blocks they want to allot, the share of the ONGC should be increased. ... *(Interruptions)* Will the Hon. Minister say that he will

increase it? After finishing, suppose they are not giving it to Cairn India and ONGC, will the Government go for auction or give it to the private parties? There are two questions, (a) and (b).

[Translation]

**SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:** Hon. Madam Speaker, basically this question is about the redevelopment of Mumbai High, it is a separate question. . . . (*Interruptions*) I will meet and give information to the Hon. Member about this question. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:** Hon. Madam Speaker, At present, 85 percent of the production that was being carried out in Mumbai High in the year 1990 is being maintained. . . . (*Interruptions*) In the statement made by the Hon. Minister, he has stated that no loss is occurring. . . . (*Interruptions*) And that no inquiry is pending in any case. . . . (*Interruptions*) Whereas Mumbai High had caught fire and suffered extensive damage. . . . (*Interruptions*) In the Hon. Minister's first reply, concerning MHSRD Phase-I, it has been stated that. . . . (*Interruptions*) This scheme was originally approved in the year 2001. . . . (*Interruptions*) The physical progress report was submitted in January 2006, resulting in a delay of six years. Secondly, regarding MHSRD Phase-II, it has been mentioned that it was

approved in October 2001 and subsequently sanctioned in the year 2005. Thirdly, in his reply, the Hon. Minister stated that the scheme was approved in 2009 and completed in 2014. This, Hon. Members, is the response provided by the Minister. He said that the MHSRD Phase-II scheme was approved in October, 2007 and revised in the year 2009. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that when projects are being delayed for five-six years, even after that you feel that there is no loss, then have you preponed and approved these projects? Did you do this or did you make a time-line for it, on the basis of which you will tell whether there is a loss or not?

**SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the third phase of the Bombay Redevelopment Plan is about to happen now. Phase-I started from year 2000, Phase-II started from year 2007. We will monitor the question that the Hon. Member has asked about Phase-I. It is written about the revised feasibility report. Overall, there has been no economic loss in the redevelopment plan. I can inform them by placing its details on the table of the House. Altogether, the estimate which was made, about 100 percent performance at a lower cost than the tender value, has been of Mumbai Redevelopment Phase-I and Phase-II in the last fourteen years and the process of Phase-III is still going on.

**(Q. 403)**

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that in the last three-four years, especially after the year 2009, the steel industry has declined significantly, many companies have started closing down, the captive coal blocks given for coal supply, due to low coal supply, steel production in India is having to import steel from China today.

**11. 22 hrs.**

*At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Dharmendra Yadav and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that due to this the employment is also coming down. Will the Hon. Minister focus on the issue that NPAs are increasing in the steel industries of the private and Government sector of India? Their coal supply should increase a little, by talking to the Coal Ministry in this regard, what the Hon. Minister will do to pay attention to this matter.

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the Government is aware of the concern expressed by the Hon. Member

and certainly the Government is trying in this direction. It is true that there is a crisis in the production of steel in the past, there are some reasons for it. Mainly the talk of illegal excavation had come very fast in the country, due to which an inquiry was conducted by the Shah Commission, the Supreme Court took cognizance of it and decisions regarding many mines came. The decision halted the excavation process. Today, there is definitely a shortage in the production of iron ore which should be sufficient and there is definitely a shortage in the production area of coal. It is to all of you that in the past the Hon. Court gave judgment on 24.09.2014, as per that judgment the allotments of 204 coal blocks were cancelled. I am very happy that the Government of India immediately took cognizance of this and issued Special Provision Ordinance on 21. 10. 2014 in a very short time. On its basis, the supply of coking coal and non-coking coal can be done properly, a transparent process can be made and coal can be allocated properly in every sector and the Government has started efforts in this direction, soon it will be done. Results are about to come out.

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I believe that in the last few months, the Modi Government, the Coal Ministry and the Steel Ministry have taken some good steps, I thank them for that.

But at the same time, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that the steel industries here have started closing because of the way China is dumping steel in India. Our Hon. Prime Minister is calling to start the "Make in India" idea. To protect this "Make in India" campaign, the steel industry which is getting sick, is balancing the way you are taking care of the power industry, similarly the steel industry should also get protection. Will Coal Ministry, Steel Producers Association and Steel Ministry hold joint-meeting and save India's industry from China's dumping?

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the concern of the Hon. Member is certainly justified. China has steel surplus production, it is looking for the market and the market is available in India. Because of this, steel is imported from China. But the Government of India and the Steel Ministry are fully alert in this direction. In view of not harming the steel industry in any way, we are discussing with the Ministry of Finance and raising that subject. As far as protecting coking-coal and the rest of the power industry is concerned, power has a very important role in the development of the country and in the light of the utility of the common people. The Ministry of Coal is also giving protection to the power industry in this view, in the policy that is being framed. The Ministry of Coal is

taking action in view of the convenience given to the steel industry and the cement industry and the others which are industries.

**11. 27 hrs.**

*Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Rajesh Ranjan and some other*

*Hon. Members then left the House.*

[English]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Madam Speaker, I have gone through the answer that has been laid by the Hon. Minister and also the answer that has been stated towards the last part of it.

Over the past one decade, Odisha has been able to attract considerable investment in the steel industry and a number of steel plants, along with associated captive power plants, have been established in Odisha. These plants have brought employment to lakhs of people of Odisha, directly and indirectly. As per an order of 18<sup>th</sup> December this year, 65 coal blocks have been earmarked for auction and out of these, nine are in Odisha. Only one block has been earmarked for according to the non-regulated sector, that is, steel, cement and other plants. The remaining eight are with power plants and only one block has been earmarked for steel, cement and other industries. I would ask the Hon. Minister, through you Madam,

whether coal blocks, which were earlier allocated for steel and other non-registered industries, will be retained and whether the Hon. Minister will impress upon the Coal Minister to retain coal blocks for steel sector, especially in Odisha, and what other steps have been taken to earmark coal blocks for steel plants and captive power plants which are in operation and which are doing value addition in Odisha.

[Translation]

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Madam Speaker, what the Hon. Member has referred to the circular dated 18 is correct. The Ministry of Coal has divided this process into two parts, one regulatory and the other de-regulatory. He has maintained the allotment position in PSUs and it is also true that he has talked about allotting a block to SAIL, a steel PSU. We have taken cognizance of it and are discussing with the Coal Ministry from that point of view. But the mines which are in the deregulated sectors include steel industry and cement too. The Ministry of Coal believes that when there is an auction in that sector, the steel industry will definitely not face any problem. But with a view to protect the steel industry, the Steel Ministry is totally concerned and we are constantly talking to the Coal Ministry about that subject.

[English]

**SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Madam. There is really so much of growth in our steel sector though belated. What policy has been formulated by the Government of India to generate more employment opportunities in the steel sector in the future?

[Translation]

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Madam Speaker, Steel industry is a very important industry in the country. It contributes a lot in increasing the growth of the country and also in employment generation. The Government is fully trying to encourage the steel industry. In the undertaking of the Government, SAIL has decided to expand. An investment of Rs 61 crore has been made for this. The work of two plants is in completion condition and the remaining work will be completed by the year 2015. This will increase the production of steel and also create employment.

[English]

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** Thank you, Madam. For decades together, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and all other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the steel industry have

emerged as front-runners of steel industry in our country by competing with the private organizations. We should really appreciate this performance of SAIL and other PSUs that they have done well in our country itself.

Madam, very recently, a new Bill has come and this Bill has been passed from this House too. The SAIL, for a few years, have been importing coal for their purpose and for steel industry from Australia. Madam, through you, I have to ask a question and also make a simultaneous / corresponding request. Has the Hon. Minister taken any steps to ensure supply of coal and iron ore to SAIL and other PSUs despite the fact that auction system is there? Further, even if they cannot give it under the auction system, then what are the steps that have been formulated by the Hon. Minister to run the steel industry for the purpose of getting coal and iron ore?

[Translation]

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member that he is very concerned about steel. He also appreciated the good work. When we look at the availability of coal, there is a huge shortage of coal in the country for steel sector, power sector and all sectors. There is abundance of coal available in the Jharia coal field in our country. The Coal Ministry is

continuously trying for that too. A lot of efforts have been made in the last few days and now I think after the Jharkhand elections, the Government of India will take steps in that direction, but we import 70 percent of the total coal requirement in the steel sector. Right now SAIL, RINL and MNDC have formed a company, through which we want to take this work forward. Wherever there is availability of coal abroad, such as in Mozambique, Mines has still been acquired. Production has started from there and coal will start coming from there in a few days. In this direction, we are concerned and trying to increase the availability of coal.

[English]

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is a troubling complacency emerging in the pattern of answers by the Ministry. Today, we are assured by the Hon. Minister that coal supply has not been disrupted due to cancellation of coal blocks by the Supreme Court.

In an Unstarred Question No. 2,375 dated 8 December of this month, the Government claimed that in 2013-2014 the total production of iron ore was 152.43 million tonnes. In contrast, the estimated consumption is only 110.5 million tonnes. In other words, they are assuring us that there is no shortage of iron ore, and major

steel plants are doing fine, etc. In that case, there is a fundamental issue that comes up: why is it that we find according to the Government's own figures that India's iron ore imports have risen to a record 6.76 million tonnes in the first seven months of this fiscal year? What is more, Tata Steel in 100 years has never imported iron ore; this time, for the first time in 100 years, they had to import iron ore. Similar is the case with major producers of steel like JSW and others. It is clear that the steel industry is not able to get adequate iron ore supplies from domestic mines, despite India being one of the world's leading producers and suppliers of iron ore.

So, my question to the Hon. Minister is, has the Government of India taken any steps to identify the reasons for this anomaly along with corrective measures to increase the production of quality iron ore. We cannot become a country that exports raw material to countries like China and imports iron ore from outside. I think we are failing our nation, Madam. I would appreciate a clarification from the Hon. Minister.

[Translation]

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I said it in the past also that if the steel industry is in crisis, then the biggest reason for it is the unavailability of iron and due to that

whatever circumstances were created in the past, many mines were closed. Due to that there has definitely been a decrease in availability and because of that the steel industry is in crisis. But continuously we are trying in this direction that mining should be maximum, iron ore availability should increase and for this we have also issued new guidelines, due to which a lot has happened. We are also sitting with the Government's equipment NNDC and its production will increase, it will come in the market, we are also trying from this point of view. Apart from this, some other steps have also been taken by the Ministry of Steel and the Ministry of Mining in this direction.

**(Q. 404)**

[English]

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:** Madam Speaker, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 is the first major social security legislation for the workers in independent India. Around three crore employees are directly benefited by the ESI scheme. The previous UPA Government had assured EPF pensioners a minimum pension of Rs. 1,000, as also the income ceiling for employees for ESI coverage was decided to be increased from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether these assurances or decisions of the previous Government are being Honoured by this Government and, if so, whether the assurances will have retrospective effect.

**SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA:** Madam Speaker, I have already laid the statement on the Table of the House. Recently, in the 162<sup>nd</sup> meeting of ESIC, we have made some decisions. One of them is about increasing the ceiling from Rs. 1,500 per insured person per annum to Rs. 2,000 per annum. The second decision is to further increase it by Rs. 150 per insured person per annum during the next

five years, that is, with effect from 2015-16. For effectively monitoring the ESI scheme, we have authorized the State Governments; following the approvals, we have formed a State Committee consisting of the Principal Secretary and the Commissioner so that more deUnionization can take place, and whenever any local problems arise, including bed occupancy, the authorization to resolve those problems has been given to it. The State Executive Committee will have powers of up to Rs. 3 crore for special repair of 200 bedded ESI hospitals and up to Rs. 5 crore for special repair of ESI hospitals with more than 200 beds. That is why, for the effective monitoring of the ESIC Scheme, we have made several stages in the Committee.

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:** My second question is that a good number of ESIC hospitals are established across the length and breadth of our country and lakhs of employees and their families are benefiting from these hospitals. It was also decided by the UPA Government to establish 50 new ESIC medical colleges in various parts of the country. I wish to know whether any of the ESIC medical colleges are proposed to be set up by this Government also. I would also like to know whether any of these medical colleges declared by the Labour Department including one at Paripally have

started admissions in these medical colleges or when it is likely to start.

**SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA:** I have already mentioned the initiatives which we have taken. Apart from that, there are two or three more initiatives which we have taken. To improve the quality of medicines and drug testing policy, that has also been changed and all the batches of drugs supplied by each vendor are subjected to the lab test. ... (*Interruptions*)

I am coming to that point. Actually, I want to mention one important point. Our services are meant for those who come under the working class. Our main core subject is not to see the medical education. I will separately discuss this with the Hon. Member. I do not want to explain much of the things because at certain point of time, there was a surplus of Rs. 20,000 crore. At that time, the then Government decided to go for medical education. There is a Tripartite Committee. Many Hon. Members are also Members of that tripartite Committee. In that Committee, workers felt as to why their contribution be spent on medical education which is not our core subject. In view of that, we have asked the State Governments to take up the project.

We are separately discussing that with the Kerala Government.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:** Madam, health is a subject which is not linked to quantity but to quality. The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme primarily benefits our poor labourers, who manufacture everything from a needle to a ship. For this purpose, the worker contributes 1.75 percent of his salary, while the employer in industries or factories contributes 4.75 percent from his share. If we consider the ESI facilities, there are twelve dispensaries in Ludhiana, and only one hospital. There are neither doctors nor medicines available for the workers. Whether we are people of means or otherwise, we have the liberty to seek treatment at Apollo, Max Hospital, or other large hospitals. But what of the labourer who contributes to the progress of the country? I am of the opinion that multiple healthcare cards should be issued especially for the labourers, enabling them and their family to receive medical treatment as per their choice. We have just mentioned the ESI. Why should the labourer be confined to a facility lacking doctors and medicines, when all the work is carried out by labourers? Yet, he is unable to receive proper treatment at such hospitals. In this regard, the Hon. Minister should assure the House that the labourer and his family will have access to medical treatment at any reputable

hospital. You may say that he was referred to the ESIC Hospital, but in reality, no such referral has been made. I am conveying to you the truth as it exists at the ground level.

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is about the multiple card.

**SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA:** Madam, there are a large number of empanelled hospitals. Super specialty treatment also is to be provided by those empanelled hospitals. We are sending the patients to the empanelled hospitals. We are taking utmost care particularly in some of our own hospitals, like in my Constituency Sanatnagar, there is a super specialty hospital and there are referral hospitals in which we are taking care of the patients.

[Translation]

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:** Madam, as far as ESIC Scheme is concerned, it is quite a good programme for the workers. Once upon a time Ahmedabad was a textile city. It was known as the Manchester of India. There were a lot of workers there, there were lakhs of IPs there. When the mills closed, after that many new production units were started due to the development works of the Gujarat Government. As far as Ahmedabad is concerned, this is my

Parliamentary Constituency, there is a model hospital of ESIC working there. A new hospital has just been built, it has been very good, but there is no facility there. They send a plane to another hospital for X-ray, send it to other hospital for cardiogram, send it for super-specialty. As far as staff is concerned, employees are concerned, a new hospital has been built in Vapi, Gujarat for the employees there. Employees are sent to Ahmedabad from the hospital, be it nursing staff, paramedical staff or doctors, they are sent there. Due to this they are facing difficulties. My request to the Hon. Minister is whether you will make the ESIC Model Hospital convenient? If you do a new hospital estate in Vapi, then a new staff should be recruited there and not transfer the people of Ahmedabad there. . . . (*Interruptions*) Will you recruit new staff there?

**SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA:** Madam, Hon. Member has asked about the hospitals in Gujarat. Renovation is going on in some of them and services are also being provided in some of them. We have made provisions for where there is a shortage of doctors. In the coming time, we will make a policy to appoint already doctors by making a plan of ten years. We find it a little difficult to get super-specialty doctors, we are trying to recruit them as well. But wherever there are vacancies of doctors, two things have come to mind. One is

that doctors are becoming less in superspeciality and doctors are going to private hospitals. For that, we are also considering increasing the facilities of doctors.

[English]

**SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA:** Madam, I would like to ask, through you, the Hon. Minister whether the critical and severe diseases like cancer are also covered under the ESI scheme because most of the poor people cannot afford it. Treatment of these diseases is very expensive. I would like to know whether these diseases are covered under the ESI scheme.

**SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA:** Madam, wherever new areas are there, we are taking up the survey. Once the IMP numbers are covered, the survey will be given to the State Government. In turn, the State Government will recommend these things.

Secondly, even in the ESI hospitals, cancer is also covered in our scheme. Special hospitals are also provided. Further, I am expanding the coverage of IMPs.

**(Q. 405)**

[Translation]

**DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:** Madam, it is clear from the reply of the Hon. Minister of Railways that the number of deaths on railway line is increasing every year. Every year about 15 thousand people are victims of accidents on railway lines. There are several reasons for unauthorized entry onto railway tracks, such as the lack of adequate foot overbridges, an insufficient number of platforms, and the absence of automatic escalators or elevators.

The Government had constituted a Committee on the safety of passengers under the chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kakodkar. This committee had suggested to the Government to convert all road crossings into bridges. I want to know from the Government how much work has been done so far by implementing these suggestions and if these suggestions are not implemented then why it was not done?

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** Madam, it is absolutely correct that the Government had constituted a Committee for Safety headed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, the report of that Committee has also come. Many of his suggestions are being discussed, but the concrete steps that

needed to be taken, I have called a meeting after becoming a Minister. They have very good suggestions, wherever possible at the earliest, we will follow those suggestions.

It is true that safety should be in the priority of railways. We have also decided that all the Directors General of Police across the country, because you know that to see safety, there is one Railway Protection Force and there is one General Railway Police, who comes under the State Government, their Director General of Police was never called for a meeting. I will request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs for a special meeting and we are going to call a meeting, where we will focus on this entire sentiment.

Along with this, most of the deaths that take place are one of the most important reasons that today we have illegal trespassing, a lot of encroachment has taken place on the railway line, due to which a lot of deaths also occur and this also happens due to the increase in population. Keeping all these things in mind how to reduce this number, for which there are vulnerable spots, like going from here there are a lot of deaths in Moradabad. Out of the 18,725 deaths which have taken place, 5,527 deaths have happened only in the rail sector of Northern India. Keeping the same sector in mind, with the

maximum focus while targeting, we are going to take steps there also.

**DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:** Madam, through you, I would like to know from the Government whether in view of such a large number of deaths per year, the Government is contemplating to open a clinic equipped with ICU at each railway station so that the injured persons on the railway line can be given first aid and their lives saved. If yes, give details thereof and if not, why not?

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** Madam, this suggestion is very good, but keeping in view the economic condition of the railways we have to take steps. Becoming a welfare state is our ultimate objective, but before that we should also think about where we are starting from. It is very good suggestion that a hospital can be opened over every station, but I do not believe that keeping in mind today's economic condition it is possible. We have given orders that if any person is injured, he should be first taken to a nearby hospital. The Police process should be done later, but we have asked to give maximum priority and take whatever steps are required to save his life. I believe that the suggestion of the Hon. Member is very good, it will be taken into consideration, but I don't think we will be able to

implement it in the near future. This is a very good suggestion, I definitely believe this.

**SHRI RAM CHARTARI NISHAD:** Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister through you that in this month there was an accident on unmanned railway crossing of five children in Mau district in Uttar Pradesh. This is a very serious issue all over India today. These incidents are increasing day by day. Today there are 11563 unmanned railway crossings across India and right now in my own Machhilishahr Lok Sabha Constituency three months ago in the line market a former Minister of Uttar Pradesh and his two gunners died in an accident on unmanned railway crossing. I want to know from the Hon. Minister through you that is there any fund of the Government to make all the unmanned railway crossings, manned gates or is there any scheme which is completed at the earliest?

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** Madam, by the way I had already replied that we have about 11 thousand unmanned railway crossings here and that is also one reason why people die. Hon. Member spoke about Mau. Hon. Member may also be aware that you have given me permissions and I have made a suo-moto statement here. Immediately after that I reached there with my Minister of State and

Chairman, Railway Board. There was no means of transport to go there. We reached there by requesting our Hon. Defense Minister to take his chopper. To save the lives of the children from there, probably it would not have happened earlier, we also wanted to airlift by making a provision of special ambulances, but the situation was not good at that time. That's why we sat in ambulances and brought those children and because of that some of the children's lives were also saved. It is absolutely correct. We took this unprecedented step, because at that time there was a need to save the lives of every child for whatever reason, because it is our duty.

The manner in which 11 thousand unmanned railway crossings are needed to build gates including humans, is being considered. Perhaps we will be able to say something on this in the budget, but even after it is made, as we said, Jio Special Technology can inform us as to how it should be made. We have called a meeting of Heads of all IITs in the country, as many Science and Technology Institutions. We will put a challenge before them how we can avoid this accident by any adequate means available today keeping in mind the safety.

[English]

**SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:** Hon. Speaker Madam, seeing the large number of accidents which have been taking place especially on the unmanned railway crossings, the Hon. Minister of Railways has tried his level best to explain the situation of the Railways and has cited inadequate financial provisions to cater to this demand. Nevertheless, in recent accidents which have taken place after he took over as the Hon. Minister of Railways, innocent children have been killed on the railway tracks. The Hon. Minister has himself visited the spots and he has realized that.

As the Hon. Minister has pointed out, there are financial constraints in manning the unmanned railway crossings. Will the Government consider going in for alternative arrangements like toll or privatization? There has to be some time frame within which this has to be achieved. We see that the figures of accidents on unmanned railway crossings have been increasing year after year. This question has been asked several times on the floor of the House. Can the Hon. Minister of Railways spell out within what timeframe this matter will be resolved and whether there is some sort of thinking to privatize or go in for toll in this process to achieve this in a definite time period?

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I thank the Hon. Member for raising the question regarding the possibility of involving institutions other than the Government in preventing accidents on unmanned railway crossings. We have already decided that we are going to advertise in newspapers inviting all the civil society organizations- NGOs, industrial or religious organizations and school authorities- to volunteer themselves to protect a particular unmanned railway crossing for prevention of accidents. In addition to that, we have planned to put up large hoardings with flashing signals outside the unmanned level crossings so that a person approaching the crossing is aware of the risk. Besides, we are trying to find out whether we can involve Home Guards. We are calling a meeting of DGPs for focusing on security issues. States have to be involved into this because this is a State subject. So we are trying to do everything possible to address this challenge in terms of eliminating unmanned level crossings. We will also consider the option of toll road as suggested by you. We will try to take it on board.

**12. 00 hrs.**

**DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR:** The Vision 2020 Document was released by the then Railway Minister, Hon. Shrimati Mamata

Banerjee, in order to ensure safety of passengers, inclusion of anti-collision device and manning of unmanned level-crossings and also to have passenger emergency medical train, etc. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, where we stand today as far as these proposals are concerned.

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** All these proposals are under various stages of implementation. As I said, I am not very well satisfied with the speed at which we are working on it. We are trying to find out how we could intervene more to make sure that we complete it in a time-bound manner, rather than waiting indefinitely for finding out funds to be available for these. We are also separately, independent of this, trying to find out large resources, outside of the Union Budgetary Support that we normally rely on, to raise the resources, to make sure that we address this concern, to try and invest money in it to prevent such unfortunate catastrophes.

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## **\*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 406 to 420

Unstarred Question Nos. 4601 to 4830

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**12. 02 hrs.**

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now papers to be laid.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
  
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1535/16/14)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1536/16/14)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1537/16/14)

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, Noida, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, Noida, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1538/16/14)

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):**

I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

- (2) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1539/16/14)

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

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1540/16/14)

(2) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 220 in Gazette of India dated 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1541/16/14)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN):** Hon. Madam Speaker, 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 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1542/16/14)

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1543/16/14)

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1544/16/14)

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the GAIL (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the GAIL (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1545/16/14)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1546/16/14)

(3) A copy of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand Natural Gas Pipelines) Amendment Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. PNGRB/NGPL/REGULATIONS/AMEND-2014 in Gazette of India dated 8th August, 2014 under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1547/16/14)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH EASTERN REGION, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Fundamental (First Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 27(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th January, 2014 under article 309 of the Constitution of India.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1548/16/14)

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA):** I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1549/16/14)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1550/16/14)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1551/16/14)

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North East Zone Culture Centre, Dimapur, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North East Zone

Culture Centre, Dimapur, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1552/16/14)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1553/16/14)

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Noida, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council

for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Noida, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1554/16/14)

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1555/16/14)

(8) A copy each of the Annual Reports for the year 2013-2014 (Hindi and English versions) alongwith Audited Accounts in respect of the following institutes:-

(i) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, HaJipur.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1556/16/14)

(ii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1557/16/14)

(iii) Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology Thiruvananthapuram.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1558/16/14)

(iv) Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1559/16/14)

(v) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Lucknow.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1560/16/14)

(vi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology

and Applied Nutrition, Chennai.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1561/16/14)

(vii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1562/16/14)

(viii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1563/16/14)

(ix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1564/16/14)

(x) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1565/16/14)

(xi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology

and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1566/16/14)

(xii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1567/16/14)

(xiii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1568/16/14)

(xiv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Shimla.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1569/16/14)

(xv) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1570/16/14)

(xvi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology

and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1571/16/14)

(xvii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1572/16/14)

(xviii) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gwalior.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1573/16/14)

(xix) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gurdaspur.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1574/16/14)

(xx) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition (Calcutta) Society, Kolkata.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1575/16/14)

(xxi) Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology

and Applied Nutrition, Shillong.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1576/16/14)

(9) A copy of the Consolidated Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the above mentioned institutes for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1577/16/14)

(10) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1578/16/14)

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1579/16/14)

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1580/16/14)

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1581/16/14)

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotel Private Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotel Private Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1582/16/14)

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1583/16/14)

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1584/16/14)

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1585/16/14)

- (i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1586/16/14)

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1587/16/14)

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Dahung, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Dahung, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1588/16/14)

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1589/16/14)

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1590/16/14)

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1591/16/14)

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1592/16/14)

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1593/16/14)

(18) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013, together with Audit Report thereon.

(19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1594/16/14)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA):** I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. S. O. 726(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 complying the provisions of the “Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S. O. 2985(E) dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1595/16/14)

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the IRCON International Limited,

New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1596/16/14)

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the RITES Limited, Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the RITES Limited, Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1597/16/14)

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the

Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1598/16/14)

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1599/16/14)

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments

of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1600/16/14)

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES  
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL**

**(SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(1) Review by Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Field, for the year 2013-2014.

(2) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Field, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1601/16/14)

**12. 03 ½ hrs.**

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Madam Speaker, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

“In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2014, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.”

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**12. 04 hrs.**

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**10<sup>th</sup> Report**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** I beg to present the Tenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

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**12. 04 ¼ hrs.**

**COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES  
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

**Study Tour Report**

[Translation]

**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the study tour of the Committee on the Welfare of

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Bhopal, Panchmarhi, Mumbai and Jaipur during February, 2013.

**12. 04 ½ hrs.**

## **COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

### **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reports**

[English]

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD):** I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table:-

(1) First Report of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2014-2015).

(2) Second Report of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2014-2015) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee in their Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports (Fifteenth Lok Sabha).

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**12. 04 ¾ hrs.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**5<sup>th</sup> Report**

[Translation]

**SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (MADHUBANI):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries).

**12. 05 hrs.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
Ist to 4<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (FULPUR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2014-15):-

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Electronics and Information Technology).
- (3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).
- (4) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

**12. 05 ¼ hrs.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM (GARHWAL):** Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English Versions) of the Standing Committee on Defense:-

- (1) Second Report of the Standing Committee on Defense on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to General Defense Budget.
  - (2) Third Report of the Standing Committee on Defense on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to the Army.
  - (3) Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Defense on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to Navy and Air Force.
  - (4) Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Defense on Demands for Grants (2014-15) pertaining to Ordnance Remarks and Defense Research and Development Organisation.
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**12. 05 ½ hrs.**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY**

### **Ist to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reports**

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2014-15):-

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of Power for the year 2014-15.
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year of 2014-15.
- (3) Third Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-first Report of the Committee on Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

**12. 05 ¾ hrs.**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Reports**

[English]

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM):** I beg to present the following Reports (English and Hindi versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:-

- (1) Third Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2014-15.
  - (2) Fourth Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2014-15.
-

**12. 06 hrs.**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

### **4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY (CHIKKABALLAPUR):** I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance (2014 –15):-

- (1) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Planning.
- (2) Eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-ninth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject ‘Current Economic Situation and Policy Options’.
- (3) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Seventy-fourth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the Subject ‘Economic Impact of Revision of Natural Gas Price’.

**12. 06 ½ hrs.**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reports**

**SHRI J. C. DIVAKAR REDDY (ANANTAPUR):** I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2014-15):-

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).
  - (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).
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**12. 06 ¾ hrs.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Report**

[Translation]

**DR. VEERENDRA KUMAR (IKAMGARH):** Madam, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014'.

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**12. 07 hrs.**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL**

### **1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Reports**

[English]

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

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Coal.
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Mines.
- (3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Steel.
- (4) Fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations / recommendations contained in the Fiftieth Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Service Conditions of Workers Including Contract Workers in Coal India Ltd. and its Subsidiaries' of the Ministry of Coal.

- (5) Fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fifty-first Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Service Conditions of Workers in Public Sector Steel Companies' of the Ministry of Steel.
- (6) Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fifty-second Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Marketing and Transportation of Steel by Public Sector Steel Companies' of the Ministry of Steel.

**12. 07 ½ hrs.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE**

**115<sup>th</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA (NIZAMABAD):** I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce:-

- (1) 115<sup>th</sup> Report on Action Taken by Government on the Observations / Recommendations of the Committee contained in its One Hundred and Tenth Report on FDI in Pharmaceutical Sector.
  - (2) 116<sup>th</sup> Report on Action Taken by Government on the Observations / Recommendations of the Committee contained in its One Hundred and Fourteenth Report on Activities and Functioning of India Trade Promotion Organization.
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**12. 08 hrs.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS**

**182<sup>nd</sup> and 183<sup>rd</sup> Reports**

**SHRI HARISH MEENA (DAUSA):** I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:-

- (1) One Hundred and Eighty-second Report on the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in the aftermath of the floods and landslides in Jammu & Kashmir.
- (2) One Hundred and Eighty-third Report on Problems being faced by Refugees and Displaced Persons in J&K.

**12. 09 hrs.**

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 251<sup>st</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on ‘functioning of Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)’, pertaining to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. \***

[Translation]

**MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 251st Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on ‘functioning of Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)’, pertaining to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 1602/16/14.

**12. 09 ½ hrs.**

**(ii) Important decisions arrived at in the Conference of Parties held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at Lima (Peru) under the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):** Hon. Speaker, The Climate Change Conference of Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol was held in Lima (Peru) this year. The final decision was reached after long deliberations and intense negotiations between parties. The key focus of the current negotiations were the following:-

- (i) Finalisation of elements of the draft negotiating text for 2015 Paris Agreement in view of the Durban (COP 2011) decision to finalise “a protocol, another legal agreement or an agreed outcome with legal force,” applicable to all, by December, 2015;
- (ii) Identification of information to be submitted with the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in

pursuance of the Warsaw COP (2013) decision wherein it was decided that countries that were ready to do so would submit the INDCs by March, 2015 and other countries would submit their INDCs as early as possible; and

(iii) Enhancement of pre-2020 actions which was part of the Warsaw mandate to be taken forward in Lima.

I had the privilege and responsibility of leading the Indian delegation that participated in the Lima Conference. India participated in the Conference with a constructive and positive approach. Our main task was to protect India's long term interests and emphasise the need for growth and development space to tackle the problem of eradicating poverty, providing energy access to all and address other developmental priorities. In this endeavour, we were guided by the vision of the Government and Cabinet mandate. Our stand in the negotiations was also guided by the principle of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, which is the bedrock principle of the UNFCCC.

Against this backdrop, I am happy to inform the House that the Lima Conference took some important decisions and came out with a 'Lima Call for Climate Action.' India was able to play an active role in representing the interest of developing countries by

constructive cooperation with like-minded developing countries and effective and persuasive presentation of its national position.

The Conference decided that the new agreement will be under the Convention and – that is very important - will reflect the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities in the light of different national circumstances. It was also agreed that the new agreement will address all elements that is mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and transparency of action and support in a balanced manner. The current submissions and views of Parties were captured in the form of an Annex and it was decided to continue discussions on the issue in future meetings of the Ad-hoc Durban Platform (ADP). However, this will not prejudice the legal form of the agreement or the subsequent submission or views by Parties. The draft placed in the Annex text has to be finalised by May, 2015 for being placed for consideration and adoption of Parties in the Paris COP 21 to be held in December, 2015. The recognition that all elements need to be addressed in a balanced manner is a key outcome of the Conference as there were efforts by some Developed Countries to undermine the basic tenets of the Convention.

Another key decision was regarding the INDCs to achieve the objective of the Convention as set out in Article 2 of the Convention. Here, it was decided that countries should not backslide from current pledges. This is especially relevant in view of the action of some countries, which had gone back on their Kyoto Protocol commitments. The Lima Conference agreed that the contribution of countries has to be more than their current commitments.

The Parties have been requested to communicate their INDCs as early as possible (by first quarter of 2015, by those who are ready to do so). Some Parties were endeavouring to impose an ex-ante assessment of the INDCs in the process. It meant that the INDCs would be mitigation centric and that after countries submit their INDCs, these would be aggregated to ascertain whether the sum total of contributions is adequate to achieve the global goal of containing temperature rise to below 2 degree Celsius by the end of the century from pre-industrial levels. Any gap between the two could mean pressure on countries to re-submit their INDCs or enhance their contributions. However, India and many other countries of the developing world were not in favour of such externally imposed review as it would compromise the sovereignty of Parties in determining their targets as per their national

circumstances. We have been able to successfully ensure that countries can include adaptation, finance, technology transfer etc also in their INDCs in addition, to mitigation and there is no “ex-ante assessment” to be undergone. Now countries have to submit quantifiable information on the reference point (base year), time frames, scope and planning process, assessments etc. related to the INDCs. This would only be published on the UNFCCC website and a Synthesis Report of the aggregate effect of the INDCs of those Parties that have communicated their INDCs by 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015 will be prepared by 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2015.

The enhancement of action in the pre-2020 period was another important issue. It was decided to accelerate action on enhancing the pre-2020 actions like early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol second commitment period, revisiting of targets and conditionalities associated with it and provision of finance, technology and capacity building support by developed countries to developing countries in consonance with Warsaw decisions. The Parties also agreed to organise further Technical Expert Meetings to examine options for further action in the period 2015-2020.

On the issue of finance, it was decided that developed countries parties will provide and mobilise enhanced financial support to

developing country parties for ambitious mitigation and adaptation action. As Hon. Members are aware, the Green Climate Fund has been set up and over 10 Billion US dollars have already been pledged to it. However, the goal of mobilising 100 Billion US dollars per year by 2020 is still a far cry. It was also decided to urge contributors to confirm pledges in the form of fully executed contribution agreements taking note of the fact that at least 50 percent of pledges made till November, 2014 should be reflected as fully executed contribution agreements by 30th April, 2015.

Now, this is important for us. The political consensus across the country on the issue of climate change has strengthened our hands and we were able to project successfully the various initiatives taken by the Government including the ambitious target of generating 100,000 MW of solar energy, doubling of cess on coal for clean technologies, rapid afforestation through the Green India Mission and devolution of CAMPA funds to the States, expansion in wind energy and other Energy Efficiency measures. Many Countries appreciated the aggressive efforts of India on climate change under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

We are working on the voluntary national goal of reducing energy intensity of GDP by 20-25 percent by 2020 as compared to

the base year of 2005. The recent UNEP Emission Gap report (2014) has recognised India as being one of the countries on track to achieve the voluntary pledges. We are committed to taking proactive steps on enhancing energy efficiency and expansion of renewable in the fight against climate change. At the same time adaptation measures in agriculture, water resources and urban areas will remain our key priority.

The next year is likely to witness a series of meetings to finalise the new 2015 agreement. We will continue to participate actively in the negotiations and ensure that it is rooted in the Convention and its principles and our national interests. I have benefitted from the able guidance and advice of Hon. Prime Minister, eminent cabinet colleagues and fellow Members of the House, and hope you will continue to support us on these issues. We will continue the dialogue between our Government and Hon. MPs so that we share and exchange views on this extremely important matter in the coming days. ... (*Interruptions*)

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1603/16/14)

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[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** You also know the rule.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will also give you time to speak.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Zero Hour begins only after Calling Attention. I will allow you.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is no discussion about the statement.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam, in the next Session, we should discuss this aspect... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** For that you give notice.

**12. 19 hrs.**

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

**Situation arising out of spread of Encephalitis in Uttar Pradesh  
and other parts of the Country and steps taken by the  
Government in this regard**

**YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR):** Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that they make a statement thereon.

"Situation arising out of spread of encephalitis in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard"

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA):** Hon. Members will recall that my predecessor in office and esteemed colleague had on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 apprised the Hon. Members regarding the situation arising out of spread of Encephalitis in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and

other parts of the country and steps being taken by the Government for the same. We are again discussing this topic today which is an indicator of the significance of this important issue impacting large sections of our population especially in the eastern parts of the country.

Though many Hon. Members, I am sure, are already aware, it would be useful to apprise this august House regarding certain basic facts of Encephalitis also known as brain fever. Encephalitis is inflammation of the brain which can be caused due to various pathogens including virus, bacteria and protozoa. While Japanese Encephalitis is a Vector Borne Disease transmitted through Culex group of mosquitoes, Encephalitis can also be caused by enteroviruses which are water borne. Recently in Muzaffarpur and Malda, cases reported for Encephalitis were neither due to Japanese Encephalitis nor due to enteroviruses. Normally, Encephalitis is affecting children below 15 years of age. However, in the last few years, epidemiological data has revealed that many adults are also being affected and cases of morbidity and mortality, particularly for JE, have been observed in adults in Assam and recently in the districts of North Bengal.

The total numbers of Encephalitis cases reported were 5167 in 2010, 8249 in 2011, 8344 in 2012, 7825 in 2013 and 9912 cases this year up to 17th December. For mortality, the numbers were 679 in 2010, 1169 in 2011, 1256 in 2012, 1273 in 2013 and 1495 up to 17<sup>th</sup> December, this year. In terms of distribution of cases this year, we find that the maximum reported numbers of 3291 cases were from Uttar Pradesh, followed by 2317 cases in West Bengal, 2194 cases in Assam and 866 cases in Bihar. If we look at the districts, the main districts affected in Uttar Pradesh are Khushinagar, Deoria, Maharajganj Gorakhpur and Sidharthnagar; in Bihar, the district Muzaffarpur; in West Bengal, the districts Jalpaiguri, Bankura, Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Burdwan and Bankura and in Assam, the districts Sonitpur, Golaghat, DhimaJi, Shivsagar, Dibrugarh, Kamrup (Metro) and Tinsukia.

The Government of India launched a National Programme for Prevention and Control of JE/AES in the end of 2012-13. This Programme envisages a multipronged strategy in 60 high priority districts in five high endemic States of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal. The districts covered include 20 in Uttar Pradesh, 15 in Bihar, 10 in Assam, 10 in West Bengal and 5 in Tamil Nadu. The stakeholder Ministries include Ministry of

Drinking Water and Sanitation with the task to provide safe drinking water and sanitation facility; Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment with the task to provide rehabilitative services to disabled children; Ministry of Women & Child Development to provide nutrition to children in the affected districts; Ministry of Housing & Poverty Alleviation to provide drinking water facility in urban slums and Ministry of Human Resource Development (Education Department) to develop special curriculum for mentally and physically disabled children. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal Ministry with the task to vaccinate the children in the endemic districts, to improve the case management by establishing Pediatric ICUs at district hospitals, to establish Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Departments and to strengthen public health measures including information-education-communication/behavior-change-communication for prevention and control of JE/AES.

I would like also to share with the Hon'ble Members the action taken by the Government under the National Programme. For JE vaccination, out of 60 high priority districts, vaccination has been completed in 59 districts, the remaining one District (Kanpur Dehat) will also be covered during this financial year. Funds have been

released for setting up of Pediatric ICUs in 27 districts. We are following up with the State Governments for setting up and complete operationalisation of these Pediatric ICUs on priority. This requires civil work, procurement of equipment and recruitment of manpower. While the Physical & Medical Rehabilitation Department at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur is already functional, the Units at K. G. Medical College, Lucknow; BHU, Varanasi; Bankura Medical College; North Bengal Medical College; Gaya Medical College and Patna Medical College require upgradation. Units are required to be set-up at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh and at Guwahati Medical College in Assam. Out of the total 10 proposed Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Units, Rs. 25 crores has already been released for 5 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation units in 2013-14 and for another 4 units release of Rs. 20 crores is under process. Vector control and surveillance activities are being supported under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme. Surveillance is also being undertaken through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project under the National Centre for Disease Control.

For detection of non JE pathogens, the Indian Council of Medical Research has already established a field unit of the National

Institute of Virology, at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur. In addition, the ICMR is conducting research-cum- intervention projects. The NIV, Pune is supplying IgM ELISA kits to sentinel laboratories for the detection of JE cases. These kits are funded by the Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, the Government of India.

I would like to further elaborate on JE vaccination. This was started in the year 2006 and was scaled up in a phased manner over the years. The strategy for JE vaccination is to conduct a one- time campaign, which targets all children from 1-15 years of age, after which the JE vaccination is included as a part of routine immunization in that area. Initially, only one dose of JE vaccine was provided at the age of 16 to 24 months. From April, 2013 onwards, two doses of JE are scheduled under routine immunization, the first at 9 to 12 months and the second at 16 to 24 months of age. Out of the 179 JE endemic districts in the country, 152 districts have been covered by vaccination from 2006 to 2014. Further, a catch up round to cover children missed out during the campaign, routine immunization rounds have been carried out on 22-23 June, 2014 for ten districts of Uttar Pradesh and eight districts of Bihar. Due to the recent cases of JE in adults, this issue was discussed in the National

Technical Advisory Group on Immunization. It was decided that we can take up vaccination for adults too in districts where such adult cases are being reported. The Assam Government has covered adults with JE vaccination in nine districts. This has been beneficial. It is crucial that the coverage of immunization remains high. Our reports show that routine immunization undertaken by the States may not have high coverage in all the target districts. States must, therefore, focus on this important aspect also.

On 5<sup>th</sup> of December this year, a coordination committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reviewed the progress of implementation of the Programme. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has initiated one-week awareness campaign regarding the installation of IM-II hand pumps in the affected districts and till date 75% of the 60-programme districts have been covered under this awareness programme. To monitor the programme in Uttar Pradesh, a sub-committee has been formed which will periodically review the progress. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has made provisions for take home rations under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme for the moderately mal-nourished children and also initiated a training programme for Anganwadi

Workers. Disability Rehabilitation Centers have been established in 11 districts out of the proposed 15 districts by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The NCERT is developing special curriculum for children affected by disability due to JE/AES. The State of Assam has informed that additional 5 districts, that is Barpeta, Darang, Naogaon, Sonitpur and Udalgiri, have been identified to be taken up under adult JE vaccination. It is informed by the State of West Bengal that Critical Care Units are functional and doctors from the District Hospitals are undergoing one month hands on training at SSKM Hospital, Kolkata. Tamil Nadu has informed that Paediatric ICUs of the district hospitals are already functional though they need upgradation as per the specifications suggested under the National Programme. The State further informed that the procurement of equipment needed for the PMR Department of Madurai Medical College, is under process. The Tamil Nadu Medical Officers from the District Hospitals are undergoing training in critical care management at the Institute of Child Health, Egmore.

Funds released under the National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme during 2014-15 to Assam were Rs. 9.16 crores, Bihar Rs. 28.57 crores, Tamil Nadu Rs. 15.61 crores, Uttar Pradesh

Rs. 23.76 crores and West Bengal Rs. 18 crores. These funds are to be used for prevention and control of Vector Borne Disease including implementation of the JE/AES activities. In addition, Rs 5.35 crores have been released under NHM flexi pool to support the contractual human resources at JE/AES wards at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur. Similarly, in 2011-12 and 2012-13 too an amount of Rs. 3.05 crores was released under NHM to improve the manpower situation at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur.

Hon'ble Members will appreciate that prevention and control of AES/JE requires concerted and coordinated action along with expeditious setting up of infrastructure being supported under the programme. This entails effort by all stakeholders including both the Union and the State Governments, the local self- Governments, the medical fraternity and the non-Governmental organizations. Provision of clean drinking water is critical for prevention of AES. For JE, effective vaccination coverage and vector control measures are necessary. Vector control measures include source reduction, sanitation and improving practices to pig rearing. For quick response, doctors, whether from the Government or from the private institutions, must assess cases of fever for neurological symptoms and refer such patients to higher health facility without delay. The

programme for Prevention and Control of AES/JE is being regularly monitored and I would especially appeal to the State Governments to utilize the funds already released or being released to them.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will continue to closely monitor the situation. I will be very happy to receive guidance from the Hon'ble Member for any further action in the matter. Thank you.

[Translation]

**YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR):** Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister, as he has put forth his statement regarding this disease in detail in the House. More or less I have been listening to a similar statement for the last 15-16 years. I think there will be no Session of Parliament when I have not put this issue in this House under some rule of conduct of Lok Sabha. This disease first came to Tamil Nadu in the year 1956 in this country. This disease came to the Eastern North from Tamil Nadu via Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal in the year 1978. In these 36 years, the number of child deaths in eastern Uttar Pradesh has been steadily increasing. The death figures, which I will present in this House now, reflect whether the innocent people of Purvi Uttar Pradesh have no right to live? Whether the innocent children of Eastern Uttar Pradesh do not have the freedom to live a healthy life, who become victims of this disease every year. Due to this, serious questions arise on the working system of governance, administration. If I just talk about eastern Uttar Pradesh, terrorism has not occurred in the entire country for 20 years as many as innocent children have died in seven districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh due to one disease. Insiflitis has become a symbol of fear in

eastern Uttar Pradesh. Children between the ages of one to 15 years died in the same BRD Medical College every year. If someone tries to take treatment on time or he recovers, then the more deaths occur, the more children suffer from physical and mental disability.

I will also present out those facts which the Hon. Minister has made a statement here. What is the truth of the schemes being run by the Government, I think these things should also come before the House. I have been drawing the attention of the House to this issue for years together. If something happens at the level of Government of India, what is the machinery of the State Government doing? This disease shows the culmination of their insensitivity. I have old statistics of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, I want to place it before you. There were more deaths due to this disease in the year 2005. There were 6061 mental fever patients admitted that year out of which 1500 children died. In the year 2006, 2320 patients were admitted and 525 children died. In the year 2007, 3024 patients were admitted and 995 died. In the year 2008, 3015 patients were admitted and 684 died; 784 deaths occurred in 2009. In the year 2010, 3503 patients were admitted and 514 died. In the year 2011, 3308 patients were admitted and 627 died. In the year 2012, 2517 patients were admitted and 527 died. In the year 2013, 2110 patients

were admitted and 619 died. So far this year, more than 2200 patients have been admitted in only BRD Medical College in which 607 children have died till yesterday. 607 children die under one roof in the same medical college and no news is made, no action is taken at the state Government level? The action which should be taken at the Union Government level should not be visible at the ground level. The death toll of 607 children is only from BRD Medical College. Surveillance in other district hospitals is very poor. The Hon. Minister talked about surveillance, not a single CSC, PHC, district hospital in Uttar Pradesh treats this disease. They have no system and they don't want to do it. Surveillance system has collapsed so there are 607 children in a BRD medical college, no information and data of patients going to any district hospital, CSC, PHC, private hospitals is with the Government, this shows the horrors of the disease.

Madam, it is not only a matter of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. I saw in the newspapers that the children died in the district hospital. I went to the hospital in that district and asked the CMO. I said how did these children die? The statement of the Chief Medical Officer there was, he said that it is an unknown disease. I said that medical science has moved so far, can any disease remain unknown even today? "We

don't have any victims, we don't have any system, so we can't do anything. This is the truth of the health system of Uttar Pradesh. That is why I requested you, I and Hon. MP Shri Jagdambika Pal Ji came before you and made a humble request to you. So many children are dying under one roof and we have seen your condolences on the death of 132 victims of terrorism in Pakistan, the whole country, the whole world has seen. At least those innocent children of eastern Uttar Pradesh are also able to make their statements in the House and there are some efforts at the level of the Government of India. When we express our views through that, the Government of India moves forward with little effort, but these efforts are insufficient. That is why I want to say through you.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** It has been eight minutes since he gave the statement. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Let us give ten minutes for this. The problem is also serious.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I had given the same permission to Shrimati Ranjeeta the day before yesterday. This issue is also serious.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** I wonder why Shri Kharge Saheb stands up in every case.

**HON. SPEAKER:** kindly share your views.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** It is surprising that the children who die of this disease belong to the most Dalit minority and 99 percent of the children of farmer families, if still the things of those children are put here, then Kharge Saheb. . (*Interruptions*) . . . \* I am surprised. Hon. Members get agitated on this issue. This is not a question of confusion. Discuss this issue. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Such allegation will not go on record.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** Find a concrete way to solve this problem.  
. . . (*Interruptions*)

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\* Not recorded.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Adityanath Ji, don't make allegations, everyone is concerned about it.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** I am not referring to any allegation. . . . (*Interruptions*) I am merely intervening. . . . (*Interruptions*) If there is to be one standard, the proceedings of the House shall be conducted by the Hon. Chair, and not by Members repeatedly standing and interrupting the debate. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** You ask your question. Ask for clarification.

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** Madam, due to our continuous efforts of 16 years, some vaccination work was done in the year 2005-06.

**HON. SPEAKER:** The statement of the Hon. Minister has been placed on record in the complete details; you may kindly seek clarification thereon

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** Vaccination against Japanese encephalitis has been done and some results have also emerged. In Eastern Uttar Pradesh, JE has come down from 36 percent to four percent. JE has decreased, but enterovirus cases have increased. Both these cases have increased, that is why the situation has been going on for 36 years. In these cases, I would only like to say that if we had a solid

long-term plan at the national level to eradicate encephalitis, then the entire country would have worked towards the treatment and eradication of encephalitis. An effective program would have taken place within. But the data presented by Hon. Minister here, I would like to go to the old data of the Health Department.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please don't repeat.

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** According to that, within Uttar Pradesh, the Hon. Minister has visited 20 Janpath; however, there are approximately 34 districts within the state that are affected by this disease. Across the country, nearly 170 districts in 19 states are, to varying degrees, impacted by it. Owing to this disease, innocent citizens from various regions, including eastern Uttar Pradesh, continue to lose their lives. Yet, no concrete action plan has been formulated in this regard thus far. In Uttar Pradesh, there has been a scam of approximately ₹4,000 crore under the National Rural Health Mission. Meanwhile, innocent children in eastern Uttar Pradesh continue to lose their lives due to the unavailability of essential medicines. This is indeed a deeply concerning situation. A writ petition was filed before the Hon. High Court in the year 2007, wherein the Court directed both the State Government and the Union Government to establish a Centre of Excellence for Japanese

Encephalitis in Gorakhpur, aimed at the prevention and complete eradication of the disease. The state Government did not set up the Centre of Excellence for JE in Gorakhpur, SGPGI set up in Lucknow. Seventy-five to eighty per cent of the cases originate from Gorakhpur and eastern Uttar Pradesh, yet the centre has been established at SGPGI, Lucknow. This, despite the Government possessing all relevant data indicating that Gorakhpur serves as a central hub, where patients from the Terai region of western Uttar Bihar, from Nepal, and from across eastern Uttar Pradesh seek medical care. In the year 2007, on the lines of the National Institute of Virology, Pune, a Viral Research Centre was set up in Gorakhpur. The Honourable Minister had also mentioned the Viral Research Centre during his statement; however, the centre currently provides only basic information. No substantive action has yet been taken against the disease, nor has any significant research or work been undertaken on vector-borne diseases at the said centre. After the new Government assumed office, I had discussions with Shri Harsh Vardhan Ji. He had convened meetings on this matter and, on two or three occasions, personally participated in the deliberations with us. Pursuant to those discussions, it was decided that a Regional Virology Centre would be established in Gorakhpur. The need for

such a centre extends beyond Japanese Encephalitis, as the region lies in the lowland belt adjoining Nepal and is prone to multiple vector-borne diseases, including dengue, kala-azar, encephalitis, malaria, and filariasis. There are cases of kidney failure, there are cases of liver cancer and there are many such cases in view of the large quantity of fluoride in the ground water in this entire belt from Patna to Lakhimpur. It was necessary to build a Regional Virology Centre there, but that centre has not been established so far. When it comes to publicity in this country regarding diseases such as swine flu and bird flu, we observe extensive awareness campaigns and advertisements. The Government undertakes significant publicity efforts through radio, television, and other media platforms. However, when deaths occur in Gorakhpur and other parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, there is a stark contrast. Even on 22nd–23rd July, when the Hon. Minister identified eastern Uttar Pradesh for a vaccination drive, no substantial promotional efforts were undertaken by the Government. If we do not create awareness, make people aware, then we will not be able to adopt any concrete strategy for the treatment and eradication of this disease. Therefore, I request you that in this case, if the BRD Medical College comes after the treatment and rehabilitation of the physically and mentally

challenged children in Gorakhpur, then for that PMR Centre was opened in the year 2010. I am extremely sorry to state that the doctors, technicians and other employees working there have not received any Honorarium since the year 2012. The Government of India says that we have opened PMR centre, but the employees working there have not been able to get any Honorarium from the year 2012 till today. This is the Government's plan. In eastern Uttar Pradesh, we see that the team of CDC Atlanta goes, the team of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India goes and all the NGOs go. I think the innocent people of eastern Uttar Pradesh have become guinea pigs of a laboratory for these people. It has become a laboratory for those people. For the last 16 years we look at this, we get only the assurance that we will send the team there, send the team and find a solution to that problem, but in the last 16 years the Government has not been able to come out with any concrete strategy in this regard. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now you sit down, other Hon. Members are also going to speak.

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** Madam, I will conclude by placing one or two points.

Moreover, as the Hon. Minister said about this disease, the epidemic ward was built there with the help of the Government of India. The Honorarium that should have been given by the Government of India to the employees appointed under NRHM for the epidemic wards is sub-standard. Under the fund which has been released from here, a doctor will get only Rs 1500 Honorarium in a month. A technician will get only Rs 1500 per month. Is it possible that a doctor works in a month of Rs 1500? Will a technician work? Fourth class employees will also not be available for Rs 1500. So far, Rs. 1500 has been released for encephalitis, epidemic ward. I have said earlier that the surveillance system is very poor, no CSC, PHC, District Hospital is functioning.

Madam, at present, deaths are happening there. . . .  
*(Interruptions)* I do not know what the problem with these people. . .  
 .is *(Interruptions)* Children are dying there.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You please sit down.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** These things are so irrelevant. . .  
*(Interruptions)* Innocent children of dalits and minorities are dying.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please ask your question.

... (*Interruptions*)

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** These people are suffering. . . .  
(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now you please complete your point.

... (*Interruptions*)

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** At present, deaths are due to entero-virus. .  
. . (*Interruptions*) Deaths are occurring because of polluted water.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Jagdambika Ji needs to speak also.

... (*Interruptions*)

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** Pure water is not available. I would like to know through you from the Hon. Minister, what steps is the Government going to take to make a vaccine for enterovirus also to eradicate encephalitis, just as vaccination was done for JE?

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are not completing.

... (*Interruptions*)

**YOGI ADITYANATH:** In view of the eradication of encephalitis in Eastern Uttar Pradesh or other diseases like dengue, kala-azar, malaria, filariasis, the Government of India had announced AIIMS in

the budget. Will the Government announce AIIMS in Eastern Uttar Pradesh?

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I am extremely grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I will not repeat those things which Adityanath Ji has said with figures. I thank you on behalf of 11 States of Purvanchal and the country. In 11 states, in 1978, encephalitis started from Gorakhpur and eastern Uttar Pradesh, and its magnitude is being seen in 11 states of the country i. e. Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Karnataka and Manipur. I think nothing can be more sensitive than this.

I just want to say two or three things. Hon. Minister said that the Government of India is taking measures, releasing money for the upgradation of these states, releasing money for building children's wards. As soon as the matter came to light, such answers were received. I want to request the Hon, Minister through you not to give the ward money, do not give the upgradation money. We from them in Purvanchal of this country whose children have died or in the future become disabled with Japanese encephalitis, acute encephalitis syndrome, find out that voyeurus. A vaccine for JE has been released and it is also preventive, not a cure. If the

immunization is 100 percent then we can stop JE. 2005 was mentioned by Adityanath Ji that 6000 children got sick. 1500 children died in a year in the year 2005. At that time it was revealed that these are not JEs, acute encephalitis syndrome. There is no vaccine, no cure for acute encephalitis syndrome. We see those children dying. I request you to once go to Gorakhpur Medical College, three children on a bed fight between their life and death. Their number is increasing. In the year 2011, 18 percent of children were dying due to this disease, so today it has increased to 36 percent. What is being done about the measures through which vaccines, wards and even money are being given? I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that if any effort is being made to prevent this disease, then why is the number of children dying of this disease increasing instead of decreasing? . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have said your point.

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** I am not saying any old thing. You are also a mother and all know that 30 percent of the children who survive this disease are either brain damage or nervous system breakdown, due to which these children become disabled for the whole life. Poverty is similar in Purvanchal and when their children are disabled, that family becomes like a living corpse. There is no

rehabilitation facility for them. Will we not do any research for this disease? The world has reached Mars today and we are making all kinds of inventions. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister: What is the Government doing to prevent Acute Encephalitis Syndrome? Is the Government considering any research on this? Is there any medicine for this in the world? If not, will the Government of India make any effort to ensure that children do not die of AES? Will the Government allow any vaccine for this? I will conclude by saying one more thing if it comes to Ebola or Chikungunya in the country. *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your statement has come on record.

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are repeating the same things again and again. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... \**

**SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, today the attention of the whole country has gone towards these children. *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your point is not going on record. You sit down.

*(Interruptions) ... \**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Chaubey Ji, you only have to ask for clarification.

**SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I will only ask questions, as Uttar Pradesh has been discussed more. I myself had gone and had requested you also about this. I thank you for giving me time to speak on the Calling Attention Motion.

Madam, do not repeat what has been said that when there is a litchi season in Bihar, it is affected by it Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Vaishali, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Gopalganj, Siwan, Chhapra, Bettiah and East Champaran. When I was the Hon. Health Minister in the Bihar Government in 2010, I had arranged ambulances etc. in every village, sprayed in every village. I had also spoken to the then Health Minister. I continued to urge the then Union Government, after which they sent a team from Pune. That team has not even given a report till date. Today is the fifth year. I'm very surprised. When Shri Harsh Vardhan became the Health Minister, he called a meeting immediately on my request and he went to Bihar twice. He went to Bihar and studied things. Our Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Ji has become the Health Minister, his statement has come and he himself

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\*Not recorded.

knows Bihar very well because he was born in Bihar. I would urge the Hon. Minister through you to visit all those areas of Bihar now. . . . (Interruptions) Madam, I have just started.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Such a long speech is not given here. You are not understanding calling attention. You just ask questions.

**SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY:** Madam, through you, I would like to make three-four questions to the Hon. Minister. . . . (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your statement has come on record. If you don't finish, I will have to finish. Ask questions quickly.

### **13. 00 hrs.**

**SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY:** Hon. Speaker, I would like that this holistic health policy should be formulated for this, this is my biggest request. My second request is that SK Medical College in Bihar, Muzaffarpur, Gaya Medical College, Bhagalpur Medical College and hundred badges in Patna Medical College and ventilator for ASC along with former Health Ministers had also asked for it, but till date it could not be done.

Secondly, for how long will regional virus testing centres open in Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Patna and Bihar on the lines of NIB? I would also urge about it.

Thirdly, brain tissue, he said that brain tissue will be detected only because this virus is not detected. I would like to examine brain tissue and get its viral checked and at the same time ASC comes from China today for our Japanese encephalitis, that vaccine comes from China, can we not make that vaccine in India. There should also be a research on this. . . . (*Interruptions*)

At the same time, in the end, I would urge that nothing has been arranged by the Government of India for the children who become disabled. Therefore, I would like the EMR centres to be opened in Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Gaya and Patna in Bihar.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Adhir Ranjan Ji, you only have to ask questions.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):** Hon. Speaker, first of all, I am very grateful to you that even though my name is not there, you have given me this opportunity to ask clarification.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I know. I am giving a chance to only two people to speak because the question is related to children and is very

serious. Therefore, despite there being no rule, I am giving you a chance to speak.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Hon. Madam Speaker, this issue is serious and at the same time our party is not insensitive on this issue. We are saying that instead of returning home, it would be better if we try to get the children back their lives. The Hon. Minister himself has mentioned the Malda, Bankura district of North-Bengal. Even earlier, when Harsh Vardhan was the Health Minister, there was a discussion on this subject and I had urged Harsh Vardhan Ji to visit North-Bengal once because North-Bengal is not a district. North Bengal has seven districts as well as Bankura and Bengal and all districts where there is two types of encephalitis. One of them is bacterial and the other is viral – acute and Japanese. This is the prestige of both. Today I want to ask the Hon. Minister for a clarification.

Earlier we had this information that there are 19 states in India where there are 171 endemic districts, have those endemic districts decreased because there are 171 districts in the details that you have given. Around 69 you have told. Secondly, for Japanese encephalitis a native drug called Zenbach was presented in the era of UPA Government because for Japanese encephalitis we have to import

medicine from China. To make us self-sufficient, what is the condition of the indigenously developed, indigenously manufactured medicine, Genbac? Are we capable of indigenously immunization? Along with this, I would also like to know that North Bengal Medical Institute in North-Bengal has seven districts apart from Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal all serve next to it, but the condition of North-Bengal Medical Institute has become very bad. It has no infrastructure. There are no doctors, no seats and especially encephalitis, no biological laboratory for Japanese encephalitis is anywhere in the whole of Eastern India. Therefore, I urge the Government to set up a laboratory in Eastern India in view of this grave situation. I request the Hon. Minister to say something on this topic in your reply.

[English]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Though it goes against the rule, as a special case, you have allowed us to participate and put certain questions directly to the Hon. Minister. I hope the Hon. Minister will answer those questions.

The first question, which I had contemplated in my mind is why the number of districts affected by it have come down. Has the

encephalitis come down in all the States? Secondly, Odisha does not find a mention in the statement of the Hon. Minister in the scheme of things. I know Odisha also was affected. As Yogi Adityanath Ji has said, since 1978, it became a very blown off situation in Odisha, specially in the tribal dominated districts, in the southern part of Odisha.

Madam, two-three measures have been contemplated, which are being taken up by the Government. There is a proposal to have Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Units. But only 10 such units are going to be established, as has been mentioned in the statement.

In this regard, I would submit that there is a Maharaja Krishna Gajapati Medical College & Hospital, Berhampur, in the heart of the southern part of our State. Then, we have Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Paediatrics, Cuttack, established in 1950, which is the unique Paediatrics Institute in Odisha. So, I would like to know whether the Government is going to consider to set up such Physical Medical and Rehabilitation Units in MKGM College & Hospital in Berhampur, Odisha. Secondly, whether another unit is also going to be dedicated for those who are affected by Japanese encephalitis and other such brain fever. I am asking it because a large number of people are affected in Odisha. I do know why

Odisha is not finding any mention there in the statement of the Hon. Minister; whether the report is not coming to him or there is a miscommunication between the Odisha Government and the Centre.

I would, therefore, request the Hon. Minister that special attention should be given to Odisha because it comes in the eastern part of the country; and a large areas, specially the tribal dominated districts of Odisha are affected by this brain fever.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA:** Hon. Madam Speaker, just now the Calling Attention Motion has been presented in the House regarding the subject of Japanese Encephalitis and the manner in which its Impact and all other things have been discussed, I have put everything in detail in my detailed statement in the House. The sentiments that the Hon. Members have expressed are really worrisome and the Government is conscious of them. The Government is trying to control this disease and we are determined to get rid of it till the decisive point. As far as the statement is concerned, I have put everything in detail. The Union Government is working on the subject of funding from the Centre, of creating infrastructure, helping policies. As far as implementation is concerned, state Governments have a very important role in it. I will

not consider it as a blame game, but yes, we all need to pay more attention to its implementation at the grassroots level, because funding is also being done, the Government is also concerned, but the results that should be coming are not coming. .

One thing is certain that from the figures that have come before us, it becomes clear that wherever there is lack of general immunization and where water sanitation is concerned, where ground water is contaminated, this has been a major reason for this. Due to which this disease has taken a severe form. Therefore, the subject in this is not only about the Health Ministry, Major area is of Health Ministry but it is related to other Ministries also. With those Ministries also doing a very exhaustive exercise, it needs to be taken to a decisive turn, conclusive end.

There are many bottlenecks which have taken place. So, as I said, when I was discussing in my ministry, it came to my notice that wherever there is low coverage of routine immunization, the incidence of this disease is more there. There is funding for routine immunization, but its bottlenecks probably include infrastructure, implementation, manpower for it, all these topics will need to be discussed in more detail and need to be thrashed out. So, I have given the answer in the details and I will take it forward and try to

implement it. I would like to tell the Members that first of all, immediately after this session, the Interministerial Committee, which is, generally, headed by the Health Secretary, this time I myself will take this meeting. I assure you that I will try to rectify all the work that has been done from the interministerial point of view and wherever there are shortcomings. Secondly, in these five States, while having a detailed discussion with the Hon. Health Ministers there, I will discuss as to why it is not being implemented. Because if I look at it has come to mind that the implementation of funds is not very good. Rs 12.66 crore given to Assam, only 10 percent has been utilized. In Bihar, only 0.95 percent has been utilized. Tamil Nadu is good enough that 49.9 percent has been utilized. Uttar Pradesh has not given the details as yet. Now the details have not come yet, so what can we do? I am not doing the blame game, but certainly, we will have to, when we are funding, In West Bengal, it is 0.06 percent.

**13. 12 hrs** (Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

That's why I say the first thing to do after this session is for me to personally visit these five states and, while speaking with the Hon.

Health Ministers, identify and resolve the intricacies and problems there. It will be more beneficial. This is what I feel. Many Hon. Members have asked some things, Jagdambika Pal and Adityanath Ji have had a very valid question that what is going on with the research of AES? It has got 17 types of viruses that have been detected. There cannot be a single vaccine. We have included JE in regular immunization, but there cannot be any single vaccine for it. Research is underway in this regard. ICMR is also doing it, Sanjay Gandhi Institute is also doing it and research is also going on in Manipal Medical College. We are on the subject. We will say that we will do some exercise for this as soon as possible. But more importantly, I believe that the amount of public participation and awareness that should have been there has not been achieved. Now as far as ground water utilization is concerned, this AES can be stopped immediately and can be controlled if we drink boiled water. Therefore, our effort will be that when we do immunization, and regular immunization and JE immunization, along with that, we are also sensitizing the doctors about brain fever, when its symptoms are seen, then how to take care of it. We will have to worry about what is done and how to take him to the right hospital and right medical

center. Awareness programmes will also be conducted for this purpose. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Minister, please address the Chair. You continue your reply.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA:** I would also like to state that the State Government will involve Members in the programmes to be undertaken in the near future, and I shall remain mindful of this. I will certainly make efforts to ensure that Members of Parliament, MLAs, and representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions such as Panchayat Pradhans and Sarpanches are actively involved, so that the effectiveness of these initiatives may be enhanced. This shall remain a matter of serious consideration. Our Hon. Member has said about Odisha, God forbid he is not coming to those target districts right now, but still exclusively I will see to it, not that he should come, but what is his situation and if there are any cases, we will pay attention to them also.

Keeping in mind the concern of the House that there should be an action program and effective implementation, I assure you this.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1604/16/14)

**13. 16 hrs.****SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS.... Contd.****(ii)Re: Reported large scale conversion in the country**

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now 'Zero Hour' – Shri K. C. Venugopal.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity for inviting the attention of the august House to such an important issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have called Shri Venugopal and not you. Please take your seat. Let him finish.

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Sir, there are massive forcible conversions taking place. Lot of agony and pain has been created in the minds of the people due to the reported forcible religious conversions happening day by day in various parts of the country. Yesterday two incidents had been reported in Kerala, one in Cheppad, Alappuzha – my Constituency - and the other in Kollam district, which is the Constituency of Hon. Member, Shri Premachandran. The same type of conversion function was reported

from Valsad in the State of Gujarat, the state the Hon. Prime Minister comes from.

Certainly, this indicates the purposeful movement of the Sangh Parivar which is organising these types of massive forcible conversions. As per the reports, around 100 Christians were converted to Hinduism at a tribal village, 350 kilometres south of State Capital, Ahmedabad.

Sir, I am coming to the fact. The fact is that the Chengannur Unit of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Alappuzha has itself claimed to have converted 30 Christians belonging to eight families to Hinduism at a ceremony.

Everybody has the freedom to choose his own religion according to his own faith. We all believe in that, but giving false promises and converting people is creating tension among the people and it will disturb the communal harmony of the country. This is not an innocent move. These massive functions are being held with huge publicity by the organisers themselves as Vishwa Hindu Parishad's people are themselves claiming that such and such persons are already converted Hindus. This is a clear indication of their agenda. The aggressive speeches made by the leaders of the VHP are also hurting the sentiments of the secular people. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (FULPUR):** Why are you repeatedly naming the Vishwa Hindu Parishad? . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Sir, I am quoting. ... (*Interruptions*)

You just hear I am quoting. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, you have to protect me. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You come to the point that you want to make.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Sir, I am quoting a statement just asserting that the whole world was one inhabited by Hindus. VHP leader ... \* declared that the right wing organisation will ensure that the population of Hindus in the country should be increased from 82 percent to 100 percent. What is this? This is the statement given by . . . \* the VHP leader.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The name cannot go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Sir, I would like to ask a specific question to the Government, through you. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting is here. Is the Hon. Minister going to condemn this statement? Is the Government going to condemn this statement? Last week Hon. Shri Venkaiah Naidu had told this House 'I am really proud of being a Member of Sangh Parivar. 'Sir, last week, the Hon. Minister proudly stated that he is really proud of being a part of the *Sangh Parivar* family. ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, you must condemn it. ... (*Interruptions*) You must have a duty ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I have to complete. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, first listen to me, then the Minister's reply be there. . . . (*Interruptions*)

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

[English]

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a time limit during the 'Zero Hour'. He has made his point. ... (*Interruptions*) He wanted a statement from the Government. If the Members have a right to express their views, then the Government also has a duty to express its views and then inform the House. ... (*Interruptions*) My point is very simple. ... (*Interruptions*) Do not quote names of people who are not there in the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have already expunged their names.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** So, they have to be expunged. ... (*Interruptions*)

Secondly, the Government is nowhere in the picture. ... (*Interruptions*) The Party is nowhere in the picture. ... (*Interruptions*) If an individual does it and if anybody violates the law, then law must take its own course. ... (*Interruptions*)

In Kerala, in Shri Venugopal's State, it is a Congress Government. ... (*Interruptions*) Who has stopped the Congress Government from taking action if at all they want to take action? ... (*Interruptions*) You are also aware that action has to be taken by the

State Government. There is a State Government elected in Kerala that unfortunately belongs to Shri Venugopal's Party. ... *(Interruptions)* They have not taken action. ... *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, the Government made it very clear that the Government does not involve itself in conversion or re-conversion. ... *(Interruptions)* The entire country is peaceful, and people are living in harmony. ... *(Interruptions)* Do not create ... *(Interruptions)* they want to say something and then they do not want to hear the Government. ... *(Interruptions)* What way is this? You say whatever you want to say, and then you do not want to hear from the Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, let him say.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** You should first hear us. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** How much time ... *(Interruptions)* we have heard you. ... *(Interruptions)* The entire country is peaceful. ... *(Interruptions)* Some people are unhappy about it. What can we do? ... *(Interruptions)* There is peace in the entire country. Some

people don't like it. What do we do? Let us not unnecessarily create tension in the country. ... (*Interruptions*)

The Government does not support conversion or re-conversion. ... (*Interruptions*) If you want to make a political issue, then you can make it a political issue outside. ... (*Interruptions*) If you want to make it political ... (*Interruptions*) I can myself answer all these people. You do not worry on that account. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

I can handle them alone, don't worry about what will happen. . . . (*Interruptions*) If you are not ready to listen to us, then what should we do? We have been elected by the country.

[English]

The people have elected us. We have a duty to govern the country, and we are governing it effectively. ... (*Interruptions*) The people are with us, and people are happy. ... (*Interruptions*) But you cannot go on making allegations against us. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

This is not the appropriate manner. You have been in power for fifty years, but you cannot continue to function in this way. There exists

no such established procedure. Whatever you wished to raise, we have already provided a response. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**13. 24 hrs.**

*At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is not allowed. Only the Leader is allowed, and that is all.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, every day, in social media, in all newspapers, and everywhere, this issue persists, and the Government is, in effect, indirectly supporting the notion of returning home. . . . *(Interruptions)* Today, after hearing all of us, it is the Government's duty to respond to these concerns. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.25 pm.

**13. 25 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twenty-Five Minutes past  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

**14. 28 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Eight  
Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

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

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The House will now take up matters under Rule 377, Shri Maheish Girri.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Already Shri Venugopal spoke and it was answered. What more do you want? You can raise it after six o'clock during the 'Zero Hour'.

... (*Interruptions*)

**14. 28½ hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Rajeev Satav, Shri Kalyan Banerjee and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

... (*Interruptions*)

**14. 28 ¾ hrs.**

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The House will now take up matters under Rule 377, Shri Maheish Girri.

... (*Interruptions*)

**(i) Need to resolve the contentious issue of rented commercial property in Delhi**

[Translation]

**SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI (EAST DELHI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I have many such areas within Delhi and Gandhi Nagar in my own constituency.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you should only read the approved text.

[Translation]

**SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, many people had come to Delhi at the time of the partition of the country. After partition, the refugees who came to India took shelter in different

parts of the country and started looking for their means of livelihood. During the same period, the refugees settled in different places of Delhi traded commercial property in a very unique way under the arrangement of turban for livelihood. Under this arrangement, shop takers also have to pay a monthly partial price called "Rent". This arrangement has become very complicated for the heirs of those who bought and donated the shops two-three generations ago and has become a matter of controversy. The mental condition of people doing business in many big markets like Gandhi Nagar, Chandni Chowk, Kamla Market in Delhi is affected by this controversy.

Therefore, I request the Government to intervene in the matter urgently and provide relief to the affected people.

**(ii) Need to provide stoppage to Patalkot Express at Bordehi Railway Station in Betul Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh**

**SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (BETOOL):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I demand stoppage of Patalkot Express train running for Bordehi railway stoppage in my Parliamentary Constituency Betul (Madhya Pradesh).

Bordehi is the biggest major center for the fifty Gram Panchayats of the area. With the facility of this train, the people of these 50 Gram Panchayats will get the maximum benefit and at the same time Railways will get revenue.

Therefore, through the House, I demand from the Union Government that the Patalkot Express train should be halted at Bordehi Railway Station, Betul (Madhya Pradesh).

[English]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Sir, I was telling something but suddenly the House was adjourned.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Venugopal Ji raised an issue. Hon. Minister answered that issue. What do you want further?

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** This will create a lot of law and order problem in the entire country. ...(*Interruptions*) They are disturbing the law and order. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, in every state of this country, people are being converted in the name of religious conversion. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Sir, the discussion is over. ... (*Interruptions*) No other person can speak on this thing. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Sir, by offering them incentives and promising those houses and homes, they are encouraging their return through such assurances. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr. Bhola Singh – Not present.

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** According to the Constitution, everyone has the right to follow whatever religion they believe in. . .

. (*Interruptions*)

**(iii) Need to provide a special package for providing drinking water under the National Rural Drinking Water Project in Nagaur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan.**

**SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUER):** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the serious problem of my Parliamentary Constituency through you. . . . (*Interruptions*) Nagaur Parliamentary Constituency falls under semi-desert area in the west of Aravalli mountain ranges of Rajasthan. . . . (*Interruptions*) The problem of drinking water has always persisted here due to insufficient rainfall. . . . (*Interruptions*) The water from wells and tubewells is not potable as it contains high levels of fluoride.. . . . (*Interruptions*) In 2013, ‘Jayaka Company’ was given work in collaboration with Japan to provide fluoride free water by the Union Government. . . . (*Interruptions*) So far, no work has been done in this direction after the inauguration. . . . (*Interruptions*) In Nagaur district, water is found at a depth of 600 to 700 feet, resulting in an acute shortage of water in tubewells. . . . (*Interruptions*) Since time immemorial, people have been taking water of ponds for drinking purpose. . . . (*Interruptions*) There is no water in the ponds due to lack of rainfall. . . . (*Interruptions*) For the first time after

independence, Hon. Chief Minister Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, during her previous tenure, brought water from the Indira Gandhi Canal to Nagaur city through large pipelines. . . . (*Interruptions*) The people remain grateful to her for this.. . . (*Interruptions*) For five years, that is, from 2008 to 2013, no work was carried out on the said scheme. . . . (*Interruptions*) Now, under the present Government, work has recommenced. . . . (*Interruptions*) It will take five years for water from the Indira Gandhi Canal to reach the entire district. . . . (*Interruptions*) Consequently, there will be a severe drinking water shortage in towns and villages for the next five years. . . . (*Interruptions*)

So, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation to sanction special package for Nagaur district out of National Rural Drinking Water Project for assistance to the State Government till the canal water reaches Nagaur district so that the problem of drinking tentatively can be solved by digging new tubewells. . . . (*Interruptions*) Also, 'Jaika Company' should be directed to start the work immediately. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**(iv) Need to improve the BSNL Mobile telePhone service in the country particularly in Dharbhanga Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.**

**SHRI KIRTI AZAD (DARBHANGA):** Sir, the level of services provided to the consumers by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is becoming lower and lower. . . . (*Interruptions*) Mobile connectivity is continuously deteriorating. . . . (*Interruptions*) The benefit of 2G is being provided in 3G services. . . . (*Interruptions*) People are getting troubled by the services of the corporation in entire Bihar including Darbhanga and are forced to abandon the services provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and take the services of other private companies. . . . (*Interruptions*) BTS of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, in many places, are not functioning at all and are in very poor condition. . . . (*Interruptions*) The corporation is suffering huge losses due to apathy of officers. . . . (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I request the Government through the House that the hurdle in services for the facilities of the citizens should be removed at the earliest and strict action should be taken against the guilty officials. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**(v) Need to set up a bench of Allahabad High Court at  
Saharanpur or Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.**

**SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR):** Sir, Uttar Pradesh is a State with high population of India. The means of getting justice for a population of about 20 crores is the High Court established in Allahabad. The distance from Saharanpur and West Uttar Pradesh districts of Allahabad is around 600-700 kilometre and the people of West Uttar Pradesh take one to one and a half days to reach Allahabad. Every year, the Allahabad High Court has about 50 thousand cases, out of which 52 percent cases are from western Uttar Pradesh and about 14 lakh 50 thousand cases are pending till the year 2009. There is also a shortage of judges in the Allahabad High Court. In view of the distance and expenditure of the Allahabad High Court from western Uttar Pradesh, many people are deprived of getting justice. The important duty of a democratic country is to provide affordable and accessible justice to the people.

Therefore, I request through the House that an additional bench of the High Court be set up in the district of Saharanpur or district Meerut in western Uttar Pradesh so that the people of western Uttar Pradesh can get justice. Thank you.

**(vi) Need to undertake repair and maintenance of National Highway Nos. 75 and 7 in Madhya Pradesh.**

**SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA):** Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, National Highway No. 75 from Jhansi to Chhatarpur, Panna, Satna, Sidhi, Singrauli to Hathinale and another National Highway No. 7 from Jabalpur to Katni, Satna, Rewa Banaras to Ranchi, both these roads are in a very bad condition. Perhaps the Government has taken a decision to construct 4 lanes of these two National Highways, but there seems to be a little work happening in these two roads, but the pace of work is very slow. Both these roads come out of my Lok Sabha Constituency. Recently, between December 12 and December 16, when Satna, Singrauli to Banaras passed through these two national highways, it was very painful to see the condition of the roads. Vehicles stuck in the potholes and vehicles stuck for several kilometres were seen at several places. It takes more than 8 hours to complete the 150 km distance between Churhat to Singrauli. Similarly, from Singrauli to Banaras which is 200 kilometres, it takes 8 to 10 hours. The entire region which borders the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

Jharkhand and Bihar, has a population of crores, which is forced to bear this pain.

Therefore, through you, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, who is working very actively on improving the national highway, is requested to send a Union team to see these two national highways from the place they are started to the last place and fix the time limit immediately by increasing the pace of construction of these roads.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati – Not present

**(vii) Need to construct a bypass railway line at Mariani railway junction in Jorhat district of Assam.**

**SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (JORHAT):** Jorhat is an important city of Assam and is second only to Guwahati. The Railway connectivity is very poor to this city. The people of Jorhat are served by a branch station of Mariani named as Jorhat town station, which is not linked directly to the Station in upper Assam and even to Guwahati. Jorhat town station is also connected to the Furkating junction which is at a distance of 87 kms. Golaghat railway station is also a connecting point for Jorhat. Since both these stations are in the branch line, no long running trains pass through this route. As a result, passengers of Jorhat have to catch important trains at Mariani Junction in late night. Therefore, I request Hon'ble Railway Minister through you to construct a bypass line at Mariani junction, which is only 641 meters, for running important trains like Rajdhani. Despite a lot of request & demand the NF railway and Railway ministry are yet to take any action. Therefore, the ministry concerned is urged upon to look into the matter and take remedial step.

**(viii) Need to set up a check post of Customs Department at Chhauradano in East Champaran District, Bihar**

[Translation]

**DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Chhauradano, District - East Champaran (Bihar) is located on the Indo-Nepal border. With the deepening of the India-Nepal Trade Treaty, the trade between the two countries is growing tremendously. Trade from Raxaul is increasing significantly. There is no custom checkpoint in the middle of Raxaul to Bairgania. Customs officer is posted in Chhauradano.

Therefore, I request the Government through the House that a custom checkpoint should be made in Chhauradano at the earliest so that the trade of both the countries increases and the movement of material illegally can be stopped.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Vincent Pala.

**(ix) Need to implement the final verdict of Supreme Court on  
Mullaiperiyar Dam issue**

**SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA (RAMANATHAPURAM):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in order to increase the water level of Mullaiperiyar Dam, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ceaselessly made efforts. The final verdict of the Supreme Court favoured the genuine plea of Tamil Nadu and has also disallowed the construction of a new dam. An evaluation team appointed by the Supreme Court has categorically stated that there is no threat to Mullaiperiyar Dam even if the water level is raised to 142 feet and even up to its full level of 152 feet. This dam was constructed with most of the catchment area and command areas situated in Tamil Nadu. But still the Kerala Government is keen on a new dam and has sought permission from the National Wildlife Board to survey the proposed site for a new dam. To uphold the rule of law, the Centre has a duty to implement the final verdict of the Supreme Court in interstate water disputes which cannot be resolved through negotiations. So, I would request the Union Government to positively intervene in the matter.

Thank you.

**(x) Need to increase the upper age limit for recruitment in Union Government jobs and also increase the age of retirement from 60 to 62**

**SHRI TAPAS PAUL (KRISHNANAGAR):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is observed that during the last 20 years in almost all the advertisements issued by the Union Government and the Union public sector undertakings, almost all the posts for employment are found to be reserved for SCs, STs, OBCs, Physically Handicapped and Ex-Servicemen. As such, people from general category with requisite education did not get any opportunity to apply for the posts advertised. As a result they have become over aged and were deprived from any employment in the Union services.

Therefore, a way out of this situation is to increase the age limit up to 30 years for General category, as it is 40 in many States including West Bengal. Simultaneously, the upper age limit for retirement may be increased to 62 years.

I would, therefore, request the Hon. Prime Minister of India through you to consider the proposal so that the General category people do not suffer.

Thank you.

**(xi) Need to construct a bypass road on National Highway No. 26  
in Bhawani-Patna town in Kalahandi District of Odisha**

**SHRI ARKA KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, National Highway No. 26 passes through Bhawani-Patna town which is the headquarters of Kalahandi District in Odisha. The ever-increasing population and expansion of the said town in all directions necessitates a controlled seamless movement of vehicles and people. There is heavy traffic jam during the peak hours of the day and most of the accidents occur during peak hours and in the evening. So, there is a demand for bypass road which will connect NH. 26 on one side and Junagarh Road on the other side. I would request the Union Government that the bypass as mentioned above may be constructed during the current financial year.

Thank you.

**(xii) Need to include Belgaum district which is having a majority of Marathi speaking people in Maharashtra**

[Translation]

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, for the last 58 years, no solution has been found to the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute. There are 865 villages along the border where only Marathi speaking people live. The entire Belgaum district is Marathi speaking. People here have been protesting for inclusion in the state of Maharashtra. In Belgaum municipality too, the proposal was passed several times that the entire 865 villages should be included in Maharashtra. But the Karnataka Government seems to be unnecessarily pushing the issue forward. We all respect the court's decision. But taking into account the wishes of the people of Belgaum and the majority of the Marathi speaking people, the Union Government should intervene in resolving the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute immediately, this is my demand.

**(xiii) Need to make railway stoppages at Mangalagiri and Pedakakni in Guntur Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh as permanent stoppages.**

[English]

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** Experimental stoppages help people in that area and two such stoppages - Mangalagiri and Pedakakani stations in my Constituency under Guntur Railway Division have been identified.

Train No. 17201/17202, Golkonda Express which runs between Guntur-Vijayawada, is serving a large number of seasonal commuters and Circar Express (Train No. 17643/17644) is the only train that connects Chennai and Mangalagiri, the nearest railway station to the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.

I agree that some experimental stoppages are not commercially viable and Railways is proposing to remove them if they are not as per norms. Railways cannot think everything on commercial considerations. As far as Mangalagiri and Pedakakani stations are concerned, they do not fall in this category. For these stations, the second part of the norm is applicable. It says, ". if there are any

additional criteria like new developments taking place in and around the station. . . ”

Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated and State Government finally selected its new capital and both Stations fall in and around new capital of Andhra Pradesh. So, new developments not only in State but also in and around stations have taken place. As these stations fall inside and periphery of capital, there will be huge rush in these stations. Secondly, forthcoming AP Assembly Session is going to be held in Acharya Nagarjuna University, which is just few kilometers from these two stations. So, these two stations will serve as nerve centres between Guntur and Vijayawada and nearest railway stations to the capital.

Hence, there is a need to continue these stoppages as permanent stoppages in view of changed demography of the State.

**(xiv) Need to revamp and re-open Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant in Karimnagar district, Telangana.**

**SHRI BALKA SUMAN (PEDDAPALLI):** I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the dire need to open the Ramagundam Fertiliser Unit, Karimnagar district in Telangana.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that due to limited oil resources and abundant coal reserves, coal based fertilizer plant was established at Ramagundam, Karimnagar District in the year 1971, where required coal was available at Singereni mines, Power was available at Ramagundam Thermal stations, water was available at river Godavari and there was huge consumption of urea in Karimnagar and surrounding districts. This plant was also established to provide employment in the local backward area, Telangana. The commercial production of the plant could start in November, 1980. The Fertilizer Plant at Ramagundam was designed with a capacity of 1500 MT per day. But due to limitation of technology, the plant was producing urea up to 1000 MT per day. As such the plant was de-rated to 1000 MT per day from 1-4-1982. After de-rating, the FCI plant had operation profit during 1981-82.

However with accumulated losses, due to regular power cuts, and wrong rated capacity, the economics of the plant was badly affected which resulted in declaring Ramagundam plant as sick unit and it was referred to BIFR resulting in loss of employment of more than 5000 families both directly and indirectly. Even though Ramagundam Fertilizer plant produced 25,15, 594 MT of urea till 31-03-1999, Government suspended the production from 1-4-1999. The Government is spending huge foreign exchange on import of urea. The demand of urea in Karimnagar surrounding districts of Telangana is more than 10 Lakh MT per year. Though Government of India has announced revamp of Ramagundam fertilizer plant through NFL and EIL more than a year back, no progress has been registered till date. I also understand that the proposed Andhra Pradesh Srinagar Gas line is also making tardy progress.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals & Fertilisers, through the Chair, to kindly take necessary steps to revamp and re-open Ramagundam Fertilizer plant with a view to start commercial production at the earliest.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shrimati P. K. Sreemathi Teacher. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

Shrimati Geetha Kothapalli – Not present ...  
*(Interruptions)*

Shri Rajesh Ranjan.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No. You have to go back to your seat and read out. Otherwise, nothing will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, we will go to the next time – Legislative Business. Let us take up Bills for consideration and passing.

... *(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before we go to the Legislative Business, I would like to say that the entire country is watching. Whatever is said or denounced or slogan shouting from the Well of the House should not go on record and should not be

published. That has been the practice of the House. They have raised slogans against the people who are not present in the House. That should not go on record.

[Translation]

Pappu Ji, the total counting will start from eight o'clock in the morning, you will get the reply, don't worry. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, we will go to the next item – Dr. Jitendra Singh.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** If we have spoken any unParliamentary words, in this House there is no such precedent for shouting or protest. This is not the precedent of the House or convention. If we said something like that, then you can say unParliamentary. You have done it several times.

[Translation]

You have done it a hundred times. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Whatever said from the Well of the House, will not go on record. That is the precedent.

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Once we do this, you want to take out everything. This is not good, we will not accept it. . . .

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** We are in the House and that has been the practice. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** There is a right to protest within the Parliament. If expressing dissent is considered improper, then I urge you to listen to us as well as to what others have to say . . .

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please take your seat. I will explain. Whatever he said will be on the record. If there is any controversy, that will be expunged. Otherwise, others will be on the record and there would be no problem. Protesting and taking the names, will not be on record. That is it.

Now, Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

**14. 54 hrs.**

**LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS AND OTHER RELATED  
LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014**

**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):** Hon.

Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and further to amend the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, be taken into consideration. ”

Sir, as you know, the Bill introduced earlier seeks to propose certain amendments in the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 To put it briefly, Sir, one of the amendments proposes to make provision for

the inclusion of the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in the House of People as a Member of the Selection Committee when there is no Leader of Opposition recognized as such in that House. ... (*Interruptions*)

There is another provision which seeks to provide that the eminent jurist shall be nominated for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for re-nomination. The amendment also provides that no appointment of a person in the Search Committee or the proceedings of the Search Committee shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy or absence of a Member in the Selection Committee or absence of a person in the Search Committee as the case may be. ... (*Interruptions*)

It is also provided that the Secretary of the Lokpal has to be of the rank of not less than Additional Secretary and there is another amendment in Section 3. 1. 3 Section 16(1)(f) of the Act which proposes to be amended so as to allow that the Lokpal could have its headquarters anywhere in the National Capital Region NCR of Delhi.

The amendments also provide for harmonizing provisions relating to filing of information regarding assets and liabilities by different categories of public servants, that is, Members of

Parliament, Government employees, employees of statutory bodies, PSUs, NGOs, etc. under the provisions of the Act with the provision of the relevant laws, rules and regulations as applicable to each category, such as, for example, Representation of People's Act (RPA), All India Services Act, rules made under Article 309 of the Constitution, etc. ... (*Interruptions*)

Another significant amendment of Section 4(b)(a) provides for qualification for appointment of Director of Prosecution in the CBI, being the officer of the level of Joint Secretary to be eligible for appointment as Special Public Prosecutor under the CrPC.

In the absence of an eligible officer referred to in the clause (a), a person who has been in practice as an advocate for not less than 15 years and has experience in handling cases on behalf of Government relating to offences under the provision of Corruption Act, 1982, would also be considered eligible. ... (*Interruptions*)

As far as Section 6(a) is concerned, which requires Government permission for inquiry against any officer of the level of Joint Secretary or above and the Section was turned down following a writ petition, the amendment seeks to omit Section 6(a) from the Act.

Another important amendment to it is that in case of difference of opinion between the Director of the CBI and the proposed Prosecution Director, the matter shall be referred to the Attorney General of India for his advice and such advice shall be binding. The Annual Performance Appraisal Report of the Director of Prosecution shall be recorded and maintained in the Ministry of Law and Justice in such manner as may be prescribed. ... (*Interruptions*)

**15. 00 hrs.**

Insertion of a new Section 7 to confer power to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to frame rules regarding the recording of the Annual Performance Appraisal Report of the Director of Prosecution is also being envisaged in this.

Sir, I beg to move this Bill.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“That the Bill to amend the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and further to amend the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, be taken into consideration.”

Dr. Shashi Tharoor to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL):** Hon. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of this Bill. . . . (*Interruptions*) This Bill is very important. There was talk of making a Lokpal Bill in our country for many years. After a lot of difficulty in the last Lok Sabha, after the agitation of Anna Hazare Ji, after many protests and demonstrations, the Lokpal Bill was enacted and today the Government has discussed its amendment. . . . (*Interruptions*) In India, there is a lot of concern about the Lokpal against corruption in our country, it is unanimous. Today, India is counted among the countries prone to corruption in the world. It does not suit our history and background. . . . (*Interruptions*) I request everyone to support this Bill. The Minister has described well and in detail, based on which amendments have been given. . . . (*Interruptions*)

It was my good fortune that when I was the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, a very good and strong Bill was passed there, which was appreciated by the whole country. I want to tell my Congress colleagues that even at that time the Congress Party did not support this Bill. The history of this Bill is as follows. On November 1, the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly had unanimously passed a Bill.

There were people from the opposition in the Congress, everyone supported it. . . . (*Interruptions*) It was a very powerful Bill. After its passing, the Governor there also immediately passed it. It was then sent to the Union Government. The Union Government, UPA kept it with them for one and a half to two years and did not take it forward. When the Centre could not find any loophole in it after much discussion, it was sent to Her Excellency the President. The President passed the Bill after about 18 months. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.10 p. m.

**15. 04 hrs**

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

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**15. 10 hrs.**

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

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

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please take your seat.

**15. 10 ¼ hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri Ravneet Singh, Shri P. Karunakaran and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I want to make a mention of what happened at Three of the Clock. I strongly object to the manner in which the Hon. Member Shri Rajesh Ranjan did it. He was throwing paper at me. If you are accepting this procedure, then, you have to take a decision.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I am very sorry for that. You have a right to express your anger. I have no objection to it. But you have thrown the paper at me. Why have you thrown it on me?

**15. 11 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan went back to his seat.*

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** No, Sir. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** This is very bad. It is a very bad precedent you have created. That is not correct because you have to respect the Chair. You have thrown it at me. I am very sorry for that. That is not the way of behaving in this House. Throwing paper at me is not the correct way. I am asking you: Is it a democratic way? Are the Hon. Members accepting it? Is throwing paper at the Chair correct? You did it. You have thrown the paper at me.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I am telling what you have done is very bad. I take strong objection to that. I am very sorry for that. You cannot throw the paper at the Chair. You can raise your objection. That is different. You have thrown the paper at me. That is why, I adjourned the House. That is not fair on the part of the Hon. Member. Not giving respect to the Chair is not correct. You have your right to say but you should not behave that way. I am sorry for that. Why have you thrown paper at me?

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Please go back to your seats. That is not the way. I am telling you. You are running back.

... (*Interruptions*)

**15. 14 hrs.****LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS AND OTHER RELATED  
LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014—Contd.**

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri to speak now.

[Translation]

**MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL):** Sir, I was telling that an empowered Lokpal Bill was passed in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly. Congress Members were also in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly, they had unanimously passed this Bill. That Bill was also not allowed to be implemented, it was approved by the President, after which the Congress Government came to Uttarakhand. The same Members who had supported it, unanimously, they have repealed it. So far as this Bill is concerned. . . .  
.. (*Interruptions*)

**15. 14 ½ hrs.**

*At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** What do you want to say?

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** I want to make one request. We have great respect for you. You are a senior-most leader. You have got great experience in the House as also in Parliamentary democracy. We respect you. We do not have any intention to insult the Chair. Our anger is only towards the Government because they are not listening to us, they are bulldozing everything. As you know, even the Parliamentary Affairs Minister openly said:” I am a Sangh Pariwar man. I am proud of that. I am an RSS man. I am proud of that. ” He is making such irritating statements just to disturb the House and not to allow the proceedings to go smoothly. We want the proceedings should be smooth because we know our limitations also. That is why, we are conducting ourselves within the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of the Business. But they are threatening. Even he has threatened saying:” Tomorrow, the results of the Jammu & Kashmir and Jharkhand Assembly election will be out. You go and see the result and then you will come to know. ” It is not intentionally done. If anything is hurting you, I regret it. That is why, please do not take it seriously.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Already you have regretted. That is all right.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** They should mend their ways. They should not show their arrogance; they should not show their might. If they go on telling like this, one day, *Basmasura* will come to them. ... (*Interruptions*)

**15. 15 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Ravneet Singh and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

*... (Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** *Basmasura* will come on unwise people; we are wise people. Nothing to worry. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Opposition is creating disruption even about such an important Bill, it is not right. I request the opposition to discuss this important Bill seriously.

I told you how the Bill was passed unanimously in Uttarakhand, but after changing the Government, the people of Congress who supported it, they got it repealed, it is very unfortunate. As far as the present Parliament is concerned, the Hon. Minister has clarified the reasons for which it has been given, and the details of why the State of Objection-Region has been very well amended. I don't think there is anything serious about it. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. VANKAIAH NAIDU:** Whatever had to be said, Shri Kharge Ji said it, why are you worried, leave it. This is an important Bill, the whole country is looking at you. Tell me what you have to say. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** This is not BJP Government; this is Modi Government. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** This is the National Government. Modiji is the Hon. Prime Minister of India. . . . (*Interruptions*) He is becoming the world leader now.

The whole world is praising him.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** He is the Prime Minister of India and we want a statement from him. Let him tell. What he is

going to tell about this? ... (*Interruptions*) Come and say because in his name you all have been elected, there is no one else When they are going to run the country then let them come and speak. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Ministers are capable. Don't worry. In your Party also, after you, other people speak. In my Party, if one Minister speaks, that is sufficient. Our system is, Ministers are capable. Please allow the House to function. We are discussing an important Bill. You have been in power for 50 years. Please allow the House to function. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will allow him to speak. Please go to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I adjourn the House to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

**15. 20 hrs**

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

**15. 30 hrs**

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

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

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Sir, as you know, Dr. A. Sampath, is carried to the hospital. Therefore, it is better to adjourn the House for, at least, one hour. ... (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Sir, let us adjourn it for half an hour. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 4.00 p.m.

**15. 30 ¾ hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.*

**16. 00 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Sixteen of the Clock.*

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

*... (Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Sir, I have been to the Parliament House Annexe and met Hon. Member Dr. A. Sampath, who had exertion and suffered from cough also. He has been taken to the hospital, the doctors have checked him and found that it was because of exertion and lack of rest. He is normal now and he has been asked to go back home; he is going back to his home. That is the information that I wanted to share with the House.

**16. 01 hrs.**

**SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS...Contd.**

**(iii) Re: Demanding a statement to be made by the Prime Minister on conversion in the country**

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Sir, we have been trying since morning, we demand that the program which is going on everywhere today in the name of Ghar Wapsi, for this we wanted the Hon. Prime Minister himself to come to this House and give his statement. . . . (*Interruptions*) We say this because whenever the Hon. Prime Minister goes anywhere, he seeks votes in his own name. This is a Modi Government, not a BJP Government. . . . (*Interruptions*) If Shri Modi Ji himself states this, then. . . . (*Interruptions*) During the last discussion here, it was also noted within his party that if any Minister attempts to incite communal discord or foster an atmosphere of unrest in society, it is unacceptable. He had issued such instructions. Yet, despite this, his Ministers, Members from his Party, various organisations related to his party, and even some NGOs continue to speak of bringing people back home and effecting a change in everyone. . . . (*Interruptions*)

Vankaiya Saheb has expressed his views two or three times here. I am not fully aware of the extent to which this Government speaks about Vankaiya Ji. I hold him in great respect. However, because of Modiji, many people have gathered in his name, and he seeks to assert his authority; currently, only his authority prevails. . . .  
*(Interruptions)* We want to know that all the Sangh Parivar people, you. . . \* “Everyone is talking. . . . *(Interruptions)* Everyone is speaking, you will get so much time. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The names will not go on record.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING, POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** We were hearing him out of respect. But if he goes on making allegations against the Prime Minister and all, it is not fair. He is a very senior Member.

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Well, . . . *(Interruptions)* If there is anything non-parliamentary or against convention, then we

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\*Not recorded.

shall withdraw. The Hon. Deputy Speaker is presiding. There is no need to rise repeatedly. . . . (*Interruptions*) I understand there is some spring in the Chair's seat. . . . (*Interruptions*) My point is that these people have only one authority to control matters, and that is the Hon. Prime Minister. Unless the Hon. Prime Minister himself comes here and declares his intent to stop this, no one else can intervene; it is his responsibility. If he speaks, then this House will function properly. Otherwise, this wrong impression is spreading across the country and abroad, raising questions about what is happening in India, because the Hon. Prime Minister remains silent. . . . (*Interruptions*) They are not responding. . . . (*Interruptions*) Furthermore, Members of their Party and their Ministers . . . (*Interruptions*) this false propaganda is going on in the country and abroad. We are all united in opposing it. Whether it is promoted directly or indirectly. . . . (*Interruptions*) Let them go on, we shall continue to speak out. . . . (*Interruptions*) This is the reality of the situation. I will do what I must, and you may continue to protest. . . . (*Interruptions*) This policy is going on. To stop it, he himself came and give a statement and end this atmosphere. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. VANKAIAH NAIDU:** My point is that there is complete peace in the country. Secondly, I would like to politely state that religious conversion is voluntary.

[English]

If people want to convert, then they can convert. That right is there in the constitution. The Government has no role in conversion or in re-conversion. The party has nothing to do with these programmes. Individuals are taking the programmes. If somebody violates the law either in Uttar Pradesh or in Gujarat or in Kerala or in Andhra Pradesh or in any other State, the law is very clear and it will take its own course. Only Modi Ji's rule is running in the Government. What are we people? We are Ministers. We are also responsible. We have equal powers. We have equal powers with the Hon. Prime Minister. The Hon. Prime Minister hears all of us. He discusses with us and then we decide. We are a collective team. Our leader is Narendra Modi but collective decisions are taken in the Cabinet. Entire country knows it and people of our country also knows about this. So, Kharge Ji, I have all the respect for you. My point is that whenever you are allowed to say something, you are making comments on my leader and on my party.

[Translation]

Only their writ is being served, they want only their writ to be served. If this is not a comment, what is? I have some information. I don't have as much experience as you have. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

We should respect each other. Somebody said why you are getting up again and again. From tomorrow, if you say that there is no need for the Government to give any response, I will sit down. I have no problem. My friends are asking me that in 'Zero Hour' it is not supposed to be responded by the Government but still you are responding. I said we are a pro-active, we are sensitive Government, we have to respond to the issues raised by the Hon. Members. That is why, we are responding.

[Translation]

Do we have a passion for replying to people who are standing up and saying something or the other again and again? I thought that will be a good system in a democracy, so we are doing it.

Fourth, I want to say

[English]

The Government has made it very clear and it has no role. If things are happening, then there is a law and there are States, they must

take action. Kharge Ji, with all respect, you are allowing people to shout slogans. . . . \*

[Translation]

He is the Hon. Prime Minister who won with a huge majority in the country and . . . \*

[English]

Do not make personal comments. It will boomerang on you. Very badly, it will boomerang on you. It is boomeranging. It will boomerang further also. I do not want you to weaken further. I want an effective Opposition and I want a strong Opposition also. ... (*Interruptions*) When you make comments, you must be ready to hear the counter point of view also, that is called as Democracy. Sir, this issue has to be left here. I request them also. We are discussing an important Bill of Lokpal. It is very important Bill. Entire country is watching us. Let us take up the Bill and then move forward. That is my request.

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** He is the Hon. Prime Minister of this country. There is no observation about the Leader of this

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

House and it has not been said about him that he is not the Leader of this House and not the Prime Minister of the country. . . .

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Khanduri

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** But the subject is that you yourself said that despite being a Minister, I am proud of RSS. ,

*(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is over.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Listen to me. It means that you are sharing their views. How can we expect justice from you?

How we can expect this? ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** You take pride in your Parivar. I take pride in my Parivar. You are proud of your Parivar, and we are proud of ours. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** That is why I am asking this.

When he says this, how can we expect that Shri Modi alone can

clear this? The Prime Minister alone can clear this. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... \**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is left to you. It is your opinion. Whatever you raised, he answered.

*... (Interruptions)*

**16. 11 hrs.**

*At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Ravneet Singh, Shri Kalyan Bannerji and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Khanduri.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Those people who are not in the House, can they raise slogans against them in the House? Nothing should go on record. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... \**

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\* Not recorded.

**16. 12 hrs.****LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS AND OTHER RELATED  
LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014—Contd.**

[Translation]

**MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, if the House has to function like this then [English] my speech may please be taken as read. If they do not want to listen to me, there is no point my talking in this commotion and chaos. Let it be taken as read. , (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Hon. Deputy Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion about this important Bill. . . . (*Interruptions*) The kind of environment that has been created here, is not right. . . . (*Interruptions*) I support all the amendments that have been given. . . . (*Interruptions*) I just want to say at one point, because it is quite well explained in the Statement of Reasons. . . . (*Interruptions*) Hon. Deputy Speaker, the reasons for this have been well explained as to why amendments have been brought. . . . (*Interruptions*) I have to comment on the same amendment. Hon. Member Shri Mahtab has suggested that if any

Member is absent then it should be invalid. . . . (*Interruptions*) I request you that this is a matter of giving veto power to a Member, so it should not be given. . . . (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I do not support this Amendment. . . . (*Interruptions*) I conclude by supporting the Bill.

[English]

**SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, I am extremely obliged to you for affording me this opportunity to speak on the important subject of “Lokpal and Lokayuktas and Other Related Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014”. This Bill seeks to introduce some amendments in Chapter I to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and some more amendments in Chapter II to the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

In the past fifty odd years, there had been many attempts to bring in the Lokpal Bill. But that went without any success. At long last, the Lokpal and Lokayukta Bill was passed in both Houses of Parliament in December 2013. The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act received the assent of the President on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2014 and it came into effect on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.

The Bill was passed not due to the generosity of the Government of the day but due to the compelling necessity. The Government of the day faced allegations of colossal corruption and was exposed to severe public opprobrium. Anna Hazare had then undertaken a fast that until the Lok Bill was passed, he would not give it up. This constrained the Government to pass the Bill through both Houses of Parliament in record quick time. Perhaps, due to this haste in passing

the Bill, several lacunae in the Bill went unnoticed and now it is being sought to be removed by way of this amendment. This Lokpal and Lokayukta Act sets up a mechanism in the form of an Ombudsman called Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption and acts of malversation leveled against such public servants as are mentioned in it.

The first of the amendments relates to section 4(1) (c) of the principal Act. Clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 4 would state “Leader of Opposition in the House of the People”. It is a matter of convention that where none of the Opposition parties has 10 percent of the total strength of the House, the House shall be without a Leader of Opposition. As of now, there is no Leader of Opposition in this House. Hence the amendment is very relevant now. The amendment seeks to substitute clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 4 with these words:

“... the Leader of Opposition recognized as such in the House of the People or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in that House ...”

The purpose of this amendment is quite clear. The second amendment relates to clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 4 which confers the tenure for the eminent jurist who could be nominated by the Selection Committee. When the Prime Minister, Speaker, Leader of Opposition and Chief Justice of India have a defined tenure, the tenure of the eminent jurist has not been defined in the Act. Therefore, the proviso has now included limiting his tenure to a period of three years without there being re-nomination.

The third amendment proposed is to sub-section (2) of section 4 that “No appointment of a Chairperson or a Member shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy in the Selection Committee”. The fourth amendment proposed to be made is a proviso following the second proviso in sub-section 3 of section 4 to the effect: “Provided also that no appointment of a person in the Search Committee or the proceedings of the Search Committee shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy or absence of a Member in the Selection Committee or absence of a person in the Search Committee, as the case may be.” The reason for this is that the appointments shall not be delayed or invalidated merely because the post of a Member was vacant or he was otherwise absent.

The fifth amendment proposed to be made is to section 10 of the principal Act to substitute the words “Secretary to the Government of India” with the words “Additional Secretary to the Government of India”.

The seventh amendment proposed is to section 23 of the principal Act to omit the phrase “or section 6A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.”

The eighth amendment is proposed to be made to sub-section (2) of section 44 of the principal Act. This deals with the Declaration of Assets by the public servant. Whilst the earlier sub-section confines itself to the declaration of assets and liabilities by the public servant relating to those of his, his spouse and his dependent children, this amended provision seeks to enlarge the scope. The new provision seeks to substitute sub-section 2 of section 44 by which a public servant shall within a period of 30 days from the date on which he makes or subscribes on oath or affirmation to enter upon his office, furnish to the competent authority the information relating to his assets including:

- (i) immovable property owned by him, or inherited or acquired by him or held by him on lease or mortgage,

either in his own name or in the name of any Member of his family or in the name of any other person;

(ii) movable property inherited by him or similarly owned or acquired or held by him;

(b) all his debts and other liabilities incurred by him directly or indirectly...”

In seeking to enlarge the scope, it will open up a can of worms. The provisions in the principal Act relate to assets owned by him, his spouse and his dependent children. On the other hand, the amendment seeks to embrace within its scope not only the properties of the public servant but all Members of his family as well as any other person. I think this sub-clause [i] of clause [a] of sub-section 2 of section 44 insofar as it relates to “any Member of his family or in the name of any other person” is wholly unwarranted. The original provision itself is comprehensive enough: the amendment mandates that the public servant shall declare only those properties held by him in his own name, in the name of any other Member of his family or in the name of any other person.

In the logical interpretation, there is no requirement, according to this amendment, to declare the assets of the spouse and other

Members of his family or any other person if the properties are not held by him.

In other words, the amended provision requires to disclose the benami holdings. After all, under the provisions of section 6 of the Benami Transactions [Prohibition] Act, 1988, benami transactions are proscribed. No person shall enter into any benami transaction. It is visited with the penalty of imprisonment for a period of three years if he does so. Benami properties are liable for acquisition without compensation. No suit or claim can be made to recover any such property held benami. This being so, would any public servant come forward to declare the properties held in the name of other persons as his own benami property? So this particular amendment requires a re-look and I request the Ministry concerned to look into it more properly. Section 45 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 prescribes penalty for non-declaration or faulty declaration. The public servant runs a risk of prosecution. Therefore, in this context the amendment to sub-section requires a re-look.

The other amendments are of course only cosmetic in nature. At the time when the Lokpal Bill was passed and also at the time when it was referred to the Select Committee, it was pointed out by our Party Members echoing the views of our Party Chief that the Bill

was far from perfect. Through our Hon. Members, our Party Chief pointed out several subsisting lacunae in the Bill and suggested the viable course of action to follow. However, the suggestions put forth by us have not been heeded. Now the Centre comes up with these cosmetic amendments as if they would provide a panacea for all corruption in public places. It has been the consistent stand of our party that both the Prime Minister of India as well as the Chief Minister of the State should be excluded from the ambit and purview of inquiry and investigation by the Lokpal and the Lokayukta respectively, for if any inquiry whether on *bona fide* or *mala fide* grounds is instituted against the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister by the Lokpal and the Lokayukta as the case may be, it would affect effective governance.

It is not the stand of our party that they are both entirely immune to prosecution. On the other hand, it is our view that the existing framework of laws are sufficient to proceed against them in case of any misfeasance or malfeasance on their part. If there is any inquiry to be made against the sitting Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, it would definitely detract from their authority and attach an unwarranted stigma; and the end losers would be the people as the business of governance will become lax and indifferent. They would

not be able to enforce discipline among the subordinates. That is why our party has been urging the Centre and the Parliamentary Committee to exempt the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister from the inquiry by the Lokpal and the Lokayukta respectively.

The present Act, though gives a limited degree of immunity to the Prime Minister under section 14, this is not sufficient. It is the stand of our party that the Prime Minister should not come within the ambit of inquiry by the Lokpal. It is the consistent stand of our party that the choice of constitution of Lokayukta should be left to the State Governments, and the State Governments may enact a suitable legislation as it deems necessary in the interest of public; and the Office of the Chief Minister should be outside the purview and ambit of inquiry by the Lokayukta.

Our party feels that the safeguards provided to a public servant in the matter of sanction as set out in section 197 Cr. P. C. and section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act as well as other relevant laws on the subject ought not to have been as easily scrapped as it would facilitate only witch-hunting and political vendetta. The policy is that honest public servants should not be made victims of political vendetta and false prosecution. This is also the reason why our party suggests that the penalty for making false

accusations and complaints as provided under section 46 in Chapter XIV relating to Offences and Penalties should be enhanced.

The Act provides under section 46 (1) that the false accuser shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and with fine which may extend to Rs. 1 lakh. The substantive sentence under section 46 (1) may be increased to three years and the fine may be increased to Rs. 10 so that none but the bonafide approach the Lokpal and the interlopers and the publicity-seekers are deterred from preferring false complaints against high personalities and public servants.

With these words, I welcome the amendments and on this note, I conclude, thank you very much.

**SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Lokpal and Lokayukta and other related Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

I also thank my party leaders who have given me an opportunity to speak on this very important Bill.

The amendment got necessitated during the current structure of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, where we do not have a Leader of Opposition. So, one of the primary objectives of this Bill is to include the leader of the largest Opposition Party as a Member of the Selection Committee and Chairperson and Members of Anti-Corruption bodies.

The Selection Committee has Lok Sabha Speaker, the Chief Justice of India or his authorized representative as a Member of the Apex Court Judge and an eminent jurist who could be nominated by the President or any other Member besides the Opposition Leader. This amendment virtually brings the Lokpal Act in line with the Union Vigilance Act, 2003 and RTI Act, 2005. The eminent jurist on the panel shall be nominated for a period of three years and he or she will not be eligible for reappointment. The amendment Bill provides for qualification of appointment of Director Prosecution in CBI and its functional independence. Sir, I underline the words ‘functional

independence’ and draw the attention of the Government and the Minister to this particular issue. I will deal with it later.

The Prime Minister, the Hon. Members of Parliament and the Civil Servants will be out of the purview of this Bill. The logic that is being put forward is that this particular Act is in conflict with the Representation of People’s Act and the Civil Services Act. Both these Acts provide for declaration of assets and liabilities. We, as Members of Parliament, before we file our nomination we file a statement regarding assets and liabilities. After getting elected we also file a statement regarding our assets and liabilities to the Parliament within three months.

Having said that, I will come to two very-very critical observations made and draw the attention of the Hon. Minister through you to a very-very pertinent point. For the selection of Director (Prosecution) it is specifically and explicitly said about the functional independence but if you go a little later the Act also says the Annual Performance Report of the Director (Prosecution) shall be recorded and maintained in the Ministry of Law and Justice. Let us look at the literal meaning of the words ‘recorded and maintained’. If we record it and maintain it, on the face of it, it appears that we are keeping a record of it or there is a silent and slow

departure from the very independence of CBI. Are we going to look at a scenario where, during 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha there was a bigger debate, the Supreme Court went to the extent of saying that the CBI, the premier investigating agency, has become a caged parrot in the hands of the Government. Hon. Members who are sitting in the Government today at that point of time opposed tooth and nail. Today, we are advocating the principle of independence, equity, justice and transparency. By saying so, are we again going back where the CBI and a Director Prosecution again become a tool in the hands of the Ministry of Law and Justice? Can we afford to do that? Can we afford to allow that? Are we not compromising with the basic principle by which this independent agency is working? This is quite contrary to the finding of the Standing Committee Report on this particular issue.

I will sincerely and very seriously urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, that let this Bill be sent back to the Standing Committee on this issue and let it be examined. Let us not do away with this principle by which we are again giving so much of authority to the CBI so that it again become a tool in the hands of the Government. Today, you are in the Government. Yesterday we became a victim. Tomorrow you may become another victim. Please

do away with this. My sincere suggestion and urge to the Government is to please send it to the Standing Committee, take a considered view and then take a decision on the floor of the House. This is a very-very pertinent point which I need to urge upon.

The second most important observation is that the proposed Bill provides that no appointment shall be invalid merely by reason of vacancy or absence of a Member of Committee. By doing so, the amendment Bill is virtually doing away with the requirement of a quorum. When there is no requirement of a quorum, are we again advocating the principle of justice and transparency? So, I would again urge upon the Government not to push for this and ensure that all the Hon. Members of the Committee are present while the selection is made.

With these words, I thank you and once again urge that let this Bill be sent to the Standing Committee so that the transparency is maintained. Thank you, Sir.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, Dr. Ravindra Babu to speak.

**DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM):** Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity ... (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Sir, it is a very important Bill. There had been agitations across the country earlier also. This Bill was discussed by a Committee earlier also and they made certain recommendations. Keeping that in mind, the Government had brought forward this legislation... (*Interruptions*)

Now the main Opposition Party is not taking part in the discussion and then some of the other parties are also saying that it needs a thorough discussion and further debate. As far as the Government is concerned, we want to make CBI totally independent and we want to be totally transparent. That being the case and if the House desires that we should refer it again to the Standing Committee, the Government has no objection. Sir, you can refer it to the Standing Committee once again.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If the House feels that this Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee, then it can be referred. Therefore, we are referring this Bill to the Standing Committee.

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**16. 36 hrs****REGIONAL RURAL BANKS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now we will take up Item No. 31.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA):** Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to move\*:

“That the Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, be taken into consideration.”

The Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014, *inter alia*, seeks to introduce reforms to strengthen the capital base and improve the overall capabilities of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

The RRBs were established under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 to create an alternative channel to the 'cooperative credit structure' and to ensure sufficient institutional credit for the rural

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\* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

and agriculture sector. RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, the State Government concerned and the Sponsor Banks and the issued capital of RRB is shared in the proportion of 50 percent, 15 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

In view of the growing role of RRB, in extending banking services in rural areas, developments which have taken place in recent past including amalgamation of geographically contiguous RRBs, technology upgradation and recapitalization support provided to RRBs from time to time, a need to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 has been felt.

Structural consolidation of RRBs was initiated in 2005 by amalgamating RRBs sponsored by the same bank in a State with a view to having economies of scale, better customer services, better infrastructure, larger area of operation, enhanced credit exposure limits and diversified banking activities.

Keeping in view the role of RRBs in financial inclusion in rural areas and to improve their functioning and technology upgradation, several steps had been initiated. The RRBs had rolled out to Core Banking Solution (CBS) and had joined the National Payment System. RRBs had been advised to take necessary action for e-

governance and concrete branch expansion plan to cover under-banked and unbanked areas, etc.

In view of the modernization and technology upgradation, a need for further consolidation of RRBs was felt to optimise the use of modern technology and minimise overhead expenses. Therefore, amalgamation of geographically contiguous RRBs in a State was initiated by the Government in consultation with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, State Government concerned and the Sponsor Banks.

The amendments have been necessitated in view of the fact that the amalgamation of geographically contiguous RRBs, technology upgradation and recapitalization support provided to RRBs from time to time has led to a situation where the share capital deposits of RRBs have crossed Rs. 500 crore in case of some RRBs, which is many times over the limit of Rs. 5 crore for authorized capital provided under the said Act,

The proposed amendments also provide for raising capital by RRBs from sources other than the Union Government, the State Government and the Sponsor Bank. But this is subject to the condition that (i) in no event the combined shareholding of the Union Government and the Sponsor Bank shall be less than 51

percent. ; and (ii) the State Government concerned will be consulted, if its shareholding is reduced below 15 percent.

In view of the proposed provisions for raising private capital by RRBs from sources other than the Union Government, the State and the Sponsor Bank; provisions have also been made for (i) shareholders to elect directors; (ii) a person cannot be a director on the Board of more than one RRB; and (iii) appointment of an officer of the Union Government on the Board of RRB, if considered necessary.

I would, therefore, request the Hon. Members of this august House to support the Bill.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“That the Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, be taken into consideration.”

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to

speak on this very important legislation of amending the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, as we all know, Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 mainly provides for incorporation regulation and winding up of Regional Rural Banks. The Regional Rural Banks were established with a view to developing rural economy and to create a supplementary channel to the Cooperative Credit Structure so as to enlarge the institutional credit for the rural and agricultural sector. ... (*Interruptions*) The RRBs accept deposits primarily from rural/semi-urban areas and provide loans and advances mostly to small and marginal farmers, agricultural laborers, rural artisans and other segments of priority sector. ... (*Interruptions*)

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Hon. Finance Minister has mentioned about the need to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 to strengthen the RRBs' capital base and improve their overall capabilities.

My proposals in the Amendment Bill are as follows. My first proposal is regarding managerial assistance beyond five years and allowing the sponsoring banks to continue financial and managerial assistance to the RRBs beyond the initial five year period. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, here, I humbly differ with the Hon. Finance Minister's view. It is because the need to delink functioning of the RRBs from the sponsoring banks was always felt as the very objective of setting up of RRBs and not for allowing them to function as extensions or proxy identities of already existing sponsoring banks but to reach out to the hitherto unattended or even "untouched areas of interests" for the 'left out' population. Financial assistance by the sponsoring banks beyond five years of setting up of RRBs is understandable. But managerial assistance beyond five years through the higher echelons of managers of RRBs appointed from the sponsoring banks is not acceptable.

In my opinion, it hampers the autonomy of the RRBs. Alternatively, a good proposal could be setting up of an 'apex corporate structure' for the RRBs like NABARD in the lines of GIC, SAIL, Coal India Limited. Instead of managerial assistance from the sponsoring bank, the apex body of RRBs can have a pool of experienced executives who can be deputed to the RRBs.

Here, I would like to mention that as per the Ministry of Finance instructions issued in February, 2012, appointment of branch level staff and ... (*Interruptions*)

**16. 45 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Deepender Singh Hooda and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.*

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** My mike stops, my voice stops, . . . \*

[English]

Sir, we are repeatedly requesting that the Hon. Prime Minister should respond in the matter. It is not only my Party's request but the request of all parties like TMC, CPI, CPI(M), RJD, JD(S), JD(U), AAP, NCP and others. I am unable to understand as to why the Government is so adamant on this. We have heard Shri Venkaiah Naidu several times. This question has arisen because he has himself admitted that he is a part of that organisation. . . . (*Interruptions*) That is why we want a reply from the Hon. Prime Minister because he is the controlling authority. The master key is with him. Therefore, we made a request to you. But they are not yielding. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

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\* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

They do walkouts, they do wrestling, they do both. We condemn his attitude and his conduct and we stage a walkout. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**16. 46 hrs.**

*Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other Hon. Members then left the House.*

[English]

**SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU:** Sir, according to the Ministry of Finance instructions issued in February, 2012, appointments of branch level staff and officers of RRBs from 2012-13 onwards are done through a common written examination conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection, that is IBPS, similar to the procedure followed in the public sector banks. While this being the case in the lower level staff, why should we want to control the RRBs through managerial assistance of sponsoring banks, which actually mean remote control by the sponsoring banks? If we want to improve the overall capabilities as mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the right way is to draw the managerial assistance from a pool of executives drawn from financial institutions which will be maintained by the proposed apex body.

The second major point is the capital norms, raising the authorized capital to Rs. 2,000 crore with a minimum fixed capital at Rs. 1 crore and also fixing the minimum issued capital to Rs. 1 crore. This is a good proposal as the quantum of capital required for the operational requirement of RRBs in their enhanced working capacities is huge. No doubt that increased capital for RRBs means increased rural credit at its disposal. I fully support the move.

The third point is the shareholding pattern, allowing RRBs to raise their capital from sources other than the Union and the State Governments, and sponsoring banks with a caveat that in such a case, the combined shareholding of the Union Government and the sponsoring bank cannot be less than 51 percent. Additionally, if the shareholding of the State Government in the RRB is reduced below 15 percent, the Union Government would have to consult the State Government concerned. Here also I differ with the proposal. The State Governments already hold only 15 percent share and that need not be allowed to be reduced. Any reduction in the shareholding can be from the remaining 85 percent, which is the combined holding of the Union Government and the sponsoring bank. But, at no cost, the total shareholding of the Union Government, State Government and the sponsoring bank should fall below 51 percent level.

Here I would like to mention that our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has always stressed that shareholding pattern of public sector institutions should never be allowed to be diluted, detrimental to the interests of the common man. A classic example is, when five percent shares of the public sector, Neyveli Lignite Corporation was sought to be disinvested, our beloved leader of poor masses Puratchi Thalaivi Amma negotiated with the Union

Government and other regulatory authorities and ensured buying of the shares by the Government of Tamil Nadu so that the larger objectives and legal rights of the public sector institutions and the workers do not suffer even in the distant future.

The fourth major point is regarding the Board of Directors the election of directors from sources other than the Union Government, State Government and the sponsoring bank. The Bill states that any person who is a director of an RRB is not eligible to be on the Board of Directors of another RRB. This is a good measure and I support the move.

The Bill also adds a provision for Directors to be elected by shareholders based on the total amount of equity share capital issued to such shareholders. In view of the proposed provision for rising of private capital, election of director from such shareholders is understandable. One Director for those who are issued equity share capital up to 10 percent, two Directors for equity share capital from 10 percent to 25 percent and three Directors when the equity share capital issued is 25 percent and beyond is a reasonable move and I support the initiative. At the same time, a new provision should be made for the appointment of two non-official directors to be nominated by the State Government.

While a private equity shareholder is allowed to be appointed as a director, it is reasonable that the State Government should also be allowed to nominate two non-official Directors who are not State Government officers as is being allowed in the case of Union Government. The Union Government nominates two non-official Directors. It will be fair if the State Government concerned is also allowed to nominate two non-official directors to the Board. This will help appointment of non-officials in the board who are otherwise well equipped to have a place in the Board and they will be able to provide guidance in the Board with their knowledge and experience.

Another proposal in the amendment Bill is enabling the Union Government to appoint an officer of the Union Government to the Board of Directors to ensure effective functioning of the RRB. Considering the field level hands on experience of the State Government officials, the proposal should be enabling appointment of officer to the Board from the Union Government or the State Government and if such an appointment is made from the Union Government, the State Government should also be consulted and only after concurrence of the State Government, such appointment should be made. I am making this point very specific because, at no

point of time, should any attempt be made to remote-control any RRB in the veil of appointment of an officer of the Union Government.

The fifth major point is about the date of closure of annual account. I agree with the Hon. Finance Minister in the matter of changing the date of closure of annual accounts from 31<sup>st</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> March to bring uniformity with the financial year.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, we have two Regional Rural Banks, namely, Pallavan Grama Bank and the Pandiyan Grama Bank. They are performing well. In general, the RRBs have done good work despite the limited mandate given to them. Their network cannot be allowed to be wasted. We can best utilise them by creating an apex body for the RRBs, giving them functional autonomy by delinking them from the sponsoring banks and paving the way for infusion of expert guidance in the Board by allowing appointment of two non-official Members to the Board to be nominated by the State Government.

Our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is always for the upliftment of the rural population and especially those sections of people who are devoid of any support and guidance, the downtrodden, the vulnerable and the marginalised. Her vision of service to the needy and overall development of the nation through a

welfare model of governance will be best achieved if our suggestions, which are very reasonable, are incorporated in the proposed Regional Rural Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

With these few words, I once again thank the Chair and conclude my speech. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of this Far-Reaching Legislation which is the need of the hour today because what is our banking system, it is old running. 1400 BC if we talk about, then in the whole world when people did not think about the bank, we used to think about the bank. Even if we talk about Buddhist sculpture, these things are mentioned in Jatikaj and Chanakya has said in his theory that

**16. 54 hrs.**

(Shri Arjun Charan Sethi *in the Chair*)

This means that changes have taken place in this country from time to time, the role of banks has gradually changed, and things have changed. There were some objections to what Venkatesh Babu Ji was saying just now. There is a need to change oneself with time. There was the World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank, but the initiative taken by the earlier Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh Ji and after that by our Hon. Prime Minister, this paved a way for the establishment of BRICS Bank. This means that the World Bank is not functioning. The IMF is not functioning, Asian Development Bank is not functioning and another bank is required and for this BRICS Bank was established.

In the same way, if we look at the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, it says that all the poor people in this country, as many people living in villages, as there are people whose accounts have not yet been opened, their accounts have to be opened and the need to open these accounts is that banks are not able to do their work well. Therefore, in this country, as our friends from Trinamool Congress have just left, it would have been great if they had stayed here. Now here there has been talk of Saradha Chit Fund, there has been talk of Rose Valley, before this in Bengal there was talk of Peerless, if you remember. Tathagata Babu if you are careful, because Odisha is also trapped in this scam. So these chit fund companies which have become active, have become active because of greed and since we are not able to provide banking system to our people and due to this reason such chit fund institutions are developing. Especially in Eastern India, there are a lot of developments and hence there is a need to strategize the Regional Rural Bank. The situation with the Regional Rural Bank, the Regional Rural Bank was formed for which it was discussed that fifty percent was to be given to the Union Government, 35 percent was to be given to the Sponsored Banks and 15 percent was to be given to the State Government and for that reason when it comes to

equity infusions, the Chakraborty Committee formed, the Chakraborty Committee made some recommendations in 2010 for RRB, in those requests it talked about recapitalization, otherwise it will go wrong and on the basis of that the Government of India has still made a recapitalization of Rs. 2200 crore. But the borrowing is the borrowing, let me tell you that as per the 2013 report, today's borrowing is Rs 38286 crore and the investment is around Rs 1 lakh ten thousand crore. We have done borrowing around Rs 40 thousand crores and the investment has been around Rs 1 lakh 10 thousand crores. You have given Rs. 1,39837 crore and total NPA which is your loss is Rs. 1333 crore and NPAs have increased so much that there are many RRBs whose NPAs have increased by more than five percent. In this situation, Shri Basil Freenarb in the bank knows that commercial banks have been implemented and private banks are bringing equity, RRBs. There is a need for fund infusion and what has to be done for this infusion, because the condition of the villages has become today, the condition of the villages is no longer the same as before. The situation in the villages has changed drastically. The first change is that the service sector in the villages, like the service sector in the urban sector in the city has increased, so has the service sector in the rural areas. You can also see mobile shops there. A lot

of shops have also opened there, those who earlier used to sell tea on the roadside of villages, have now started selling tea everywhere. Earlier, we who used to cut our hair and beard while sitting on bricks, are now opening salons and they are also installing fans. For this they are now feeling the need of credit. Earlier people used to drink tea anywhere, get a shave anywhere, and open a grocery shop anywhere. But now big shops are coming up, companies like Airtel, Vodafone, Idea etc. have come, because everyone is using mobile pPhones, otherwise earlier there were no pPhones in the villages. In this way, the increment in service sector has taken place in RRB, needs to be increased.

Apart from this, another aspect that has come to light is that the differences that existed earlier between rural and urban areas are now reducing to some extent, like the Prime Minister's Adarsh Gram Yojana. What does this Adarsh Gram Yojana say that give connectivity to the people there, roads are becoming very good. In the same way, if people are using the fridge in the cities, then the people of the villages also feel that we have to use the fridge. Electricity is a big problem. You know that the biggest inconvenience to all the villagers and Members of Parliament and ML Edge like us in the RaJiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme is that

if the transformer gets burnt, then the transformer has to be installed, the expectations of the people are increasing, the difference between rural and urban which used to be there earlier, suppose they have to take AC, then they will talk about taking credit from somewhere. If they want to take a fridge, they need credit somewhere. If they want to buy an electric bulb, they need so much money.

What is the third question that what is agriculture, what was agriculture earlier, earlier agriculture was that earlier we used to give our land in shareholding.

### **17. 00 hrs.**

Suppose we are not able to do farming, we used to give that land in shareholding. But now the cash crop has increased. As the production of cotton increased, somewhere the production of fruits and vegetables increased. Pigeon pea and castor are very good in our country so we gave it to them. Now we are not going on share cropping in cash crop. Now we are saying that you have to give so much money for this crop to us. It has become commercialized. The sharecropper, who does not have any means of his own, needs credit from somewhere, otherwise how will he do farming, how will he grow cotton, how will he grow crops, how will he grow vegetables, because we need cash. We do not want equal distribution so

commercialization of agriculture has happened. For this, RR Seeds are required.

After that, the fourth question is that just as vegetables were used earlier, now poultry farming has started in the same manner. You understand that someone is doing fish farming, someone is doing poultry farming. Giriraj Saheb is sitting next to us, he has been the Animal Husbandry Minister, time and again he was more concerned about Emu plantation. If someone opens a poultry farm or does fish farming, then credit is required for that also.

The fifth point is that where there was earlier credit, I will tell you about the Mahajani system. What was the budget of 1976, today only some farmers were telling that in Vidarbha, only now some farmers are dying. The farmer finally dies. A farmer is the most powerful man. The will power of the farmer is the strongest. When the farmer feels that there is no way left from anywhere now, then there is a big criterion for his credit, the Government tries to open a Kisan Credit Card. Now, as under Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, he will get five thousand rupees after six months, but his need is felt here. . . . (*Interruptions*) If anyone who ran a good account for six months after the opening of the account, then he will get five

thousand rupees. Maybe it's going to be three months. . . .  
(*Interruptions*)

Apart from this, the sixth point, which is the large work force, now many people do not want to work. The dependence on agriculture and the work force is decreasing somewhere. Now they do different jobs, one has started working as a plumber, the other has started working as an electrician. That means you see how the economy of the village is changing. The face of the village is changing, hence RRBs. What is the need for this capital infusion? If someone is doing cable television work or someone is doing plumbing work, will he need a screwdriver or not? Will he need a hammer or not? If there is a matter of buying a tractor, will it be necessary or not? The question then is that there are several seasonal employment. Agricultural laborer does not always work. Agricultural laborers work when farming is going on, whether it is Kharif or Rabi season. But after this, if they need any other work then they need business for that. For this, he needs credit.

The fourth question is that so much exploitation of the poor, you talk of tribals, you talk of Shidyul casts, like we did not have caste, it was divided on the basis of work, like talk of potters, talk of blacksmith, talk of goldsmith or talk about Kahar. People like this

have also made their own activities. They also talk about adjusting themselves with technology. If you want to compete in the market, then they need technology. For this reason also, they need a credit. The most important question is, we and Mahtab saheb constantly fight that the CD ratio which is there, because, when this Bill was coming in 1976, it was said that the money of the village will remain in the village, which was Main Moto, the main logo that the money of the village will remain in the village. Hon. Chairperson, where you also come from, when you hold a DLCC meeting in the district, then CD ratio suppose that in a state like Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, if it is around 110 percent, we have 30 percent CD ratio, 32 percent or 33 percent. You can say on the basis of bank that they have increased the CD ratio somewhere, but our money is being used somewhere else and our village and poor farmer people are not getting the money. For this, unless R.R.B. Will not be strong, it will always be needed and that is why it is needed.

Sir, if our Congress friends were present, it would have been nice to hear me. Right now they are asking a lot of answers from the Prime Minister as to what happened to black money, what is happening to conversion, what are the things happening. I want to tell that when the banks were being nationalized in 1969, a very long

speech was given that it has done for the poor that has done, this is a huge far-reaching Legislation. It is good that banks have been nationalized, it is a good thing for this country, but see how much time it took for the Congress Party to implement it.

This was the resolution of AICC in the year 1948, they passed the resolution in AICC in 1948 that there should be nationalization of bank and insurance sector. That nationalization happened in the year 1969. For 21 years, he started implementing his party's resolution on the basis of which he got independence. The story of that nationalisation is how many differences were there between Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi. Morarji Desai had to resign. Not only he had to resign, the then General Secretary, Shri Chandrashekhar Ji, who was a Member of the House, formed a committee of four people, in which Shri Manmohan Singh Ji was also a Member. It was whether there would be social consolidation or nationalization. His big fight went on, I don't want to go into his entire discussion. The biggest important thing is that the Bank Nationalisation Finally was done by the Congress. Why did we do it because at that time two Prime Ministers had died suddenly, we were defeated in the China war of 1962, in the war of 1965, there was such a situation that we were not even in a position to feed the

people on a full stomach. You remember that Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji gave the slogan of Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan. This entire thing is saying the RBI document, I am not saying.

When Indira Ji was implementing nationalization in the year 1969, she said that the objective was the vote and support of the poorest and the instrument to achieve this was bank nationalization and in that she gave the slogan of Garibi Hatao.

I am telling you that in this country so many slogans are made, so many things are made, then in the year 1948 you bring a resolution of the Congress Party that we will nationalize the banks, nationalize the insurance sector and it takes 21 years. In this Parliament, the Hon. Prime Minister said in his speech that the then Minister of Finance said the slogan to banish poverty. Even today, you should tell whether poverty has been removed after 1969 today after 44-45 years? It doesn't work to make things happen by manipulating the situation, by tricking people, by tricking the country. All of them are documentary proof of what happened.

Finally, let me tell you that there is a book by Inder Malhotra, in that book, Pupul Jayakar was a close friend of Mrs. Gandhi. Pupul

Jayakar complimented her on the excellent timing of her decision to nationalize the banks. In a revealing reply Mrs. Gandhi said that: "The timing was not chosen by her but by her adversaries. They drove me to the wall and left me with no other option. "

Only politics, in this country only you will do politics and on the strength of politics you think that you will mislead the country as much as you want. Now you see, when the Regional Rural Bank was created, what were its objects and reasons? Its object and reason was, when Pranab Mukherjee Sahab introduced this Bill, he said this in this Parliament,

[English]

"I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the incorporation, regulation and winding up of Regional Rural Banks with a view to developing the rural economy by providing for the purpose of development of agriculture, trade, commerce, irrigation, industry and other productive activities in the rural areas, credit and other facilities, particularly to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs, and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

[Translation]

I am saying that in 1976 R.R.B. was created for this reason. It has been 40 years since it was made. Are farmers still not committing suicide? There is only 10% irrigation facility in the fields where I come from. 90% people are still cultivating without irrigation. The State I come from and maybe people from all the States of Eastern India, even today 70% people are below the poverty line, 70% children are malnourished, 70% women are anemic even today and see that migration of workers is taking place from there. If migration of anyone is happening then it is happening of all the laborers in Eastern India. All those who used to run agriculture, who were marginal farmers, agriculturalists, have become laborers today. Today, in cities like Delhi and Mumbai, they are working as drivers, at some places as clerks, at some places as guards. 10x10 K 20-25 people are living in one room. Before that, let me tell you that in the debate that took place, the big leaders of the Congress party, Nathuram Mirdha Saheb participated in this debate. He said and I am telling you how this country is being misled and what is needed. He said that this bank is a beginning and after 1977 a man who is equal to crores of men is finding it very difficult to deal with. The moneylenders of the villages are still using

these people like their servants and exploiting them. To serve the purpose of these Governments soon, we will bring such a credit system, which needs ordinance that these banks will develop at this stage and for them the fields of the poor small people will be developed, businessmen will need the means to run the industry, then that will be fulfilled. With this one system, more and more poor people will fall below the poverty line and they will benefit from these banks - Nathuram Mirdha Saheb said. I always say that Congress party does not delay, it is they who get late. For this, different committees were formed to decide what should happen to the Regional Rural Bank. . . . (*Interruptions*) Hon. Chairperson, our party has one and a half hour's time.

First of all, Narasimhan Committee was formed in 1975, on the basis of which R.R.B. Came in 1976. The Congress has a nature that it makes many committees. In 1977, he formed a Dantewala Committee, whose report came in 1978. He said how to reduce the credit gap between rich and poor. He has some recommendations. He said that the functioning of commercial banks is handled by RRB. Should be implemented progressively. He said that the loan and advance of 60% should be earmarked for Small Farmers, for Rural Artisans and for Rural Poor. He said that the operational

aspect of RRB should be seen by NABARD from time to time and should look at the share capital contribution. This is the report of 1978, that report came and went. After this, when the Congress came to power again, they formed a committee again. In 1981, another Committee to Review Arrangement for Institutional Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development was set up. He also made some recommendations. Let me tell you that a committee is formed, there are recommendations, but nothing happens when it comes to their implementation. He said that there is a need to make a little bit of change in the promotion of shareholding. It won't go like that. It said that there is a need to formulate a separate policy for the North Eastern Region and said that the recommendations of the Dantewala Committee are that the entire control, regulation, promotion or development responsibility which RRB It should be transferred to NABARD somewhere. It came in 1981 after 1978. After this, a Kelkar Committee of the Working Group on Regional Rural Banks was formed. I am only telling you how football is being talked about with RRB that they constitute a committee, if there is any problem, the report of the committee will come. You will see that after a gap of three years, the Congress Government continuously formed a committee on this. The Committee was also formed in the year 1981.

The Kelkar Committee was formed in the year 1984. It said that RRB is not being enabled somewhere in SC, ST Operation. That committee said that the non-economic RRBs should be implemented in the country. Merge 196 RRBs at one time. Now their number is around 70. I want to tell you that a lot of recommendations were made for its capital infusion. For financial restructuring, he said that the SLR requests for the meeting should be made responsible to Sponsor Bank for Government securities. Thereafter, another committee was formed. I am only telling that RRB is the biggest proof of what kind of injustice happens in this country with villages, with the poor, with the backward. The Agriculture Credit Review Committee was formed in the year 1989. The recommendations of that committee were that the functioning of RRB is not getting right. That Committee again said that the things that are being done for women, SCs and STs, artisans and for small farmers are not getting success and there is a need to change it.

Hon. Chairperson, after this in the year 1991, when Shri Manmohan Singh became the Finance Minister of the country, he formed a Narasimhan Committee. That committee said that the Government should think of measures to correct the viability of RRB and for this, capital infusion was a big issue. He said how to

make financial inclusion with the local corrector of RRB or how to put money into it or how to engage the local people was of the important recommendation Narasimhan Committee. The Government was not satisfied with the report. No report is coming into force. Then in the year 1994 the Bhandari Committee was formed and the Bhandari Committee said that there are 49 RRBs which need to be reconstructed. If restructuring is not done then people's money will be lost and regional thinking will be affected. That committee talked about Augmentation, talked about elimination, which the Hon. Minister of Finance is talking about. That Committee said in the year 1994 that special information should be given on its upgradation. Today the Hon. Prime Minister is worried about this, the Hon. Prime Minister is talking about skill development because, he feels that there is a shortage of skills in the villages, that is why RRBs should work for skill upgradation. He said that bring professionals on the board and not politicians. Like in NDMA, the Hon. Prime Minister has brought professionals. After that the Mishra Committee was formed in the year 1995. This committee held that RRBs There should be graduate investment in Government securities and investment management should be strengthened, because I have already said that more than five percent

of NPAs are due to RRBs. NPAs of commercial banks are also high. They are at two-three percent. He said that the operational set-up should be strengthened. After that the Basu Committee was formed in the year 1996. Committee after committee continued to be formed. The Bhandari Committee had talked about restructuring of 49 RRBs, the Basu Committee in the year 1996 had recommended restructuring of 68 RRBs. Talked about restructuring. The position of RRBs became so bad that it did not have a position to handle and their number increased from 49 to 68 in two years. That committee said that the role of shareholders should be promoted in it and said that the approach of RRBZ should not be positively stand alone.

Thereafter, another committee was formed. The name of that committee was Thingalia Committee. It was formed in the year 1997. All the committees that were formed after the year 1976 to 1978 are questioning on the same thing that you have made RR seeds, you have a great thinking, you want to do a great job, but somewhere there is a problem in it. You strengthen it and RRB. Consolidate. He also said that the roles of RBI, NABARD and sponsor banks are overlapping. He said that there is no connection between these three.

Subsequently, a committee was formed. Two more committees were formed, Vyas Committee and Agarwal Committee. Expert Committee on Rural Credit for Rural Credit. . . . (*Interruptions*) This means a committee formed in the year 2000, a committee formed in the year 2001 and a committee formed in the year 2004 under the chairmanship of Dr. Vyas and a Thorot Committee was formed, which reported in the year 2010. On the basis of this, today the Government has no option but to do whatever these people have done. The work that the Government is doing, the Government is concerned for the common people and wants to work for the common people. They need to be re-structured to work for those common people, so they have brought such a good Bill. I have some opinions on this.

Hon. Chairperson, I want to tell the Hon. Minister through you that the area of operation thereof is very small. The exposure of the target group to it is a very high risk. Whether that money will be returned or not depends on the poor, while mounting NPAs and continuous losses are rising. The shift towards investment banking is also being adversely affected. Our dependence on sponsor banks is increasing day by day. Customers do not know from where they will get the loan, where they will get the subsidy, the role that banks

should have in it is not there. The employees who are in it are getting less money. There are no skilled staffs. The skill of Treasury Management and Profit Orientation is decreasing, the exposure of skill is very low, the Excellence of Staff is not being taken care of.

Therefore, I suggest through you that the Government should encourage what is required for rural development, what role should RRBs play in this. In the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, there are RRBs. What will be the role of so that these chit-fund companies which are growing so much, should grow at least? Then, how do we give non-interest cost of credit to small borrowers? How can we give them interest at the lowest rate, only then RRB will be able to pay interest? will benefit. How to open more branches for those weaker sections who do not have a bank at a distance of ten kilometers, fifteen kilometers, twenty kilometers? How can we connect them with technology? It should be. After this, think about the productivity, the controlling cost and how to increase the incoming income of them. After this, how can we include the participation cost and subsidy in the transaction? Also, there should not be waiver of loan for those who are willful defaulters, the money should be returned from them. People should create a feeling that these money that you are getting, you are getting it to return to us. How will their

decision be made? How will we be able to increase the micro credit scheme? Whether we can sponsor, co-sponsor the co-operative society or think about the role of these three - RRB, commercial bank and co-operative bank in the installment of the commercial bank. How can we increase the credit policy for Rural Activities? How can we relax the lending, if we are able to work on these eight-ten things somewhere, then I think this Bill which is coming, which this Government has brought with a big good nature, mijaz, it has been brought in according to the Jan Dhan scheme of the Prime Minister, we will be able to content some of it. With these words, I once again thank you for supporting this Bill. Jai Hind Jai Bharat.

[English]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Mr. Chairman, I stand here to participate in the discussion on the Bill that has been moved by the Finance Minister. Our good friend, Jayant Sinha Ji is also here. Perhaps, he will be replying to the discussion.

As has been said by my previous speaker, Nishikant Dubey Ji, this Bill was long overdue. Of course, he dwelt on the issue till 1948, came to the year 1969 and missed out 1976 when, actually, the RRB Bill was moved and enactment was done. Subsequently, he moved to

the amalgamation of different Regional Rural Banks, how and why it was necessitated.

Initially, I would say that this Bill before us is to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. It is said that the amendments will enhance the authorized and issued capital to strengthen their capital base and to bring flexibility in the shareholding between the Union Government, State Government and the Sponsor Bank. The term of non-official director appointed by the Centre will be fixed not exceeding three years. I have moved an amendment to this effect. It is also said that these amendments will ensure financial stability by RRBs, which will enable them to play a greater role in financial inclusion and meeting credit requirements of rural areas. It is said, while piloting the Bill, that the Board of RRBs will be strengthened. Are we not aware that RRBs are jointly owned by the Union Government, by the State Government and the Sponsor Bank with the issued capital of 50 percent, 15 percent and 35 percent respectively?

**17. 27 hrs**

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

I have come across a comment from All-Kerala Gramin Banks' Staff Federation. It said that the proposed amendments of RRB Act, 1976 will pave the way for privatization of the RRBs in the country, as the amendment was to raise the authorized capital of Regional Rural Banks from the existing Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore. Apart from this, the Bill proposes to reduce the share of the Union Government and seeks a 51 percent support from the existing 85 percent. It will hold consultation, no doubt, with the respective State Governments to reduce their share from the existing 15 percent. This clearly demonstrates that the Bill would benefit private monopolies and corporates. No doubt, Nishikant Ji is in favour of this Bill. Do you have any system in place to check if these RRBs transgress from their mandate? Is it not true that the total business earning of the RRBs was Rs. 3. 5 lakh crore or Rs. 5 lakh crore and their total profit was more than Rs. 2,500 crore?

Now private monopolies want to have a share in that pie. It is said that the RRB Amendment Bill aims to infuse vigour into RRBs by increasing their capital base from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 500 crore. But the capital, as I have said earlier, will no longer be entirely borne by the Centre, State Government concerned and Sponsor Bank.

Their shareholding would be limited to 51 percent and the rest would be raised from private investors.

The All-India Regional Rural Banks Employees' Association has questioned the need for private investment. I would say that it is the concern not only of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks but I think it is also the concern of the whole country that why you are going in for privatization of the RRBs, and that too, in a roundabout way that this is being done.

Since the inspection of RRBs

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Mahtab, please stop for a while.

What about the Half-an-Hour Discussion?

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** When the Hon. Member is not there, what I would request the House is to discuss this Bill and approve it by 6 pm or 6. 30 pm so that we can get the House adjourned, if the House so desires.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The concerned Minister is there. He has to say that.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** In the absence of Member, I do not think that it is proper.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL):**

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the Hon. Member who raised this issue for Half-an-Hour Discussion is not there along with other Hon. Members, I would request you to permit this matter to be taken up in the next Session for an elaborate discussion. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay.

Hon. Members, this Half-an-Hour Discussion will be taken up during the next Session.

Now, Shri Mahtab may continue his speech.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Sir, the capital, as I have said earlier, will no longer be entirely borne by the Centre or the concerned State or the sponsor bank. Their shareholding would be limited to 51 percent and the rest would be raised from private investors.

Since the inception of the Regional Rural Banks, the Government has appointed at least ten expert committees to analyse their financials and suggest measures to revive them. Most of the committees have recommended merger of the loss-making RRBs either with neighbouring viable RRBs or with their sponsor banks. Some also recommended their liquidation, but the Government did not act from 1981 till 2005. In that year, consolidation of loss-making RRBs with profit-making ones began to make them economically viable. In Odisha also, a number of RRBs were merged. The Ganjam and Koraput District RRBs were merged. The Cuttack and Balasore District RRBs were merged and named as Kalinga Gramya Bank. Similarly, the Utkal Gramya Bank, Neelachal Gramya Bank and all these RRBs were formed.

By April, 2013 there were just 62 RRBs from 196 in 2004. Following the recommendations of the panel headed by Shri K. C. Chakrabarty, Deputy Governor of RBI, the Government increased

the capital inflow of 40 loss-making RRBs. It had recommended that the Centre, the State Governments and the sponsor banks should release Rs. 2,200 crore to bail out these banks. The impact of this capital infusion has begun showing on the ground. The latest RBI report shows that there have been improvements in credit flow in rural areas.

I would mention here, Sir, that there is a need for proper mentoring and that is the actual key in regard to how to make a round about of the RRBs. Biswa Swarup Misra, an economist and banking expert, blames the stakeholders of RRB for its poor performance whom I quote:

“RRBs could have done better had sponsor banks played a proactive role in guiding them and State Governments provided conducive banking environment.”

In 2004, more than half of the loss-making RRBs were in four States – Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. When I say in 2004, I mean that at that time, the division between Madhya Pradesh and Bihar had already taken place. These States neither provided proper infrastructure nor managerial skills to RRBs.

In 1998, M. Narsimhan, former Governor of RBI, had pointed out that RRBs had not been able to earn much profit because of limited operation area and target groups. “The salary structure of RRB staff is not motivating enough,” points out B. K. Swain, Head of the Centre for Rural Credit and Development Banking at the National Institute of Rural Development in Hyderabad.

Shri N. K. Thingalaya, economist and former Managing Director of Syndicate Bank has said: “RRBs can be made viable without private investment.” Shri Y. C. Nanda, former Chairperson of NABARD says that consolidation of RRBs has affected its local feel and role. Private shareholding would lead to further exclusion of rural beneficiaries. I would like to quote him. He said: “I am aware of the poor performance of RRBs. But the point is we are going away from the objectives for which RRBs were established. ”

Here, I would just like to mention what the Standing Committee in its 4<sup>th</sup> Report in 1993-1994 had said. It said that: “The Committee express their unhappiness over the sad plight of RRBs. The financial position of these banks is deteriorating and the Government appears to be complacent in improving viability of these banks. ”. The answer and the remedy that has come now is worse than the medicine that is supposed to be given. I am saying this because here

it is going to the private hands. I had just mentioned about the Standing Committee of Finance of 1993-1994.

What is the mandate of RRBs? The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established in 1975 under the provisions of an Ordinance that was promulgated on 26 September 1975, and the RRBs Act, 1976 with a view to develop the rural economy and to create a supplementary channel to the cooperative credit structure so as to enlarge institutional credit to rural and agricultural sector. If this is the mandate, I would come to that aspect of the Report as to what is the present position of our rural economy today and how much money is actually flowing into our rural branches or rural people or those people who are engaged in agriculture.

The major objective of setting up of RRBs is to provide credit and other facilities, especially, to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas. How far RRBs have been successful is there for all of us to see. But allowing private investment how far the mandate will be carried out, I have my doubt. Why would any one invest in RRBs, which lends to the rural poor and marginal farmers?

As per the recommendations of Dr. V. S. Vyas Committee, the Government of India, in consultation with NABARD, the State

Government concerned and the sponsor Banks initiated amalgamation process of RRBs. The first phase was initiated sponsor bank-wise within the State in 2005. The second phase for further amalgamation was initiated across the sponsor Banks within a State during 2012. After amalgamation, the number of RRBs has been reduced to 57 as on 31 March 2014, and it is reported that all are making profit. Yet, there is an opinion that since the RRBs were established under a special Act passed by Parliament, the decision to amalgamate RRBs at the national-level needs to be ratified by the Parliament, which has not be done and which is yet to be done and to do that, first one has to de-amalgamate, but will it not create more confusion? Yet, I would say, propriety demands that the Parliament should ratify amalgamation of RRBs.

Post amalgamation, the number of RRBs in the country, as on 31 March 2014, stood at 57 with a network of 19,082 branches covering 642 notified districts in 26 States and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The provisional financial results of RRBs for the year 2013-2014 indicates that all 57 RRBs have earned profits aggregating Rs. 2,833 crore. But I would repeat that rural areas continue to be ignored by banks. I am saying 'repeat' because these

are the words of RBI. The Deputy Governor Shri K. C. Chakravarty said this in August last, and I quote:

“Rural branches have declined to 37 percent of total branches from 54 percent in 1994. Rural deposits constitute just 9. 1 percent of bank deposits, down from 15. 1 percent. All these things indicate that allocation efficiency has not happened despite banks being operationally efficient. It should be the endeavour of banks to diversify into rural areas. Is the financial system without allocation efficiency good enough?”

Sir, rural branches have declined, as I have mentioned, to 37 percent. All these things indicate that allocation efficiency has not happened despite banks being operationally efficient. Therefore, are Regional Rural Banks still relevant? I would say the relevance has, in fact, increased. More than half of the population still depends on agriculture for their livelihood, and agricultural credit continues to be scarce. Therefore, the effort is called for to strengthen the rural credit system. The scheduled commercial banks which dominate the

banking scene today have become reluctant partners in rural banking. Is it for want of a definite policy direction? The need for continuing with the expansion of banking infrastructure in rural areas was recognized even by the Narasimham Committee, but in reality the importance of rural financial infrastructure has got relegated to the background. By bringing in private players into RRB, I think it would be further relegated to the background, and rural investment will not be the priority. Will it give stress on rural banking? I keep my fingers crossed.

Here, I would like to mention what the Standing Committee had mentioned in 1993-94:

“The main objective of the rural bank is to meet credit needs of the weaker sections of society in rural areas. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a National Rural Bank of India should be set up and all RRBs should be brought under its control.”

This is a suggestion which was given in 1993-94. Is it not time now to consider in all its impact of forming a National Rural Bank of India? NABARD is definitely playing a greater role, no doubt about

it. But having a corpus body like the National Rural Bank of India looking into the aspects of Regional Rural Banks, I think, we will be doing a great service for the rural poor of our country.

I have to move certain amendments relating to the Bill. At the time of passing of the Bill, I will raise that issue. Thank you.

**SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA (NIZAMABAD):** Sir, thanks for the opportunity, but I am afraid there is not much left to say after what Shri Nishikant Dubey and Shri Mahtab have said. Pretty much all my notes are about that. But then I will try to add whatever I can add.

Sir, these Regional Rural Banks were started with the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi -- on October 2, 1975 by an Ordinance; later, it was converted and the Act came in 1976. As Gandhi Ji said, rural India is the real India and rural development is the real development of India. So, the emphasis was to have one rural bank per each district, but somehow it did not happen, and we ended up with having only 200 plus rural banks. Later on, due to issues of management or the lack of interest by the sponsored banks, and the Union and State Governments, they have again be amalgamated and the number was further reduced to 57 rural banks.

When we formed these 57 rural banks, particularly I will talk about my area, four or five banks have been clubbed into one rural bank and as a result, one Deccani Grameen Bank came into existence. Later on, the small or the marginal farmers who were supposed to be helped by these rural banks were not being helped.

The original Act in fact says:-

“This is to particularly help the agriculture, trade, commerce, industry and other productive activities in rural areas.”

Why am I particularly talking about the fundamentals of the Bill? We need to really think about it. This Bill aims at changing the fundamental institution. I will give you one example. This Bill says that it has to give loans to the rural area. I have particularly tried to get some loan for the shepherds in my area. There are 1200 shepherds. They were in want of loan. I made so many trips to Deccan Gramin Bank. They simply rejected. They said that these guys have no standing. Like Nishikant Dubey Ji was saying that today the nature of the village is changing and becoming like a city. Small businesses are coming up there. Who is going to address the financial needs of those people? That is very crucial. The failure of the RBI had encouraged dubious micro-finances to come into picture. That had encouraged the chit funds to come into picture. It could be anything. The farmers and the rural people with small necessities were duped by various agencies because the Government or the RBI really could not go to their areas to rescue them.

The Bill aims at reducing the stake of the Union Government and the State Government. Is this not privatization? That is what I

would like to ask. Of course, the Bill says that 51 percent will still be retained by the Union Government and the sponsor bank. But then, you have again put in a clause saying that State Governments will have 15 percent which can be reduced at any time. In that case, the State Governments will only be consulted. Consultation is different and consent is different. Tomorrow, without getting the consent of the State Government, if you, go ahead and reduce the stake of the State Government, how the States interest will sustain?

If 51 percent is still with the Union Government and the sponsor bank, the management is pretty much with the Government. With this governance structure which we have right now, how do you propose to increase the efficiency of these RRBs? You are encouraging private people to come into picture. What is the change that we will see on the ground? I really do not understand from this Bill.

Many small and marginal farmers are looking up to the NDA Government. The Bill should have a holistic approach. This is a fundamental and a serious issue.

For example, we talk about China in many aspects. China has an agricultural bank of China. It has a separate bank which takes care of its agricultural needs. Is this not the time to address our needs? We

should think about our farmers. I think we should have a separate bank under which these RRBs should work. An agency like NABARD, which is already the regulatory authority of all these banks, let NABARD take over these RRBs.

Whenever we are trying to divert the funds of these banks, should not the State Governments get the first right of refusal? Why are the State Governments being marginalized? Why is there a particular clause of reducing the stake of the State Government without the consent of the State Government? When we are talking about cooperative federalism, I think that the State should be enabled and empowered. The philosophy of the Modi *Ji* was told time and again re-iterated and it has been propagated in the elections. You want to reduce the States to a mere consultation agent and are not taking their consent. I do not think that many of the States will take it in right spirit.

There is a report. Nishikant Dubey *Ji* has explained it completely, but the Government has already given Rs 2200 crore for the forty week RRBs. For the rest of the RRBs how do you get them also on to the level playing field? Without empowering all the RRBs, how do you propose to take care of financial institutions?

You have changed the financial closure date from 31 December to 31 March. When 31 December was kept as a financial closure date of a RRB, it was more to be in sync with the seasons and with the yield periods. Now, if you are changing it and also bringing these into the regular financial institutions, how do you propose to address the concerns of the farmers? Now if you are changing it and also bringing these into the regular financial institutions, how do you propose to address the concerns of the farmers, is another question that I would request you to answer.

When we talk about the Bill, I would request you to amend this Clause 4. It says:

“Provided that in case the Regional Rural Bank raises its capital from sources other than the Union Government or the State Government or the Sponsor Bank, the shareholding of the Union Government and the Sponsor Bank shall not be less than 51 percent.”

Further you say that State Government’s shareholding will be reduced to 15 percent only after a consultation. Kindly incorporate it in the Bill. Instead of ‘consultation’, ‘consent’ of the State

Government is mandatory, if that can be taken care of. As our friend Shri T. G. Venkatesh Babu had said that a Director from the State Government also will be sustaining the interest of the State. Particularly when we are talking about *Swachch Bharat*, when we are talking about *Beti Bachao, Beti Parao* and emphasis on various other reasons, I would particularly ask you to look at *Kisan Bacho* because

[Translation]

Today there are many difficulties for the farmer. You can see it especially in the State of Telangana. Telangana has been ignored in Andhra Pradesh, electricity is not given. Due to this, many suicides are taking place. On one hand, the farmer does not get electricity, on the other hand, he does not get credit, urea, he does not get seeds on time. This Bill is not addressing anything. If you want to make basic fundamentals change through the Bill, then I request that you send this Bill to the Standing Committee. According to the Standing Committee, after making the changes, bring the Bill in the interest of the farmer from holistic view. Thank you.

[English]

**SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I rise to share my views on the Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014. As per the prevailing circumstances, some of the amendments are suggested by the Hon. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley Ji which are welcome and support subject to some of my suggestions.

The RRBs were established under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 passed by this august House. The concept of the RRB is to give the financial help to the rural people, particularly small and marginal farmers, unemployed youth and self-help groups. I would bring to the notice one thing. Fortunately, MoS (Finance) is here. There are so many banks and financial institutions. Public sector banks are there; State cooperative banks are there; district Union cooperative banks are there; and State Land Development and Rural Development Banks are also there. Along with that, so many cooperative credit societies and cooperative credit agricultural societies are also there. Apart from all those things, specifically for the development of rural area and the rural people, there was a need for Regional Rural Banks.

I can understand that the public sector banks are not having much more branches in the remote area. But in each and every region, there are some public sector banks and one of those banks is working as a leading bank in that region. That public sector bank is controlling all those banks which I have mentioned earlier. Whenever we are there in the DPC, we take their views. Whatever the Union Government's sponsored programmes are there for the youths, self-help groups and marginal and small farmers, but unfortunately, we are not satisfied with that. Ultimately, what is the reason behind it? I have seen the suggestions made and I welcome and support them and I have a particular suggestion to make.

There are many financial institutions and banks, some of them are controlled by State Governments and some of them are controlled by the Union Government. In all States there are State Land Development and Rural Cooperative Banks which were established with the permission of the Union Government. All those State Land Development and Rural Cooperative Banks are on the path of liquidation now. Why? That is because proper regulatory authority is not there and there is mismanagement. It is the responsibility of the Union Government to see that public money is

not wasted, whether it is in the cooperative sector or in the public sector. Particularly in the last seven, eight years I have seen this.

In 1998, the Vaidyanathan Committee was appointed by the then Agriculture Minister to review and survey the State Land Development and Rural Cooperative Banks. The Vaidyanathan Committee had suggested that a one time allocation of Rs. 4,500 crore be given to all the State Land Development and Rural Cooperative Banks. I followed it up for years but unfortunately I have not got any response from the then Government.

This is our Government, the Government of the people, by the people and for the people. Therefore, I request the Government to look into this matter first and see how those institutions can be made to work effectively. For one time we have to help them financially. Then, those banks will definitely perform better than the Regional Rural Banks.

Thank you very much.

**SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, and the Bill mostly deals with the authorized capital, issue capital, Directors and other things.

The main purpose for which the RRBs have been created has not been properly addressed in the Bill for the simple reason, as the earlier speaker was saying, that after bringing in private players the RRBs may become more commercial. Already the poor people are not able to approach the banks as the banks are insisting on security and all that. Therefore, unless a percentage of the quota is given to the weaker sections, the economic and the social gap between the rich and the poor can never be filled up.

In fact, the only banks serving the weaker sections in the villages are the RRBs. If the private players are again brought into this also, then they may not provide loans to the poorest of the poor people. So, I would request that a proper credit policy earmarking a certain percentage of the credit for the weaker sections should definitely be made.

The Reserve Bank of India in its report has clearly mentioned that 10 percent of the population is enjoying 90 percent of the credit in the country. Therefore, I would request that in order to address

that problem a credit policy may be evolved to give preference to weaker sections.

Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Jayadev Galla, now it is your turn.

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I would rather speak tomorrow, because I am already out of my turn.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** After you speak, the Hon. Minister is going to reply. There is no other person to speak.

**18. 00 hrs.**

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:** Sir, Let me start with difficulties in deposit mobilization.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now it is six o' clock. Shri Varaprasad Rao is the last speaker. After that, the Hon. Minister is going to reply. Then we are going to take up Zero Hour. We can extend the time till all this business is over.

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:** RRBs have encountered a number of practical difficulties in deposit mobilization. Due to a restrictive lending policy that excludes the richer section of the village society, the RRBs are not able to increase the deposits. These potential

depositors show least interest in depositing their money with these banks. Further, State civic bodies and their agencies are also not helping RRBs by maintaining their deposits with the RRBs. This is the main reason for failing to mobilize deposits. I request the Hon. Minister to please remove these restrictions so that the RRBs can grow more freely.

Sir, it is not a propounded theory but it is proven that if you shackle or control something, it cannot free or expand itself. That is exactly what is happening with the RRBs. The parent Act prescribed that RRBs will be sponsored by banks and the sponsor banks will subscribe share capital, train RRB personal and provide managerial and financial assistance for five years. I welcome that five year period has been removed by this Bill under clause 2 which proposes to amend section 3 of the parent Act. But under the shadow of sponsored banks, RRBs are not able to grow the way they are expected. It is because RRBs are controlled by NABARD, RBI, Union Government and sponsored banks. But in 1997, the Government removed control of NABARD and RBI but operational responsibilities of the RRBs are still kept with the sponsored banks. So I request the Hon. Minister that it is high time to think of formation of a National Rural Bank of India with State level RRBs

as its constituents and the branches in every village which will provide the RRBs the flexibility and improve their overall capabilities.

The RRBs pace of growth in disbursement of loans is slow. Some of the reasons for the slow progress include difficulty to identify potential small borrowers as bank staff has been required to make sincere and special efforts in this regard. Most of the small borrowers do not like bank formalities and prefer to borrow from the informal indigenous source of finance such as moneylenders.

There is also anomaly in rates of interest. The RRBs charge a rate of interest of 14 percent whereas commercial banks are charging much less and there is a lack of coordination between the officials of District Credit Planning Committee and the RRBs. The objective of the Jan Dhan Yojana is to provide rural and urban poor the banking facilities and insurance benefits. Since the majority of the poor live in rural areas, RRBs are expected to play a major role in the scheme. But if one looks at the statistics, as on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 RRBs are behind public sector banks not only in opening accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana but also in issuing RuPay Cards. Out of 9.7 crore of accounts opened so far, RRBs contribution is just 1.68 crore, out of

which 1.43 crore are in rural areas where 25 lakh are in urban areas. The number of RuPay Cards issued is just 49. 75 lakh.

This clearly shows that RRBs are still not able to penetrate into poorer sections. It is primarily because their operations are limited to the area notified by the Government limiting them to just one or two districts. So my first point is that the area of RRBs needs to be expanded. Each RRB should be permitted to go wherever it wants. Hence I request Hon. Minister to give RRBs a free hand for their operations so that their further operations reach out to as many poor people as possible. Coming to share capital of RRBs, clause 3 of the Bill aims to amend section 5 of the RRB Act 1976 by permitting the RRBs to raise the capital from market by keeping the combined share of Union Government and State Government and sponsored banks at 51 percent. Now in the proposed amendment, the share capital of the RRBs can be split into 200 crore equity shares of Rs 10/- each. When compared to the present arrangement which is 5 crore share capital of RRBs split into 5 lakh shares of Rs 100/- each, this move of the Government will help the RRBs to mop up funds from capital market. It is necessary since the financial constraints are being faced by the Union Government, State Governments and also

sponsored banks are finding it difficult to provide financial assistance to RRBs.

Here again, the Government has done a good job by keeping the combined share of Union, State and the sponsored banks to be not less than 51 percent. It is a part of the reform process; as we know, last month, the Government has allowed public sector banks to raise funds from the market, by keeping its share up to 52 percent. It is primarily to meet the Basal-III norms by the banks.

Our ultimate objective is to ensure that RRBs to have more reach to the rural areas. The success of the rural credit in our country largely depends on the financial strength. There is no doubt that RRBs are the key financing institutions at the rural level, which shoulders the responsibility of meeting the credit needs of different types of rural areas.

At present, most of the RRBs are facing the problems of overdo, expansion, infrastructure, technology, recovery, NPAs and others. If we succeed in overcoming these difficulties, I am confident that we can bring the image of the RRBs as the common man's bank.

Thank you very much for giving me the time.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA):** Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to respond to the excellent debate that we have had so far about the amendments to the Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill.

I will start off by saying that there were a lot of expressions of care and compassion for our farmers from my Hon. Colleagues. As far as this Government is concerned and as far as I am personally concerned, since I come from a very rural backward district, we are working and we will continue to work and do the utmost that we can to be able to provide facilities, resources and credit to our farmers, and to provide them all the services. So, they should not doubt our sincerity and they should not doubt our commitment to be able to provide all these facilities and services to our farmers.

Before I get into answering the specific concerns that they have, let me very quickly sketch out the way agricultural credit works in our country.

Agricultural credit is provided by a variety of institutions, which includes RRBs. Some of the Hon. Members felt that it was RRBs that are providing the bulk of agricultural credit. That is a fallacy. The fact is that they provide about 11.6 percent of the total

agricultural credit of Rs. 7 lakh crore that is going out every year. It has gone up from Rs. 4 lakh crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 7 lakh crore now. So, it is growing well. In fact, the share of the RRBs has increased from nine percent to 11.6 percent. So, they are performing well.

But they are one among many other institutions that provide agricultural credit. So, when we talk about agricultural credit, when we talk about providing facilities, resources and support to our farmers, we have to look at the entire picture, not just look at the RRBs in isolation. Of course, in the Ministry and in our Government, we are looking at the entire picture. The RRBs play an important role and that is what we actually want to strengthen.

It is very important for us to continue to strengthen agricultural credit and credit to our farmers because they fall prey, often, to very unscrupulous chit funds and the Ponzi schemes that they defraud them and make it difficult for them to attain financial security. So, it is very important for us to be able to deepen financial inclusion in our rural areas. That is what this Bill is intended to do.

We have to understand that we have been working on the whole issue of RRBs – strengthening them and improving them over a long period of time. There was a time after 1976 when these RRBs were

created, when we had 196 RRBs. They suffered from not having economies of scale; they suffered from poor management and they suffered from not having sufficient technology. So, over a period of time, which started from 2002 onwards, which was accelerated after 2005, we consolidated and amalgamated these 196 RRBs to 56 banks and these 56 banks, as the RBI, NABARD and other institutions have shown as, are actually doing quite well.

This has been a long-drawn process; it has gone through the Standing Committee; there have been many reports; the whole process of coming up with amendments to the 1976 Act has been underway since 2011. It has gone to the Standing Committee; this Amendment Bill was produced and put together by the previous Government. We made some changes and we brought it forward which we think will make it even more effective.

So, it is not as if we are rushing this Bill in any way. It has been in the works for a long time; it has gone through all the Parliamentary vetting that it does require.

One of the important things that we have to remember in all of these is that when we think about agricultural credit, we have to think about it in terms of creating a flourishing eco-system. As I said, it is not just one institution. There are many institutions that are

required to come together to provide agricultural credit and products and services of various kinds. So, we are looking at the entire picture and in particular, the RRBs are the ones that we are focusing on right now.

The Regional Rural Banks in the last 4-5 years particularly after the consolidation process has taken hold and have, in fact, performed quite well. The reason why we are moving this amendment, I would like to urge the Hon. Members to consider is not because they are doing badly but we are doing it and we brought this set of amendments because they are doing well. So, we want to strengthen them, make them stronger and get to the needs that you have said which is to deepen financial inclusion and to be able to provide them credit. So, we are, in fact, pursuing those exact goals that you would like and which the country demands of us and that we needed at this stage. So, that is exactly what we are trying to do.

Let me tell you that right now we have 19000 branches of the Regional Rural Banks that are covering 42 districts. We represent 38 percent of the total rural branches that exist in this country. Their total deposits in the Regional Rural Banks are quite sizeable. They are Rs. 2.4 lakh crore and their total loans are Rs. 1.6 lakh crore. Their priority sector lending which is supposed to be 40 percent for a

PSU bank that is what the RBI mandates, is 82 percent and their profitability has been strong. Right now the net interest margins are running at 0.87 percent. The net NPA of the public sector banks right now is running at about 4 percent but the gross NPA of the Regional Rural Banks are running at 6 percent. So, these banks are actually doing quite well and because they are doing well, because we want to expand financial inclusion; because we want to expand credit, therefore, we have to strengthen them.

This whole process of strengthening them has been, as I said, gone through a long consultative process. The Chakraborty Committee was constituted. It deliberated on this for two years. The NABARD came out with a report and it is on the basis of this report, that we put all of this together. There is a basic fact of banking which I would like the Hon. Members to reflect on. There is a basic fact of banking which is if they want to run their banks well and if they have to lend more, they have to provision against that. So for every Rs. 100 that I lend, I have to provision Rs. 9 for the Regional Rural Bank, for instance, of capital that stays on my balance sheet. So, if I want these banks to grow and if I want these banks to lend more, then I have to have the capital. That is the basic essence and nature of banking. So the Regional Rural Banks have been doing at

14 percent a year, because they have been expanding their presence, because they have been successful, and because of the amalgamation, we have to provide them capital. That is what we are trying to do.

Now, there have been objections raised about the manner in which we are providing the capital. Certain Hon. Members like my good friend, Shri Mahtabji has talked about this privatisation. Some other Hon. Members have said that the States are being pushed out of this system. There is a very simple answer to that. We are providing flexibility on the capital structure. We are not mandating what the capital structure need be. It could be private capital and it could also be capital from your States. So, if you are concerned that in Tamil Nadu your share is going to go below 15 percent and you are concerned about the welfare of your citizens as of course as you should be then, please put more money into your Regional Rural Banks, increase your share and capitalise them in that way. We are not necessarily saying that it should be private capital. We are just saying that we need more capital and in this Bill we are creating the opportunity to flexibly bring in the capital, whether it comes in from the States, the sponsor bank, the Union Government or from private capital, the idea here is flexibility. It is not necessarily privatisation.

If you want to step up, I would urge you, Hon. Members, put your money where your mouth is. Put more money into your Regional Rural Banks. You have two of them in Tamil Nadu. Put more money into them and provide them the services and facilities that you so eagerly want to provide them so that flexibility is there. This flexibility is what we have provided and therefore, I do not believe that we should be overly concerned about private capital coming in and changing the public nature of these banks. It is because that is precisely what these banks are intended to do and that is precisely what they are doing very well right now.

The other concern that we had from the AIADMK was that we are tying these banks too long to the sponsor banks. You said that there is five year provision that we had and why are we taking away the resolution of that and why are we saying that sponsor banks should continue to be able to work with these banks. There is a simple fact that goes with shareholder ownership. The sponsor banks right now own 35 percent of the Regional Rural Banks and because they own 35 percent of the Regional Rural Banks, it is important for them to be able to understand what is happening there and to maintain that managerial assistance and the managerial control that they have. That reflects their 35 percent ownership and we also

understand that it is important for us to take the talent that exist in the PSU banks because of the good systems that they have, the good training programmes that they have and to bring their excellent managers into these Regional Rural Banks on a rotation basis so that we can strengthen the Regional Rural Banks. So, that is the reason why we would like them to continue to provide management assistance that they are providing. I do not believe that that should be a matter of great concern to us.

Finally, regarding our PSU banks, we have said it and the House has agreed that we can bring the Government shareholding down to 51 percent. In this particular instance also, we are saying that the State Government share of 15 percent will not be changed unless we agree on that and there is a consultation process associated with it. We are explicitly saying that the ownership of the Union Government and the sponsor banks should be greater than 51 percent. So, in no way, based on these items that we have brought in the Bill, the public nature of these banks is going to be compromised as we all share the same goal which is to increase financial inclusion, to provide innovative and new products in services to our farmers and rural areas.

There was a final concern about 31<sup>st</sup> December. What we are trying to do with 31<sup>st</sup> December is to align them with the standard reporting and compliance process which all other banks, which are to be associated with the financial year, have in the country. This will help them in raising capital, help them in their tax filings and help them in running the banks. It is a way to make the banks more efficient which, I am sure, is something that you agree to.

With that, I would like to conclude what I am saying and I would ask the Hon. Deputy-Speaker to move the Bill and pass it. Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, be taken into consideration.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

As Shri M. B. Rajesh and Prof. Saugata Roy are not present to move their amendments to Clauses 3 and 4, I shall now put Clauses 2 to 4 together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 5****Amendment of Section 9**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri K. Suresh is not present. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** I beg to move:

“Page 3, *for* lines 9 to 11, *insert*, --

“(3) The Union Government may, in consultation with the State Government, appoint an officer of the State Government on the Board of Regional Rural Banks, if the State Government recommends that it is necessary for the purpose of effective functioning of the Regional Rural Banks.”. (11)

Sir, it was interesting to hear our young Minister advising or educating us relating to the State Governments investment in the share capital. Hearing this from the Union Government is nothing new on the part of the respective regional parties.

My amendment is, the Union Government may appoint an officer of the State Government on the Board of Regional Rural Banks, if it considers necessary, for the purpose of effective functioning of the Regional Rural Banks.

The onus of effective functioning of the RRBs lies with the Union Government, the State Government and also with the sponsoring banks. The ratio is divided as 15 percent and 35 percent. When the Hon. Minister is suggesting that if the concerned States are so interested that their share should not come down, then how much should they maintain? Is it 15 percent? But the major stake is with the Union Government and also with the sponsor banks that comes to 85 percent. And this Bill clearly demonstrates that he will bring it down to 51 percent even if the respective State Government gives 15 percent. I would like to educate myself on this point. Even if the State Government invests upto 15 percent, that is the maximum limit.

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA:** You can increase it and take the share. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Then what for we have 50 percent, 15 percent and 35 percent? This flexibility is our concern. The flexibility here is, if the Union Government or the Union Government wants to withdraw and give it to the private players, it can do it. That is our concern. The respective State Governments can protect their interests in the Regional Rural Banks. But the concern is, the Union Government withdraws and gives it to the private

players. Whose interest is being compromised? ... (*Interruptions*) I have to explain. I have to have my say. ... (*Interruptions*) It is not so simple Shri Meghwal, because ultimately there were ten Reports on this. Why had the Finance Ministry considered ten Reports before taking a decision like this? Why, Governors and Deputy-Governors, had given Reports? Why was the Government unable to take a decision? You have a mandate and you are taking this decision today and you say that the previous Government was also contemplating to move such amendments. But they did not move these amendments. It is your Government which is doing this. This Government is going to privatise the RRBs. That is my allegation. By this method, you are bringing in private players. You want money to be invested in the RRBs. It is well and good. But is it necessary to do this? Earlier, Rs. 2,200 crore were invested to lift up the RRBs. It is time this Government can also think of such a measure.

I am moving my amendment. Therefore, I am coming to my amendment. In clause 5, it is said: "Two directors shall be elected from the shareholders including the shareholders referred to in sub-clause (i)". It is also said: "Three directors shall be elected from the shareholders including shareholders referred to in sub-clauses (i) and (ii)." So, practically there are five directors. Over and above that,

clause 3 of section 5 says, 'If the Government wishes to have one more director, it can do so'. There my amendment is, allow the State Government on the Board of Regional Rural Banks if the State Government recommends that it is necessary for the purpose of effective functioning of the Regional Rural Banks. That is my amendment. I am moving my amendment.

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA:** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, responding to my senior colleague Shri Mahtab for his concern about privatization, I will just reiterate what I said earlier. What we are providing here is flexibility. We are not necessarily saying it should be private capital. In fact, what we are saying very clearly is that the Union Government and the sponsoring bank, which today have 85 percent, 50 percent plus 35 percent, can come down to 51 percent. Now, the 34 percent that they have released can be taken up by any one. We are not saying that the State Government is capped at 15 percent. We are saying the State Government can take that 34 percent. Because the State Government is taking the 34 percent in this, I would suggest, that it defeats the amendment that the Hon. Member is presenting. As they increase it by 34 percent, they have an opportunity to put Independent Directors on the Board. So, both the things are taken care of. We are creating the flexibility. If the State

Governments are so inclined and so supportive of their Regional Rural Banks, then they should step in and, as I said, put their money where their mouth is. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put amendment no. 11 to clause 5 moved by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That clause 5 stand part of the Bill. ”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 5 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 6                      Substitution of new section for section 10**

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Prof. Saugata Roy – not present.

The question is:

“That clause 6 stand part of the Bill. ”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 6 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 7 was added to the Bill.*

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

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA:** I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The motion is adopted and the Bill is passed.

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**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** We are now taking up the ‘Zero Hour.’”

Shri K. Parasuraman.

**\*SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir. Vanakkam. I thank People’s Chief Minister and beloved leader Hon’ble Puratchithalaivi Amma for making me the Member of Parliament representing Thanjavur Constituency. The previous UPA Government introduced Uzhavan Express train service between Chennai and Thanjavur. Since the commencement of this train service, only old bogies have been attached to this train. Moreover this Uzhavan Express train lacks cleanliness. There is a shortage of sanitary staff for upkeep of clean toilets in this train. Even at times there is no adequate supply of water for use in toilets. Train looks untidy with shabby curtains and rust filled curtain holders. Thanjavur, Nagappatinam and Tiruvarur are surrounded by many temples. Tourists and other people from different places use this Uzhavan Express train to go on pilgrimage. I therefore urge the railway authorities to look into the issue of cleanliness of Uzhavan Express. Railway line between Thanjavur and Pattukkottai has been

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\* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

kept pending for more than 50 years. The revenue survey with regard to the said railway line should be completed soon and Uzhavan Express train service should be extended up to Pattukkottai. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, Trains like Mannai Express, Rameswaram Express are also lacking in cleanliness and clean toilet facilities. I urge that the railway authorities should look into this issue. Thank you Sir.

**SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA):** I would thank you, Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for calling me to raise this important issue.

Due to the hard labour of our farmers, horticulture production has exceeded the combined production of food grains and oilseeds, which is an estimated 265 million tones. It is an increase of 8. 6 percent from food grains and oilseeds. But due to non-availability of facilities for aggregation, storage, transportation, cold chain and low level of processing of agrarian produce, high level of losses to the tune of 18 percent are reported. If we are able to give supply chain to our farmers, these losses may be decreased. The Hon. Prime Minister has given a slogan “Make In India.” If the Food Processing Ministry encourages large scale private investment in agro-processing industry, the food processing industry may develop which is the next growth engine of our economy. Our Food Processing Industry has a huge potential to generate employment.

Even after 68 years of Independence, 38 percent Households in the country have no jobs. According to 2011 Census, 10. 1 percent women are the head of the family but they have no resources for income generation. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to give

top priority to food processing industry so that our villagers may progress and the rush towards urban areas may be stopped.

**SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL (BARPETA):** I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very unfortunate incident that shocked Assam and rocked the political scenario of the State during the last week of October this year. On 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2014, a little known news channel named 'News X', without any authenticity, broadcast a news item accusing our party AIUDF and Jamiat-ulema-e-Hind as well as our party leader, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal of recruiting volunteers to be trained by Al-Qaeda.

This false and baseless news item has damaged the dignity and reputation of my brother, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal who is a second time Member of this august House. He is not only President of AIUDF but also attached with several socio-economic, non-political organizations, including Jamiat, which has a golden history of working for nation before and after Independence of the country.

Similarly, this news item tarnished the image of our party AIUDF, a democratically functioning party, which has been working for different sections of citizens irrespective of caste, creed and religion. Moreover, it created enmity and tension between different communities and triggered protests and shut down in the State.

The news channel claimed to have NIA report on which the news was based but the Assam Chief Minister and DGP of Assam openly denied such allegations. In addition to that, the Home Department of Assam Govt, made it clear in recently concluded Assembly session that it did not have any proof or intelligence report against our party chief or Jamiat. We see a deep conspiracy to malign the image of our party chief, Maulana Badaruddin Ajmal who is drawing appreciation across all sections of people because of his commitment for welfare of people, especially the poor and downtrodden people of India.

Through you, Sir, we request the Government of India to take stern action against the news channel for spreading false news items that disturbed the peace and tranquility of the state and also against those local political leaders who, despite denial of Assam CM and Home Department, continue making allegation against our party and its chief for their political and personal gains.

[Translation]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Adv. Jose George (Idukki) - Not present.

Shri Laxman Giluwa (Singhbhum) - Not present.

**SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR):** Sir, I would like to draw your attention and through you the attention of the Government towards one issue and I thank you for giving me an opportunity for that.

Sir, National Law Universities are functioning in fifteen States across the country. These National Law Universities collectively have a total of 1,685 seats. Out of these, eleven to sixty-six per cent of seats in eleven National Law Universities from Bhopal to Bangalore are reserved for local students of the State. However, the National Law University located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, which falls within my Lok Sabha Constituency, is the only law university where not a single seat is reserved for students from Rajasthan.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the fact that even after a lapse of about fifteen years since its inception, this facility has not been made available to the students of National Law University, Jodhpur, particularly for the students of Rajasthan. I urge the Government to provide this facility at the earliest, and I hereby demand that appropriate steps be taken without further delay.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri P. P. Chaudhary and Shri Devji M. Patel associate themselves with the subject of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Ji.

**SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my Lok Sabha Constituency Bhiwandi, there is a huge turnover of power loom textiles which has been running there for 150 years. At first, it was a handloom, but now it has turned into a power loom. At least 7 lakh people get employment from this business there. In this trade, people from other States such as Members of Parliament seated behind me, Devji Patel Ji's Jalore Lok Sabha Constituency, as well as from Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, including Malgaon, Dhule and Ichalkaranji, are involved on a very large scale. Those who started this handloom business began from their homes on a small scale. However, despite its existence for approximately one hundred and fifty years, they have not been able to expand their businesses beyond their households or modernise them. These are poor people, and although our textile policy is commendable, they do not receive any tangible benefit from it. Through you, I request the textile Minister and the Government to conduct a survey of such textile business in every nook and corner of the country and if these

people are to bring us under the main influence in this business, then such a policy should be brought for them that they should get bannifits and their business should increase.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Devji M. Patel and Shri Nana Patole are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil.

[Translation]

**SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR (GHOSI):** Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government of India that the demand to establish Eastern Uttar Pradesh as a Purvanchal State is already rising again and again because Eastern Uttar Pradesh is very backward as compared to Western Uttar Pradesh. Whatever Governments have been formed in Uttar Pradesh, they have consistently neglected the development of Purvanchal. As a result, the people of Purvanchal have been demanding the creation of a Purvanchal State in one form or another. Is the Government of India aware of these demands for the creation of a Purvanchal State? If so, how long will it take to materialise?

[English]

**SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the blessings of *Puratchi Thalaivi Makkal* Chief Minister *Amma*, I would like to raise an important matter pertaining to my Constituency.

Coimbatore city is popularly known as the 'Manchester of South India' and the people of Coimbatore Constituency are well known for their entrepreneurship and efficacy throughout India. It is famous for textile machinery production, manufacturing of industrial motors and engineering tools. We have developed a lot of technocrats in our excellent educational institutions and a lot of multinational companies are utilizing their knowledge. But there is inadequate high paying opportunities in Coimbatore for these people and there are not enough industries to use their entrepreneurial ability, skill and the best environmental factors available in my Constituency.

Sir, under the able guidance of Hon. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, Coimbatore city has been awarded by India Today as the Best City for 2014 under the category of Investment, Transport, Public Services, Healthcare and overall Best Emerging City. Our Hon. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has also sanctioned Rs. 2,378 crore during this financial year for the overall further development including infrastructural development in this Manchester city to attract more

NRI investment and MNCs so that more employment opportunities can be created.

Hence, I request the Hon. Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Sector Enterprises to consider setting up a heavy industrial Public Sector Undertaking and multinational companies in my Constituency.

[Translation]

**SHRI CHAMAKURA MALLA REDDY (MALKAJGIRI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot of railway under-ground bridges have become old and weak in my Parliamentary Constituency Malkajgiri. There is a distance of one and a half kilometers from Malkajgiri railway station to Safilguda railway station and a population of four lakhs. There are two railway crossing gates. From here, school children, junior college children and railway employees leave, due to which traffic gets jammed. Here trains keep coming and going every half an hour.

I request the Hon. Railway Minister through you to help us get rid of this serious problem. I want to say one more thing that the new MMTC rail line is being built. Five thousand people at that place, who have been living there for twenty-five years, are being

evacuated. If they are given Houses at another place and removed from there and a new railway line is built, then it would be a great thing.

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Clause No. 6 of the Labour Law 1936 in our country states that labourers be given their wages in cash or in currency and paid by cheque only when asked.

Sir, in our country, if a worker requests his rightful salary from the bank, he fears losing his job because he is paid less cash and forced to sign for a higher amount. This exploitation occurs whether the worker is a taxi driver, a brick kiln labourer, or engaged in any other form of labour. Some trade unions had written letters to the Hon. Minister in this regard. In response to this letter, it was said that all the labourers do not have bank accounts and cannot change the clause number-6 of the Labour Law 1936. I want to tell the Hon. Minister that under the Jan Dhan Yojana, all the citizens are getting their bank accounts opened. I want to tell the Government through you that the labourers should be given their wages through bank, it should be given by cheque. This will also stop the problem of black money and workers will also get their full wages.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Ganesh Singh - Not present.

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH):** Sir, I am requesting the Government of India and the Ministry of Social Justice to add Lodhi caste living in Maharashtra to the Backward National Schedule. In many states of the country there are people of Lodhi caste and most of them are engaged in agricultural work. To my knowledge, Lodhi caste belongs to backward castes in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat and Karnataka but this caste is not in backward caste in Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Government of India by listing from letter No. 1/14(11)/2004RW/NCBC on 18th August, 2004 to include it in the list of National Backward Classes.

Sir, through you, I request the Government of India and the Ministry of Social Justice to include Lodhi caste in the backward national list in Maharashtra.

**SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIA):** Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

**SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR CITY):** Sir, Jaipur is famous as Pink City on the world tourism map and is famous as Delhi-Jaipur-Agra Golden Corridor. Jaipur city is famous as the small Kashi of the country from the point of view of tourism. Every third foreign tourist arriving in India travels to Rajasthan and Jaipur Pink City. The famous forts, fortresses, castles, havelis, sanctuaries and a sea of sand in Rajasthan attract all indigenous and foreign tourists. Art, culture, history and architecture of the state, handicrafts also have a distinct identity in the world. The city of Jaipur is moving towards world class and smart city. Tourism plays an important role in the economic development of Rajasthan. There are many such tourist places of the state like Jaipur-Jodhpur, Jalore-Sanchor, Jaisalmer-Udaipur-Ajmer etc., in which there is always movement of domestic and foreign tourists. Unfortunately, for the last few years, the stoppage of air services between Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur and Agra is causing a lot of inconvenience to the tourists. In the absence of this, tourism-related businesses such as hotels, workers and handicrafts are decreasing significantly. It is also affecting the revenue of the state.

I request the Government of India to resume the services of Indian Airlines and private airlines in this golden corridor, which will increase the business and give revenue to the state.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Devji M. Patel, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Shri P. P. Chaudhary are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramcharan Bohra.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, if you would have been hurt by any of my feelings, I did not make a mistake, but I apologize.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, on one hand, the Hon. Prime Minister of the country, in 'Mann Ki Baat', talks about connecting the entire nation through radio. Sir, this is a matter of drugs. Billions of rupees are being wasted in drugs and opiums of the country. Six crore 80 lakh people die just by eating tobacco. Eight lakh people are suffering from diseases caused by eating gutkha. Six crore twenty lakh people died of drinking alcohol. Twenty lakh people die of eating opium annually. The youth of this country are ruined by consuming alcohol, opium and drugs.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, today it is coming daily in the paper. The involvement of office-bearers has been found by the ED in Punjab. While 90% of the youth of Punjab used to be named for sacrifice of the country, today 90% of the youth of Punjab are counted as victims of drugs. The entire youth and family of Punjab have been ruined by drugs. Some army officials have also been named. In this, the name of a Minister has come, who also gave regulation. Today many Ministers and 40% of them are names of politicians.

I would like to urge the Hon. Prime Minister through you that if you want to stop drug addiction, then you are the strongest person in the country, the way you stopped intoxication in Gujarat, you can also stop intoxication in the country.

I want to say through you that you have participation in the Government that is there. You should give registration to the Hon. Minister there. The involvement of the politicians there should be investigated. Whatever politicians are involved in this country, they should be investigated and arrested without any delay and sent to jail. Drug racket mafia should be exposed without any delay in this country and save the youth of this country. This is what I want to urge through you.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhagwant Mann and Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rajesh Ranjan.

Yogi Adityanath – not present.

**SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR):** Thank you, Sir. I would like to say that Tezpur is a tourist destination of Assam in the North East India region. We have got Switzerland of the East, that is Arunachal Pradesh. We have got religious tourism, water tourism, eco tourism, medicinal plant tourism etc. There is the highest rain prone area in Cherrapunji. Shillong is known as the "Scotland of the East". Rukmini was married by Shri Krishna in Sadiya, a border area of Arunachal Pradesh. These places are neglected. Tourism has not been developed in these areas. Road connectivity is there but rail and air connectivity is very poor. As and when a man goes to tour those areas, he can visit all the eight States including Sikkim, Darjeeling, Shillong and Tawang. Tawang is the most beautiful place in India. It is better than any other tourist destination in India including the snow clad mountains of the Himalayan Range.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government of India as well as State Governments of North Eastern Region to take up the tourism cluster programme in the North Eastern Region.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA):** Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency Banka, is connected to the district Jamui of Bihar and Bihar and the hilly region of border Munger, Jharkhand. These districts have a large population of Naiyya, Khaira and Pujhar castes. Today they have been placed in the extremely backward class. The main work of Naiya, Khaira and Pujhar caste is labor like cutting wood, making leaves, cutting soil, selling leaves etc. There is severe lack of education among them. Even if they get some Houses under Indira Awas Yojana, after the sudden death of a family Member, they leave the House and go here and there in search of a new House. They have a very painful status like a Scheduled Tribe or a Mahadalit caste in the state of Bihar. Naiyya and Pujhar castes have a very painful life, especially in Banka district.

Therefore, I demand from the Government of India that the Naiya, Khaira and Pujhar castes living in district Banka, Jamui, Munger and hilly areas of the state of Bihar should be included in

the Scheduled Tribes, so that their Mali condition can improve and their population can be saved. Gradually their population is fading, becoming extinct. They are also entitled to Government resources. Therefore, I urge the Government through you to include Naiyya, Khaira and Pujhar castes located in my Parliamentary Constituency Banka mainly in the Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Ravinder Kushawaha – not present.

Shri Rajan Vichare.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAJAN VICHARE (THANE):** Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important subject in the House. It is connected with the historic railway station of the country, located in Thane, Maharashtra, which falls within my Parliamentary Constituency. The first train of the country was operated between Mumbai and Thane. Passengers residing in Kalyan are presently required to travel to Thane and wait for extended periods to board a train towards Navi Mumbai via the Vashi Harbour rail line. This results in a significant loss of both time and money. To

address this issue, the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited proposed the construction of a new two-kilometre-long elevated rail corridor. The Government of Maharashtra has approved this proposal and has committed to providing fifty percent of the funding as a grant to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority for its implementation. Therefore, through this august House, I respectfully urge the Hon. Railway Minister to direct that funds be allocated for the proposed two-kilometre-long elevated railway corridor between Kalwa and Airoli, and to ensure that the implementation process is commenced at the earliest.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, I will be calling out certain names of Members whose names could not come in the ballot. I would request them to take only one minute and ask them to say what they want. If they go on making a lengthy speech, I will not allow the portion beyond one minute to go on record. Therefore, please be very brief.

Now, Shri Rajkumar Saini.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAJKUMAR SAINI (KURUKSHETRA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour. My Parliamentary Constituency, Kurukshetra, and the adjoining Kaithal district do not have any major hospitals apart from those located in Delhi or Chandigarh. With the continuous increase in traffic over the past ten years, numerous accidents have occurred on a daily basis. However, due to the absence of adequate medical facilities, many lives have been lost before the injured could be taken to a hospital. The accident that occurred recently, just yesterday, was particularly tragic. Two children lost their lives solely because of the considerable distance from the nearest hospital.

Sir, I request the Government through you that one of the eight AIIMS level hospitals should be built in Kaithal.

[English]

**\*SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI):** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. Vanakkam. I thank you for allowing me to speak in my mother tongue, Tamil. Hosur forest range is spread for about 1,496 sq. kms in Krishnagiri district. There are 117 reserve forests. As estimated there are as many as 131 elephants in this area. These elephants often come into contact with human beings living in and around villages of this area. There is human-animal conflict due to which from the year 2011 to 2014, 31 persons were killed. Tamil Nadu Government under the able guidance of Puratchithalaivi Amma had provided Rs. 3 lakh each as compensation to the families of persons died in such human-animal conflicts. A total of Rs. 93 lakh have been issued so far. As many as 3,110 applications were received and an amount of Rs. 1,21,08,025/- has been provided. I want to mention this here because there is no fund allocation by the Union Government in this regard. Even though there are trenches for a stretch of 146 km and electric fencing for a stretch of 125. 14 km, elephants have come into villages causing trouble to villagers. I urge upon the Union Government to identify areas of human-animal conflict and introduce a special insurance scheme for the benefit of

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\* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

victims and their families. I also urge that a compensation of Rs. 10 lakh should be provided to the families of deceased. Thank you Sir.

**SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government regarding delay in granting approval of Special Status Category to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

While bifurcating the United Andhra Pradesh State, the then Prime Minister, on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2014, had assured in the Rajya Sabha that Special Category Status will be granted and extended for five years to the residual State of Andhra Pradesh comprising 13 districts. Further while announcing 6-point programme, he had also announced that the resource gap arising in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh in the very first year, will be compensated in the regular Union Budget for 2014-15. Although six months have already lapsed by now, the permission to accord Special Status Category to the State of Andhra Pradesh is still awaited.

I understand that proposal for granting of Special Status Category to Andhra Pradesh would have to be endorsed by the National Development Council headed by the Hon. Prime Minister with Cabinet Ministers and all Chief Ministers.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You want a Special Status Category to Andhra Pradesh.

**SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN:** Yes, Sir. I would urge upon the Union Government to accord Special Status Category to the State of Andhra Pradesh by convening a meeting of the NDC without any further delay.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (NORTH UNION MUMBAI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to put my matter in the House in one minute. This topic has been very well tabled in this House for some months. A few days ago, I asked a question that many languages of India are becoming extinct. What are we doing for those endangered languages and for our ancient culture? We have got a very good reply from the Government of India. On the basis of the response just provided, I wish to speak on the subject of language. In our country today, we grant certain languages the status of a recognised language and accord some the status of a classical language. Most recently, the Oriya language has been granted this honour, and I commend that decision. Prior to this, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam were also accorded classical language status. I would now like to draw attention to the Marathi language. In Maharashtra alone, nearly seven crore people speak Marathi, which means that approximately seven percent of the

country's population communicates in this language. The Marathi language requires recognition as a classical language, and in this regard, a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Professor Ranganath Pathare on 10 January 2012. The report of that committee was submitted to the Union Government on 31 March 2013. As per the established criteria, for a language to be considered ancient, its script must be traceable to a period dating back at least one thousand five hundred to two thousand years. It is noteworthy that two thousand two hundred and nineteen years ago, the Brahmi script, which is originally the script of Marathi, was inscribed on a stone in Junnar Taluka of Pune district. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You want Marathi to be a classical language status to Marathi.

Smt. Poonam Mahajan (North Union Mumbai): I would request the Government of India to take Marathi language as the classical language. It should be given the status of an elite language very soon.

**SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would thank our Hon. Leader Paratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Sir, the Railway Engineering Workshop set up in 1905 in Arakkonam has provided a place for this town in the railway map of India. This workshop had been manufacturing and producing railway equipment required in points and crossing, permanent way materials like lifting barrier gates, girders and material needed for platform shelters and railway over-bridges.

There was a time when more than 5,000 men were working in this workshop. Now, the employees' strength has come down to 800. Just 41 engineering trade activities are being carried out now. Every other engineering work is being shifted to contract system. Recently, the foundry shop has also been closed rendering 120 workers jobless. This engineering workshop that provided job opportunities and livelihood to a large number of workers is facing closure. The technical excellence of the railway workers was such that the famous Pamban Bridge was supplied with required girders and materials manufactured from this workshop.

### **19. 00 hrs.**

It is shocking that no fresh recruitment has been made right from 1983. The economic activity of Arakkonam town is dependent on

this workshop. Considering both the human and economic factors, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to rejuvenate the engineering workshop which has a vast potential still with about 20 hectares of land to set up a modern engineering workshop.

[Translation]

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the birthday of our former Prime Minister, Hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji is on 25th December. The entire nation is celebrating his legacy. Even today, his speeches, thoughts and voice continue to resonate in our minds. He had stated that the day his Government secured a majority, he would abrogate Article 370 from the Constitution, introduce a Uniform Civil Code, and ensure the completion of the Ram Mandir. Unfortunately, he is not the Prime Minister today. However, our Government has secured a majority. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention that despite the Government's majority, Jammu and Kashmir is yet to make substantial progress. The people there have not been fully integrated into the mainstream. Our Pandits, who remain displaced from Jammu and Kashmir, must be resettled in the region. Today, we are privileged to have a strong and capable Prime Minister leading the nation at such an auspicious time. Through you, I would

like to say that the time has come to realise the dream of our former Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee Ji. I earnestly pray that our Government repeals Article 370 and implements the Uniform Civil Code at this special moment.

**SHRIMATI PRIYANKA SINGH RAWAT (BARABANKI):**

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. There are some important facts about the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana in my Constituency, Barabanki, which I would like to place before you. The Plan Guidelines were modified in the year 2007, stipulating that plain areas of the country must have a population of five hundred, and hilly areas a population of two hundred and fifty. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, during my recent visit to my Parliamentary Constituency, Barabanki, I observed that this scheme of the Union Government is not being fully successful, which is a matter of serious concern. This is not only in my Parliamentary Constituency but in the entire Uttar Pradesh. I found some facts during the tour which I want to present before you. The guidelines and standards set by the Government are not being adhered to in the district. No roads are being constructed using the hot mix plant. Standard boards are not being installed on any road under construction. The coating work on the roads is left

incomplete with only one coat applied. Furthermore, the pace of construction work is very slow. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You do not read all of them. What you want, you submit that.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI PRIYANKA SINGH RAWAT:** So, I request the Government through you to take cognizance of such a situation and take appropriate action by getting verified from the High Level Union Technical Team.

[English]

**SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many thanks to Hon. Makkal Mudhalvar Puratchi Thalaivi, Amma. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue regarding establishment of temporary rescue centres for stray crocodiles in Neyveli, Tamil Nadu.

Stray crocodiles are found in large numbers in Kollidam river, Veeranam lake and its canals. Due to the aggressive attack of these stray crocodiles found in water bodies, there have been a number of incidents of loss of precious human lives and that of animals. There

is an urgent need to control this crocodile menace. I have sent a proposal regarding immediate establishment of temporary rescue centre, to the Hon. Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The District Collector, Cuddalore has also represented the matter.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to immediately set up a temporary rescue centre for stray crocodiles in my Constituency, Neyveli and protect the precious lives of human beings and animals. Thank you.

**DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI):** Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to say about the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Component Plan. In every Budget, budgetary allocation is made under the Head, 'Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan'. However, the budget amount is already less than what it should be, as per the philosophy of Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan, but through you, I want to urge upon the Hon. Finance Minister that in the next year's Budget, there should be a mechanism so that budget under these heads, which is transferred to the States, should be properly applied. There should be a mechanism to check that.

Thank you so much.

[Translation]

**SADHVI SAVITRI BAI PHULE (BAHRAICH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Ghasiyaripur, located within my Parliamentary Constituency of Bahraich, has been submerged under rainwater for several years. Every street is waterlogged, and there is a complete absence of proper drainage facilities. Due to the lack of drainage, students face great difficulty in attending school. Moreover, there is a rising outbreak of diseases. Although crores of rupees have been allocated, the district administration, as well as Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, have been unable to effectively drain the water due to insufficient funds. In such circumstances, I submit that the water from these localities may be removed through a proper sewerage system. The situation is similar in Manpurwa Market, where water cannot be drained without the installation of a proper sewerage system. I urge the Government to prepare and implement an action plan through the district administration to drain water from Ghasiyaripur, Bakshipur, and Mihinpurwa Bazaar. I further demand that special packages be allocated to facilitate the removal of water through an effective sewerage system.

**SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR):** Thank you Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir. For the past twelve years, the people of my Parliamentary Constituency, Mirzapur, have been demanding the construction of a railway line from Raortsangaj to Mughalsarai via Mudhupur, Sukrit, and Ahraura. The Railway Department conducted a survey ten years ago and prepared a map indicating that the proposed railway line would be approximately eighty kilometres in length. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 500 crore. This region is naxal-affected and completely deprived of development. The proposed section for the construction of the railway line passes through a region of great historical and cultural significance. It includes the ancient Maa Bhandari Devi shrine, Bechubir Baba Dham, and the foundation stone plaque of Emperor Ashoka. Additionally, this area encompasses the three hundred-year-old market of Ahraura, which attracts lakhs of tourists. Despite this, the Government has not completed the action plan for this project over the past ten years, largely due to the estimated cost of Rs. 500 crore.

I humbly request the Government to consider that the construction of the railway line in this area will lead to the full development of the Ahraura region, akin to the progress witnessed in

Vindhyachal and Maihar Devi Dham. It will significantly facilitate the travel of pilgrims, tourists, and businessmen alike.

**SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Lucknow-New Delhi main train passes through Kasba Balamau in my Parliamentary Constituency of Misrikh, on which there is a lot of train movement and sometimes the railway gate here remains closed for an hour due to lack of railway overbridge at Kasba Balamau. Due to which there is always a traffic jam here. In such a situation, when a pregnant woman or other patients have to be taken to the hospital, but they do not reach the hospital in time and sometimes people die on the way.

I request the Union Government to build an overbridge there at the earliest.

[English]

**SHRI V. PANNEERSELVAM (SALEM):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Hon. Prime Minister has announced that every Hon. Member of Parliament must adopt a village and provide all the facilities to the people. A similar scheme is already implemented by *Makkal Mudalvar Amma* for providing all the facilities to the people of Tamil Nadu, who are getting water supply, flexible roads, 24-hour

electricity, old-age pension, *thaliku thangam*. She is also meeting all needs for students' education with laptop. *Amma* is also providing facilities to meet all the basic needs of the people and facilities for pregnant ladies from beginning to end. The newborn babies are also getting free feeding bottles, mosquito nets and sweaters. In addition, the Below Poverty Line people are getting free of cost cows, goats etc. in order to be able to meet the needs of their lives. These are all given by our Hon. *Amma*.

So, I humbly pray to our Hon. Prime Minister, on his part, to allot more funds for MPLADS or to provide funds from the Prime Minister's Special fund so that this scheme is successfully implemented. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD):** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (Common Civil Code) at the earliest across the country. There is also a provision in our Constitution for Uniform Civil Code (Common Civil Code), Article 44 makes a clear provision in the Uniform Civil Code.

Uniform Civil Code is necessary for the integrity and unity of the country, so it needs to be implemented immediately. Our party Shiv Sena and our other partners are also in favour of implementing it. Our demand is that there should be a law for the people of every religion, community in India, so a uniform civil code is a must. A particular religion and sect should be looked at equally through law. In the Shah Bano case in 1986 . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you have already stated all that you wanted to mention here.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:** I am concluding my speech in half a minute. In the year 1986, the Supreme Court has given a clear and historic verdict in the Shah Bano case, but the then RaJiv Gandhi Government has. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR):** Sir, Konkan Railway is considered to be the lifeline of West-Coast Region of the nation. Konkan Railway is

consistently making operational losses every year, and the accumulated loss is more than Rs. 3,500 crore. One of the reasons for the poor financial health of Konkan Railway is because of the non-connectivity of this project with any of the major ports under its jurisdiction. Mangalore Railway network from Thokur to Mangalore inclusive of Panambur Port come under the jurisdiction of the Southern Railway.

Establishment of Mangalore Division will provide more facilities and benefits to the passengers and goods traffic, and will boost the economic and social development of the entire West-Coast area. Establishment of the Mangalore Division is possible by bringing together the existing areas of Mangalore Union, Mangalore Junction, New Mangalore Port, Palaghat stretch and Konkan Railway jurisdiction and by giving control to the Konkan Railway.

The Panambur Port connectivity with Konkan Railway will boost its financial conditions to such an extent that doubling and electrification of the entire section can be taken care of without raising much funds from the market. The construction and operation of Konkan Railway line has provided substantial boost to the industrial, agricultural, economic and social development of the entire Konkan Region.

Through you, Sir, I would urge the Railway Ministry to take immediate decisions to establish Mangalore Division under the control of Konkan Railway. Thank you, Sir.

**SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI):** Thank you, Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. As the spreading smell of the effervescence of a sweet-scented flower, I am now raising an important issue on behalf of the people of my Tiruvannamalai Constituency and on behalf of our AIADMK Party led by our beloved leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

The road connectivity between Saanipoondi and Chetpet *via* Kilpennathur - Avalurpettai with a stretch of 13. 40 kms. classified as SH4A needs to be revamped at the earliest. Similarly, SH6 connecting Kallakurichi and Tiruvannamalai may also be revamped for a length of 9. 4 kms. SH64 road between Tiruvannamalai and Arur *via* Thanipadi for a length of 12. 4 kms. is also in a damaged condition. These works have to be taken up by the Centre with liberal release of funds under the revamped Union Road Fund Scheme.

I would urge upon the Hon. Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister to release the funds immediately. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

**DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY (CHANDAULI):** Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour, Hon. Deputy Speaker. 25th December is the 153th birth anniversary of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. It is a privilege that our Hon. leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji has also a birthday on the same day, which we are celebrating as Good Governance Day. On this occasion, I would like to tell you that while Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Ji was a leader of the nationalist and freedom movement of the country, the establishment of Kashi Hindu University is a remarkable work of his life, which is famous in the country and the world. He didn't do anything in his name. Only Malviya Smriti Bhavan is in his name, which remained after his death. Under his inspiration, the southern campus of Hindu University, South Camps, was built on 1200 acres of land in Mirzapur district. At that time also it was raised that the camp should be built in his name, but during the time of the previous Government, the then Vice-Chancellor there had only . . . \* There has never been a visit or a darshan. The Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji made such a big record in the country and the world. ... (*Interruptions*) Everyone demands that in the name of

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\*Not recorded.

Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji, that southern complex should be named.  
. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** That is an allegation that will be expunged. I cannot allow that. The names are to be expunged.

[Translation]

**SHRI BALBHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Government makes many schemes for the development of tribals, Harijans, backward class people. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Recognition of Forest Rights Act was enacted in 2007, but unfortunately it has come to light that this law has not been implemented in many states. I can proudly say that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Ji has implemented it in Odisha. Land lease has been given to many people there.

I request the Government through you to implement this law in all the states. The Ministry of Union Government should keep a watch on it, it is also not doing its work. Please pay attention to this.

**SHRI NANA PATOLE:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Buddhism in the country is based on the element of freedom, equality, fraternity and justice. There exist laws based on seven recognized religions, Hindu

Marriage Law, Parsi Marriage and Divorce Law, Christian Marriage Validation Law, Muslim Personal Law (Sharia Law), etc. This demand is still pending even after The Lord Buddha Foundation has treated the Centre and the state Government for many years to implement the intelligent Personal Law Act for the people of Buddhism in the country. The Supreme Court has given orders from time to time in the matter of marriages taking place in Buddhism due to lack of recognition to Buddhist Law and has held marriages illegal in judgment. Due to this, the intelligent society has to face the problems and problems caused by it. My demand is that the Union Government should take prompt action on making wise laws on this public important subject.

[English]

**SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL):** Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on this important matter pertaining to fresh tenders for four-laning of NH-63.

I wish to humbly bring to the kind notice of the Government the pathetic state of NH-63, which needs to be repaired on an urgent basis. This NH-63 has been divided into two parts: one section relates to Hubli-Hospet covering a distance of 143 kilometres; and

the second section relates to Hospet-Bellary covering a distance of 95 kilometres.

Therefore, I would request you to kindly approve the fresh tender for upgradation to four-laning of NH-63, particularly of Hubli-Hospet section by EPC mode. As far as Hospet-Bellary is concerned, tender has already been issued and work on 25 percent of the stretch has already started. As far as Hubli-Hospet section is concerned, tenders have been issued several times, but due to some or the other problem, it has not been executed. I would also like to bring to your notice that PPPAC has been forwarded by PIU, Hospet.

At the end, I would only say that a quick perusal of the project would benefit crores of people. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, According to estimates, approximately twenty-two thousand tonnes of gold remain unused in households across India. In addition, several thousand tonnes of gold are held in temples and other institutions. Gold jewellery has been cherished and valued in our country since time immemorial, often used as gifts or as decorations

in temples. People also store gold as a form of savings. It is evident, therefore, that India possesses an enormous stock of gold that remains largely unutilised. The pace of economic development can be significantly accelerated by mobilising these gold reserves into the market through the implementation of a comprehensive National Gold Policy. Through the National Gold Policy, the Government should establish a Gold Refinery and a Gold Board, accompanied by regulations concerning gold exchange, gold savings accounts, and import-export controls. By doing so, thousands of tonnes of gold currently locked away in household coffers can be mobilised into the market, thereby accelerating the pace of economic progress. Furthermore, if banks are empowered to include gold as part of their currency reserves, it will significantly strengthen the economic condition of the entire country.

[English]

**SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI):** Sir, the regulations of Army issued in 1964 and 1982 allows Muslims to keep their beards, and several courts have also given verdict in favour of it. However, the practice in the Army and in the Air Force is against it. According to a newspaper report, just two days before, several Muslims in Air Force and Army, who kept beard, alleged that they were pressed by

higher officers to shave their beards, otherwise they would be terminated.

Sir, this is a very serious matter. This is my request.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI (UNGER):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, There is a Jamalpur railway section under our Parliamentary Constituency of Munger. I earnestly request that Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited be incorporated into the Jamalpur railway section encompassing Munger and Mokama. Our Parliamentary Constituency remains significantly underdeveloped, lacking proper roads and adequate healthcare facilities; those hospitals that exist are in a state of disrepair and are without sufficient medical personnel. I thank the House for considering this matter.

[English]

**DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM):** Thank you Sir for giving me this opportunity.

In the Finance Ministry, there is a CBEC department which is now celebrating jubilation because it has undergone with a lot of restructuring and created many posts. There were many promotions

from inspectors to superintendents, superintendents to Assistant Commissioners and so on. Everyone is happy except one cadre namely sepoy cadre who are in the lowest rung of the hierarchy. Nobody is hearing their pleas. They are asking that they should be recognized as sepoys of military and other services. They have also undergone arms training. They should also be given promotion from the post of sepoy/*havildar* to inspector's post. This is my request Sir.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHHAJAHANPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a burning issue of farmers. Today our farmers in Uttar Pradesh need urea very much, but our entire state is lying vacant. The farmers are suffering after the rains from where they should bring the fertilizers. On one hand there is shortage of fertilizer in the entire state, on the other hand black marketing is in full swing.

I want to say through you that the Government of India should ask the Government of Uttar Pradesh to immediately stop black marketing there and provide urea fertilizer to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh, this is my special request to you.

[English]

**SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak in the august House today.

I would like to bring to your kind notice regarding the dire need to sanction financial assistance for the development of Koulas fort situated in Jukkal, Nizamabad district in Telangana State.

The oval shaped fort is situated on the Sangareddy-Nanded highway on the border of Telangana, near Bidar in Karnataka and Nanded in Maharashtra State, 180 kilometres away from Hyderabad and 100 kilometres from the district headquarters town of Nizamabad. The Koulas fort can be a tourist delight.

The history of Koulas dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. During the rule of the Kakatiya kings spread across six square kilometres and trucked away in a corner of backward Jukkal mandal.

It is constructed in the semi-Dravidian style and the fort has the potential of becoming a much sought after tourist destination.

The Koulas dam is about 20 kilometres away from the fort and attracts a large number of migratory birds during the winter season.

Keeping in view the pathetic condition of Koulas Fort, I request the Hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture through the Chair to take

immediate steps for sanction of financial assistance to promote the tourism in that area.

[Translation]

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to the problem of ragging in colleges. Today, due to ragging, the situation has deteriorated to such an extent that students in many colleges live in fear. Students are subjected to mistreatment despite the existence of numerous rules and regulations intended to prevent such conduct. Unfortunately, these measures have proved ineffective in practice and are not being enforced properly. I would like to bring to the attention of the House a tragic case from my own Parliamentary Constituency, where a student at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology was subjected to such severe ragging that he was compelled to take his own life. Therefore, I earnestly request the Government be directed through this House to take stringent action against those involved in such activities, so that strict and deterrent measures may be implemented in these cases.

[English]

**\*SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. The domestic and International terminals at Chennai Meenambakkam airport were constructed during the previous UPA regime in which the then minority DMK Government of State of Tamil Nadu was an ally. During the last two years there were as many as 31 incidents of accidental falling of roof, glass doors and windowpanes injuring 4 persons. Union Government should take corrective steps in order to ensure the safety of air passengers and prevent such accidents in future. In addition to Anna and Kamaraj airport terminals, the construction work is being undertaken for the third new terminal in Chennai airport. This work should be completed with care and concern. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. After being elected as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the third term, Puratchithalaivi Amma passed a resolution in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for naming the new terminal of Chennai airport after former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, *Bharat Ratna*, Puratchithalaivar Dr. M. G. R. Puratchithalaivi Amma had demanded the Union Government to name the new terminal after Dr. M. G. R. I therefore urge the Union Government to name the new

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\* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

terminal of Chennai Meenambakkam airport after Makkal Thilagam Puratchithalaivar Dr. M. G. R, as demanded by People's Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to raise a very important question of Uttar Pradesh. Seventy-three per cent of the country's farmers still reside in villages, and the production and productivity of these farmers contribute significantly to the nation's GDP. Currently, agriculture accounts for 18 per cent of the GDP. I wish to draw the Government's attention through you to the fact that, at the time of Rabi sowing in Uttar Pradesh, the farmers require 20.39 lakh metric tonnes of urea fertiliser as per the state's demand, but only 14.50 lakh metric tonnes have been received so far. Due to a shortage of six lakh metric tonnes of urea, farmers are forced to purchase fertiliser priced at Rs 550 in the market, instead of the usual Rs 334. Farmers across Uttar Pradesh urgently require urea for sowing to ensure productivity. However, urea fertiliser is currently unavailable at the cooperative societies in the state.

Through you, I wish to draw the Government's attention to a concern also raised by Hon. Member Krishna Raj Ji. This issue affects all Hon. Members from Uttar Pradesh. I request the Ministers present here to respond. After all, 80 percent of the farmers in Uttar Pradesh are not receiving urea fertiliser and are forced to buy black

market fertiliser. The State Government should take appropriate measures, and the Union Government must ensure the adequate supply of fertiliser to the region.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shrimati Veena Devi, Shrimati Priyanka Singh Rawat, Shrimati Anju Bala, Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule, Shri Harinarayan Rajbhar are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

**SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR):** Sir, this is an important issue in Secundrabad area. Nearly, 30 lakh inhabitants in and around Secundrabad Cantonment area are facing an alarming situation. The Army officers had issued a notice to the Greater Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad stating that they would close all the roads in the cantonment area. The colonies of these inhabitants in and around this cantonment area have come up for the last fifty years. After a Public Interest Litigation in the High Court, the Greater Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad had studied about how to make new roads. Now the Greater Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad wants two more years. In the meanwhile, they will lay the new roads. In the name of security, the cantonments are now

stopping the vehicles. I would request the Hon. Minister to take necessary steps to see that the cantonment area does not stop the plying of the vehicles in these areas.

**\*SHRI R. K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI):**

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. Thank you for this opportunity. Union Government should take necessary steps to prevent construction of new dams across river Cauvery by Karnataka at a place called Megedatu. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written letters in this regard. A resolution to this effect was also passed in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Due to the continuous efforts made by People's Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma in the legal front, the final verdict of the Cauvery River Water Tribunal was published in Union Gazette in the year 2013. As per the verdict, a total of 740 TMC of water is received from the catchments areas of river Cauvery. Out of which 419 TMC should be provided for Tamil Nadu as per the allocation. Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry should share 270 TMC, 30 TMC and 7 TMC of Cauvery river water, respectively. I urge upon the Union Government to immediately come forward to protect the water resources meant for Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

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\* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

**SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise this issue which is of primary importance to the whole of eastern India.

There is a place called Bhusandeswar in Bhograi Block of my Parliamentary Constituency of Balasore which is home to the largest Shivling in the whole of Asia. Made of granite, it is 14 feet high and 14 feet wide. Lots of devotees throng this place every year not only from Odisha and rest of India but from several countries across Asia. However, unfortunately this place has not been developed for a long time and there is no infrastructure. My demand before the Union Government is that this Bhusandeswar temple which Houses the largest Shivling in Asia be declared as a place of national and historic importance and the infrastructure necessary be created there. Thank you.

**SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with the blessings of my leader Amma I appeal to the Government to start helicopter services to Ooty.

Ooty is famous for its tea. The tea and tourism festival is one of the major tourist attractions in Ooty and so is the Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary. There is competition between the film units from

the South and the Bollywood to shoot films in Ooty. The Queen of the Nilgiris, Ooty, has become filmdom's new Mecca with the Hindi film makers now shifting locations from Mumbai to Ooty.

Ooty has one helipad at Theettukal. The Theettukal helipad, the closest to the town approved by the Airports Authority of India long ago, is used for Defense purposes and VIP services. Pawan Hans was supposed to start its service with Bell 407 helicopters.

I urge upon the Government to remove hurdles behind starting commercial operation of helicopter service to Ooty. Thank you.

**SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Tamil Nadu social security pensions are provided under eight schemes while the Government of India supports three pension schemes. In May 2011, the Government of Tamil Nadu raised the monthly pension from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000. The Government of India's support extends only from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per beneficiary per month. The total financial commitment to the State Government for a year is Rs. 4,491 crore, whereas the Government of India contributes only around Rs. 600 crore a year.

Our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had already requested the Hon. Prime Minister to consider the following

suggestions: (1) to enhance the Union Government pension amount to Rs. 1000 per month; (2) to cover more categories of pensioners like in Tamil Nadu; and (3) to remove the ceiling on the number of beneficiaries under the Union schemes.

Thank you.

**SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, textiles is the second largest industry in the country and Tirupur contributes about Rs. 18,000 crore to exports and provides employment for about twenty lakh people directly and indirectly. Tirupur is set to reach an export turnover of Rs. 1 lakh crore in the next five years for which I request the Government of India to help in the following areas. A separate chapter in banking for garment exporters is required in monetary policy to enhance the competitiveness of products and thereby the export sector should be de-linked with the base rate system being followed.

The new foreign trade policy for 2014-2019 must carry the following points to increase competitiveness in the global market: market linked focus product scheme, focus market scheme, focus product scheme, incremental export incentivisation scheme, and free trade agreement with European Union and Canada. Thank you.

**DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House the issue highlighted in the Memorandum submitted by Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to Hon. Prime Minister.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (CPRR) has been proposed to connect Mamalapuram to Ennore Port covering a distance of 162 kms. The CPRR would connect the ECR, IT highway, NH-45, NH-205 and NH-5 with Ennore and Kattupalli ports. The project would not only benefit the Chennai city but also improve port connectivity for Puducherry, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The project cost is around Rs. 12000 crore including land acquisition. The Government of India should provide at least 40 percent of the project cost in an appropriate form which could greatly enhance the project viability.

Thank you.

**SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, many thanks to our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for reviving the funds-starved cooperative societies which help the poor agriculturists. The revival package for short-term cooperative credit sector was recommended by the Vaidyanathan Committee. The Government of Tamil Nadu entered into an MoU with the Union

Government and NABARD. The Government of Tamil Nadu led by our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma released the State's share of Rs. 385 crore fully. The Union Government has so far not released its share, Rs. 597 crore is still pending as arrears with the Centre.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Amma has already requested the Centre to release this fund for reviving cooperative societies. I urge upon the Union Government to release immediately the balance amount of Rs 597 crore at the earliest.

**SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI UNION):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, during the festival of Christmas the whole world welcomes New Year. Many families from my home state are spend time brooding about their future. On the other hand, numerous families from the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu are worried about the fate of their kith and kin who have been imprisoned in Sri Lanka. I would like to share with the House the humility shown by the Tamil Nadu Government. Under the Chiefministership of Amma, an initiative has been taken by Tamil Nadu Government to get fishermen released alongwith their boats and fishing equipments on 22<sup>nd</sup> December to enable these folks to celebrate Christmas with their families. Tamil Nadu Government has collaborated with the

Union Government taking up the request of release of 66 fishermen lodged in Sri Lankan jails while the External Affairs Ministry has taken up the matter with Sri Lankan Government. There is lack of clarity on release of boats and other fishing materials which had been seized. I again request the Union Government to take all the necessary action through proper channel to facilitate the release of these fishermen alongwith their boats and other materials.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014 at 11.00 a.m.

**19. 36 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 23, 2014/Pausa 2, 1936 (Saka).*

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