

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. V contains Nos.1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, November 28, 2014/Agrahayana 7, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

[English]

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (BARASAT): Madam, I have given notice of Suspension of Question Hour to raise a very important issue particularly about the reduction on the amount under MNREGS. Crores of people in the country are affected and there are starvation deaths. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Notice for Question Hour has been received. As I always say, this is not in our rules.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Let me complete it.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The second thing is regarding the issue of MGNREGA that you mentioned. Even the day before yesterday, I had allowed this issue to be raised during Zero Hour. The Hon. Minister had also replied that he is not closing it. [English] Again, if you want any discussion on the subject, it can be allowed. [Translation] You give notice as per rules. There can be a complete

discussion on this. You can be allowed if you want to raise it in Zero Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam, please allow me to raise this issue even today during Zero Hour. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you during the 'Zero Hour'.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

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): Madam, I have a request to the Hon. Members that raising the issue during Zero Hour will not solve the problem, think about it, Otherwise, by giving a structured notice, you may initiate a discussion on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday as per your convenience. ... (*Interruptions*) Yesterday, there was an extensive discussion in the Rajya Sabha during the Calling Attention session. You can also make some good provisions.

Otherwise, you will get half a minute or so during Zero Hour, then it will be of no use. There will be no Ministers to answer in that. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, we agree, but opportunity should be given to raise this issue today in Zero Hour as well. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEKAER: If you want to only raise it, it is all right.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: If you want to mention it only, I will allow you. [Translation] If you really want a discussion then notice should be given under some good rule.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: But this is not the way.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, today Naidu Ji has shown generosity, we thank him for that. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, he always shows generosity, you must at least give them the opportunity.

... *(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs

***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 81, Shri Prataprao Jadhav.

(Q.81)

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV: Madam Speaker, the Government strives to advance the country's industrial development, and this development should continue to grow, leading to the expansion of industries and businesses in the country, and providing employment opportunities for people. I want to tell the House that industrial growth has been low for the past three years and industrial growth rate has become negative in 2013-14. There are many reasons for this, but the real reason is the structural framework of our nation, industries are not getting electricity, there are no good roads, the government policies in the country are creating hurdles in it, instead of cooperating in the development of the country. Despite the abundant availability of raw materials in the country, production is not taking place domestically. Raw material is being exported. 7.6

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

percent industrial growth rate has to be achieved in 12th Plan, but I find it impossible to achieve this.

Madam, my first supplementary question is which States or Union Territories have achieved an Index of Industrial Producer above 5 percent during the last year.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: It is true that the industrial growth has been very happy news for the country. Although I would put on record that after this Government has come to power, industries which have been mentioned, between April and September of 2014, have actually recorded a positive growth for the first time in the country in the last three years. It has recorded 2.8 percent growth between April and September 2014. Whilst the Hon. Member is right in pointing out decline in the growth which happened between 2011 and 2012; it has declined from 2.9 percent at that time to 1.1 percent in 2012-13; and even worse, ending March, 2014, it has come down to -0.1 per cent. However, I am glad to say, and I hope this trajectory of growth will keep moving towards a positive note that the first half of 2014-15 has recorded a 2.8 percent growth. So, there is a positive movement, after steady and continuous decline.

The reasons for decline, of course, have been variously spoken about. First of all, there has been a complete moderation of domestic demands, as a result of which industry had the reason to produce more; there is also inflationary pressure increasing the input cost, and slow down of economies all over the world which had a bearing on India also. As it is, the reasons for decline in the industrial growth are very fairly discussed, and we have also notified that earlier in the answers given in Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV: Madam, the Hon. Minister has admitted here that our growth rate has become negative. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government has conducted any investigation, any review or any study on the country's industrial growth rate being negative, if yes, then what are its results?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: If I understand the word 'Check' correctly, we are not doing any kind of enquiring into it but these data keep coming as a matter of statistical information. What the Government has done after coming to power in May is to take immediately a lot of steps which will help ease doing business,

which will encourage and stimulate production. I can list a whole lot of things which have been repeatedly spoken in this august House.

Firstly, the FDI policy - we have simplified the procedures in many of the sectors; conducive business environment has been built up by many of the decisions taken by the Government which have actually removed a lot of hurdles for establishing business units. We have also de-listed a lot of production-related licensing from having to go through the rigour of licensing and seeking permission as a result. There is a general good that buzz has been created around the eco-system which is conducive for production. We had also, glad to say, de-listed many of the Defence industries. Other than the list of industries for whom we have made sure that the licensing period's duration has been extended from two to three years; and that itself has removed a lot of stress for industrial houses. From three years, it was further extended to seven year period. As a result, we find that the annual capacity in industrial licensing can improve and deregulations can help in annual speedier production. The recent amendments to the FDI policies which included FDI in defence up to 49 per cent; and FDI in railway infrastructure, also have been increased.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Hon. Speaker, in order to promote the industrial sector and increase industrial capacity, the Government has launched the e-Biz Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Scheme and has implemented the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor - DMIC Project. Along with this, more corridors have also been constructed. I want to know that the infrastructure is very important there to build this corridor. Recently, in my Parliamentary Constituency Sambhajinagar, Aurangabad, farmers' land was acquired in Bidkin and Shendra complex for the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

The first request I want to make is that the farmers there should get a good price for their land. The second thing I want to say is that such a large area is going to be DMIC, a lot of water would be required there for the industry in the infrastructure. If we want to draw water from the Jayakwadi Project, its capacity has already been significantly decreasing. There is very little water in the Waluj, Shendra, Chikalthana Industrial Area. I would like to say that the Government should take steps for infrastructure also. Water is an important issue in that. If we have to give water to the industry, then for that, the availability of water should be taken care of by constructing a dam nearby and good roads should be built there. This will give a boost to the industries there, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor will expand and the unemployment problem there will also

be solved. I would like to ask the Government, through you, that it should focus more on infrastructure. What do you want to do for this?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I take the Hon. Member's concern for giving a comprehensive look at the infrastructure and requirements in such areas into consideration. I would certainly look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Hon. Madam Speaker, this question is related to industrial growth and there are many districts in the country which are backward, in which industrial growth is close to zero, like my area is Hingoli district from where I come. Is the government thinking of making a separate policy, for the backward districts of the country?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: As it is, the corridors about which we are repeatedly talking, which is on all sides of the country – whether it is Delhi-Mumbai, Amritsar-Kolkata down to Vishakapatnam to Chennai to Bengaluru to Mumbai are actually envisaged like spinal cords around which we are going to look at districts which are definitely backward, and focus to see as to what

are the kind of activities which can be built or given stimulus in those areas. However, if the Hon. Member has a concern particularly about the areas which he represents, he can approach the Ministry.

[Translation]

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, that the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor is an ambitious project. It passes through my area, Dhulia district in Maharashtra. The work has started in Aurangabad. I want to know, through you, that when is the work going to start in my area Dhule which is a backward region?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Specific cases of which part of a corridor will be developed from when, is at the moment very difficult to commit. I will certainly find out information on this, and get in touch with the Member.

(Q. 82)

[English]

SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has abolished guideline. With the result, life saving drugs meant for Cancer, TB, Heart Disease, BP and Diabetes-controlling drugs have become costlier. Will the Hon. Minister inform this House what is the reason for waiver of these guidelines?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam Speaker, the question is related to the bulk supply of drugs from China and it is also related to other countries from where we are getting bulk supply. The answer, which is laid on the Table of the House, is very clear about it. The statement is clear.

[Translation]

The question that she has raised is that medicines are becoming expensive, we are trying to regulate it. Our regulatory bodies, are monitoring it from time to time. Our effort is to promote pharmaceuticals as much as possible in our country and along with promoting them, we are also trying to make their medicines affordable.

[English]

SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Madam, is the Government discouraging Indian pharmaceutical firms from importing bulk drugs

and encouraging them to make them in India and is it also engaging in active pharmaceutical ingredient promotion?

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Madam Speaker, regarding antimicrobial resistance drugs, our effort is to develop our indigenous industry. But right now, we are importing them from China because of the issue of their prices. A lot of cheap medicines are coming from there and that is why our industries are taking them in bulk supply. Secondly, we are trying to create the necessary effluent system and environmental conditions for that. As environmental creation progresses, our goal is to produce antimicrobial resistance drugs increasingly within our own country, and we are striving towards this.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that the medicines which are coming from abroad are expensive. Branded medicines are 200% - 300% more expensive. Our Government and the Indian Medical Association have also advised that generic medicines should be given. I have read a news report that a CMO in a district of Rajasthan said that in their district only generic medicines will be distributed. Is it not possible for the entire country, because medical treatment is becoming very expensive for a poor person? If

someone's leg is hurting then in the name of check-up his arm is also checked, the head is also checked. Today, medicines have become very expensive. If generic medicines can be provided in a district of Rajasthan, and such a system is implemented across the country, affordable medicines can reach poor people. Will the Hon. Minister implement such a system?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Madam Speaker, first thing is that anti microbial diseases are increasing continuously. This was noticed since the year 2005 and a task force was formed for this in the year 2010. Some recommendations came from that task force and keeping those recommendations in mind, the emphasis was laid on National Programme for Containment of Anti-Microbial Resistance and Rational Use of Drugs. There is a lot of irrational use of drugs here. Due to this, there has been a continuous increase in these diseases.

Along with this, regarding the medicines, we and the Indian Medical Association have also undertaken extensive capacity building and training programmes. Doctors have been advised to emphasise the rational use of drugs and generic medicines. We are striving to regulate this, but it requires creating an environment for it. We say that we use generic medicines, but we see that when it comes to using them, we ourselves also go towards branded medicines, which are expensive. Therefore, it is necessary to create

an environment for this. We are endeavouring to create awareness through continued medical education to inform as many people as possible about it. Amongst doctors and within medical fraternities, we are also encouraging them through conferences and workshops from time to time to promote the use of generic medicines. But creating an overall environment will not happen from just one side, so we will have to take everyone on board and we are striving for that. We will also need your help in this. Just yesterday, there was a question raised where we discussed about providing generic medicines through CGHS. Many of our friends have taken it a little bit differently. [English] We have to see to it that we propose and support generic medicines. [Translation] We need everyone's support in that.

[English]

DR. K. KAMARAJ: Thank you, Madam. Through you, I would like to ask the Minister regarding the availability of spurious medicines in the market. As you know, in Chhattisgarh, spurious medicine was a reason for the sterilization deaths. How did the drug come to the market?

Another thing is, a spurious drug which is used in the treatment of the patients who underwent sterilization is ciprofloxacin. As a doctor I know that ciprofloxacin is not advisable in the case of the

pregnant women and nursing women. How is it that in a National Health Programme, ciprofloxacin drug is used?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, as far as the first question is concerned, spurious medicines. [Translation] we are always regulating. Our Drug Controller of India is looking into it. States need to cooperate and collaborate in this endeavour. [English] But we have to go much ahead. [Translation] We are doing whatever efforts are required for this. The one question about medicine, which he has asked, if he asks a separate question then I will answer it.

[English]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT: Madam, these days the anti-biotic resistance is increasing day by day. Multi-drug resistance due to widespread and indiscriminate use of antibiotics is a major reason. We usually see a person who is suffering from some kind of fever or some other infection goes to a doctor and takes some medicine. The next time when he has fever, he does not go to a doctor. He takes the strip; he goes to the pharmacist and takes the medicine. That is one of the reasons how the multi-drug resistance species occurs. There is a Government notification which says that a pharmacist should dispense only on receiving a prescription from a doctor; but it is not being followed strictly. This is what has been observed.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is going to make any strict policy that a pharmacist should dispense only on receiving a prescription from a doctor and keep a record of the name of the doctor and the registration number and the drug prescribed. Thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I said that an awareness programme on rational use of drugs is going on. We are trying to keep this thing in mind among all the people, but after the formation of the task force, we have kept some medicines in the H-1 schedule, which are available [English] without prescription, in the name of the patient and from which dispensary or from which chemist shop. [Translation] That medicine is given to whom, it needs to be entered on the register. It cannot be done without the prescription of a doctor. This medicine also requires a special label, on which R.x must be written in red. This medicine cannot be given without prescription.

[English]

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Madam, of late, banning of the controversial drugs has become the order of the day. Some time back, the Health Department of the Union Government has taken a laudable decision to ban six controversial drugs. This is a welcome

step. I can say that antibiotic is a specialized medicine. I know its impact on oneself.

Would the Hon. Minister respond to the use of antibiotics as to what is the thinking of the Ministry on the use of antibiotics?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Can you kindly repeat your question? I did not follow it.

HON. SPEAKER: Please put your question again. He has not followed it.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Would the Hon. Minister respond to the use of antibiotics as to what is the thinking of the Ministry on the use of antibiotics?

I will say one thing here. Hon. Minister has said that it is generic medicine. It is not generic medicine, it is generic name.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam Speaker, as I told you earlier, first of all we are very much clear in that. We have proposed to see that there should a rational use of drugs. We are also trying to increase the use of generic medicines. Generic medicine is available in the markets.

(Q. 83)

[English]

SHRI P.K. BIJU: Madam Speaker, we are at number one position in arms import in the world today. We are contributing 12 percent to the total arms import in the world. UAE, China and other countries are far behind us in arms import. As per the sources available, we spent almost 8,283 million US dollars in a year for importing arms.

As per the answer given by the Minister on the Floor of the House, we spent Rs. 30,370.80 crore in 2012-13 and Rs. 93,260.93 crore in 2013-14 to import arms from abroad.

I would like to know from the Minister, through you, as to what steps are being taken or going to be taken by the Ministry to reduce spending on arms import and increase our export. We have launched our space vehicle successfully towards Mars. We have produced indigenous arms but our export is nil.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam Speaker, I would first like to correct the figures of the Hon. Member. I think, he has added a wrong column. It is Rs. 30,370.80 crore and Rs. 38,202.66 crore. The figure of Rs. 93,260.93 crores is the total procurement.

Government has already initiated steps to reduce the dependence on imported material. For that, since this Government came to power, we have cleared AONs granted by DAC. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: What is AON and DAC?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: It is 'Acceptance of Necessity' (AON) and Defence Acquisition Council (DAC). It is Rs. 48,417 crore under 'Buy (Indian)' category plus 'Buy & Make (Indian)' category adds up another Rs. 17,270 crore. It is making it to Rs. 65,000 crore under the category which is basically towards indigenization. Only Rs. 10,000 crore have been approved for 'Buy (Global)' and Buy & Make (Global). I think, with this figure, the intention of the Government is very much clear.

In case of export also we have taken a number of steps to create proper infrastructure. It is basically related to arms and armaments. There has to be a proper mechanism to decide to whom to import and which items to import. The items also will need to be listed in the sensitivity list and the countries also need to be put up in the sensitivity list. So, these two actions are being initiated. Arm export has already, I think, got a boost, and the actual export might take some more time to happen. It is already taking place but in a very small quantity. The increase will take place over a period of time.

SHRI P.K. BIJU: Madam Speaker, the answer given by the Hon. Minister says: "All the defence equipment procured by the defence forces goes through extensive field evaluation trials before being contracted. Post contract, an institutionalized system of Pre Dispatch

Inspection (PDI) and the Joint Receipt Inspection (JRI) exist for ensuring defect and reliability issues are restricted to the bare minimum.”

What is the present status of the Agusta Westland Helicopter deal and Tatra Trucks corruption scandal, which happened earlier?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam, the deal has been scrapped. In fact, the full deal is being investigated and it is in a quite advanced stage of investigation.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Hon. Madam Speaker, today due to the ever-changing geo-political circumstances around the world, the country faces many challenges of maintaining security. In this regard, I want to ask the Hon. Defence Minister, through you, that if the Army, Air Force and Navy are short of modern weapons, then what plan has the Government made to ensure the timely fulfilment of their requirements?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: I think the details about this are already listed in “Annexure-3” that the [English] ‘steps taken to make the country self reliant’. [Translation] The Government wants to give more push to the things that we can make in the country [English] because the Government is trying to stress on ‘buy’ Indian or at least ‘buy and make’ Indian. However, there are certain items

which may not be economical to be manufactured in the country. I think, for those items we will have to depend on the global supply.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Madam Speaker, in the reply the Minister has stated that the Defence Production Policy, which was promulgated in the year 2011, is being followed for achieving self-reliance. On the other hand, the Government is opening the door for Foreign Direct Investment. I do not know whether FDI will be in conflict with indigenization of defence equipment acquisition policy.

The Minister has also sated about 'buy Indian' and 'buy and make Indian' and 'make' categories of acquisition over 'buy and make' and 'buy global' categories thereby giving preference to Indian industry in procurement.

May I draw the attention of the Minister that 'buy and make' with transfer of technology is the principal category of capital acquisition relied upon under India's defence procurement procedure for encouraging domestic manufacturing of foreign origin equipment. That is number one. But in the management of Intellectual Property Rights, whether in procurement of manufacturing contracts such as 'Buy and make' or public funded R&D cum production contract such as 'make' cases or licensing of DRDO developed technologies, for that matter, whether it has

remained an unaddressed area. If so, what is your thinking on this issue because Intellectual Property Rights is a very important issue?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: I think this will have to be decided based on each specific case. It will be very difficult to speak about Intellectual Property Rights vis-à-vis 'Make India'. Obviously, if some Indian company develops a product, it will like to have IPR but that is within the country. A foreign supply or global supply also has the issues of IPR. We cannot make foreign parts by *Juggad* or any other formula unless we have a licence from them. So, IPR issues are in all types. Each individual case will have to be tackled separately.

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

The Minister in his response presented some figures relating to indigenous and imported components in procurement. While the figures may be accurate, I think they do not present the complete picture and they are, in fact, misleading. My question is, in the indigenous procurement, for example, the number shows that in the case of Army indigenous procurement it is 93 per cent. We should all be very proud of it. In Navy, it is 43 percent and in Air Force, it is 48 per cent. In total, 59 percent of our procurement is indigenous. We should actually be proud.

But the figures hide certain other facts, that is, in the indigenous products I know several components. For example, I am assuming most of the missiles are shown as indigenous. They are mostly made in Hyderabad, Telangana. But I know for sure that all the components that go into the missile are imported. So, I would like to know that in the indigenous category that you have shown, how much the imported component is. For example, in all the inertial guidance systems, the actual sensors are 100 percent imported. I can name 100 components which are 100 percent imported. So, I think the figures reveal less and hide more. So, can we have the actual import components in all our defence procurements, including the components that you are procuring as indigenous products?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: I agree with his statement that figures always hide more than what they reveal. That is the basic principle of statistics.

Madam Speaker, I would only like to tell him that when we say indigenous, it is manufactured here with, in most of the cases, more than 50 percent indigenization, and quite a few cases of 70, 80 and 90 per cent. Madam, 100 percent indigenization is in a very few items. I do agree with it. Obviously, since the data is dividing only between imports and making it in India, you are not getting sub-components of it. But I can assure you that I have focused on it and we will ensure, over a period of time, indigenous content. In fact, the

first few signals, which I have given, have been indicated to the DRDO and all other manufacturers, particularly to the Defence PSUs that they should go on increasing the indigenous component. There is a limit to it. Obviously, certain technology and certain components may not be economical to be manufactured in India or may not be available. But we will definitely improve the indigenous content.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, I thank the Defence Minister for being so forthright. He has taken up the charge newly. I understand that the Defence Ministry is caught in a catch-22 situation. On the one hand, our efforts at indigenization are all having time overruns. For instance, the light combat aircraft had a time overrun of several years. The medium battle tank had a time overrun of several years. Only in the field of missile technology, has the defence research been somewhat successful. In the meantime, after this Government came to power, the Government decided to have 49 percent FDI in defence. Faced with the situation, he is finalizing jets.

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I will put the question in one minute.

You are now finalizing the Rafale jets for Air Force from France. You have scrapped Westland helicopters and you are trying to finalise Sikorsky from USA. What is your long-term plan? Are you trying to indigenize by which process you will delay acquisition

of vital defence equipment? Or, are you trying to build a manufacturing base with the help of foreign direct investment?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam Speaker, the question is very important. But I would like to say that where the defence acquisition has reached a very critical stage, almost come to the end, I think we will stick to RFP. Within the parameters of RFP, we will try to expand the maximum benefit or make some components in India

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: What does RFP mean?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: RFP means Request for Proposals that is a tender in local LAN. So, in RFP, within whatever the parameters are there, where the acquisition has almost come to an end, I do not think it will be prudent to cancel it and go for all over again. Instead of that, we will stick to RFP and try to expand the benefits that we can get within the scope of RFP for manufacturing components in India or whatever we can do about it. As far as the new acquisition is concerned, I am very clear and we have made it very clear that after this Government came to power, out of Rs.75,000 crore proposals which have been cleared by the DAC, Rs.65,000 crore, that means, almost 80-82 percent is for the 'Buy Indian' and 'Buy and Make Indian' acquisition. So, the stress of the Government is for the development of the indigenous

production capacity also with the help of private players wherever it is possible.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: What about FDI?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: FDI is 49 per cent. Nirmala Ji and Jaitley Ji have already said it very clearly that up to 49 percent is permitted.

(Q.84)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: Hon. Madam Speaker, as per a circular of the Government, CGHS dispensaries provide only those medicines to the patients which are included in the list issued by them. For example, if a government doctor prescribes a tablet for blood pressure or diabetes which contains two or three salts, then the CGHS doctors prescribe two or three tablets instead of one tablet because a generic tablet cannot contain two or three salts. The argument given is that generic medicines are cheaper. Doctors have also questioned the negligence and quality of generic medicines. Patients' lives are being put at risk under the pretext of providing affordable medicines. Madam, my first question is whether the Government will provide reliable tablets containing two or three salts for BP, diabetes or other diseases and injections for diabetes through CGHS dispensaries ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You should ask a short question. The Hon. Minister understood what you were saying.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Madam Speaker, the concerns which he has expressed, keeping them in mind, the Ministry is re-visiting this issue and forming a committee led by a Director General CGHS and in a month, [English] we will come out

with the outcomes [Translation] with the new notification, we will manage all these things and I will also request our Hon. MP and friends that if they have suggestions, they can also give me. [English] That will be taken care of.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I think there will be no second supplementary now.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: Madam, government sector drug manufacturing companies like Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Hindustan Antibiotics and Bengal Chemicals have been closed for a long time. Is the Government considering any proposal to re-start these companies? So that, the patients can be provided medicines at a lower price.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Madam Speaker, the question of the Hon. Member is not related to the basic question. If they ask questions separately, they will definitely be answered.

[English]

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Hon. Speaker, medicines are the only items where the decision to buy is taken not by the purchaser but by the prescriptioner, that is, the doctor. In most of the cases, prescriptioners and producers join hands and take advantage of the patients' helplessness.

Also, the present National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, NPPA, has no jurisdiction over the pricing of new patented medicines with the result that they are being sold at fancy prices so that many of the live-saving drugs are not affordable for the poor. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether he can adopt the model being followed in Tamil Nadu where the generic medicines are procured in bulk by the State Government Agency directly from the manufacturers and are supplied free of cost through the Supply Chain Management System to the general public.

Many of the generic drug stores are lying defunct across the country. There is an urgent need to make available all medicines by their generic names at reasonable prices. What steps will the Government take to open new generic medicine stores up to *tehsil* level at least and also to ensure the quality in generic medicines?

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Madam Speaker, though this question is not related to the basic question, yet as I said that the use of generic medicines, propagating the rational use of drugs, these are the only two ways. He mentioned about the Tamil Nadu model, so many States have tried to implement it in their States. At the Union Government level, we are trying to fulfill its basic spirit in our own way.

[English]

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI: I want to draw the attention of all the esteemed Members towards the fact that drugs in the market are sold under two names – generic name and branded name. The prices of the drugs which are sold in generic names are much more higher than they really cost. For example, the price written on a strip of ten tablets is Rs. 84 whereas we get it at only Rs. 9 or Rs. 10. So, the margin is 800 percent even in selling of generic drugs. I think, the Hon. Minister should take care of this aspect.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What is your question?

[English]

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI: The question is this. If the generic medicines are to be provided cheaper to the consumers, they should be priced at the rate at which we are getting them from the market.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Madam Speaker, if the Hon. Member brings such cases into in to our notice, the Ministry will definitely look into it.

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Madam Speaker, in this question, we are discussing about the branded names and generic names, but for the poor people, it is not a question of branded name or generic name. In our society, one of the biggest challenges now is cancer. Day by day the patients of cancer are increasing in our State also.

Madam, cancer can be treated and cured, but how can a patient buy anti-cancer drugs and recover without getting proper medicines? Most of the poor patients are dying of cancer. So, I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister and the Government is ready to provide free medicine for cancer patients, as such Govt. of India is providing for tuberculosis, leprosy and so many other diseases. I would like to know whether the Government is ready to provide free medicines for the Cancer patients who belong to the poor families.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker, the Government is making efforts for early diagnosis of cancer. A programme to strengthen PHC and CHC level is going on. Along with this, our aim is to strengthen the tertiary care centres in terms of the therapy they provide. For this we have selected institutions and we are working through this.

As far as medicines are concerned, our effort is to regulate medicines so that medicines can be available at cheaper costs. This arrangement has been made so far. Whatever you have said, we will consider this matter.

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: Madam Speaker, the CGHS had started long back in 1954, but still the existence of CGHS is only in 26 cities. Does the Government consider that CGHS facilities are not required for the employees working in smaller towns?

As we are talking about the generic drugs, what policies have been taken by the Government to promote generic drugs as people have very less knowledge about the generic drugs?

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker, as I said, we are bringing awareness programmes through capacity building, training and workshops to promote generic drugs. It is also being done through Continued Medical Education. We are engaged in discussions to ensure this information reaches a larger section of the population.

[English] So far as CGHS is concerned, we are increasing our institutions step-wise. [Translation] We are trying to do it in a time-bound manner.

(Q.85)

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Prime Minister announced Jan Dhan Yojana on 15th August and it was launched on 28th August. On the very first day, more than two and a half million people opened accounts, which will be a world record. The Government aims to open 7.5 crore accounts by 26th January. Information has been received that so far about six crore people have opened accounts. This goal will definitely be achieved. In the first phase there are villages with more than 2000 population. Bank branches are also available everywhere here. I think the work after this is a challenge for us, because, many small villages, remote areas do not have branches of banks, there is no electricity and ATMs. I want to ask what the Government's plan is for this, and by when this target will be achieved?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Speaker, as the Hon. Member said that on 15th August, 2014, the Hon. Prime Minister had launched this scheme. The Government has a target of reaching seven and a half crore houses by 26th January, 2015. Now the target is that at least during this period we should try to open accounts of ten crore new people. Every day, all the bank branches in the country are trying this. We daily update the information we have received so far. You

have mentioned about six and a half crores, now this figure has surpassed that. This figure has reached 7.98 crore a couple of days ago. We expect that by 26th January we will be able to achieve the target of ten crore accounts which will have seven and a half crore households.

You said that our plan extends to villages with a population of two thousand. Let me clarify that the old scheme called Swabhiman, which was initiated by the UPA Government, had a target to establish business correspondents in villages with a population of two thousand people so that we could reach those villages through them. The difference in this scheme is that we are not considering the village as a unit, we are considering each house and individual as a unit. Therefore, it is an attempt to reach home. You said that it is about opening branches, so the traditional branches, which we call brick-and-mortar branches, are still there. They are able to reach to a large extent and where they are not, business correspondents can reach there, hence we are trying to bring forward other mechanisms for providing banking services.

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Hon. Madam Speaker, in our country, many schemes have come so far, and especially the schemes meant for the poor and the backward, where ineligible beneficiaries often try to take advantage of these schemes more than the eligible beneficiaries. In this House itself, we have heard many a times that

BPL card holders include many rich and millionaires. Such complaints come from everywhere. The same thing could happen with this scheme as well. Considering the benefits of this scheme, such as life insurance coverage of up to 30 thousand rupees and the RuPay card, many people may open accounts. Additionally, there are some individuals who are ready to become agents for this scheme. For this, I want to know from the Hon. Minister as to what is the plan of the Government to prevent it?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: This work is being done through banking branches. To prevent misuse, such as one person opening multiple accounts or some people trying to take undue advantage, the bank branches oversee this work. The type of benefits being provided in this scheme acts as an incentive, especially for those who come from weaker sections of society, so that these people can be reached effectively. You are right that every person who opens an account is given a RuPay card, through which he can also operate his account. Through that card the bank decides what is its capacity. On the basis of that, after six months, he can also get an overdraft of Five thousand rupees. He will often do the work of raising its overdraft, for whom Five thousand rupees is a huge amount. Efforts are being made to give this benefit to the new accounts that are being opened in this period by expanding its additional Accident Insurance, which was available earlier also. In this, we have added a new life insurance

of up to 30 thousand rupees, whose financial inclusion is to become an incentive for it, to become an incentive and to spread it more rapidly in the country. These figures, as far as we are reaching, are accessible due to these incentives.

[English]

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY: Thank you, Madam. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, that under this scheme are small vendors in rural and urban areas -- after opening the bank accounts - - eligible to have loans immediately? Will the bankers transfer it to the bank accounts?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, the grant of a loan or other banking facilities, as I said, life insurance and accident insurance, will be available to all. All other banking facilities - his account will be his right; his RuPay Card will be his right; and his LIC insurance and his accident insurance will be his right.

12.00 hrs.

But in order to be eligible for other banking facilities, overdraft and loans etc., as you have mentioned, we have requested the banks to have a liberal approach. They will always see whether it is an operational account which has been operating for the last six months

and on the basis of the quality of those operations, the banks will decide who is really eligible for those loans. We cannot also have a system where we encourage financial inclusion on one hand and push the banks into indebtedness on the other hand. We have to be careful of that situation also.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I want a clarification in this. Under the question C and what you have just told us that, Rs.30 thousand will be available in life insurance, [English] in addition to the existing provision of Rs.30,000 for accident relief. [Translation] I want to know that there was a provision in the National Health Insurance Scheme, to give Rs. 30 thousand every year to every family in which he gets 30 thousand rupees every year. If his age is considered to be 60-70 years, then all the unorganised workers, people below poverty line, agricultural labourers, all these people used to get its benefit. Will this benefit be available in RSVY also and what is the additional Rs. 30 thousand that you are giving? Please clarify it so that people do not get confused that those who used to get lakhs of rupees have now reduced to just Rs. 30 thousand.

HON. SPEAKER: If you can give a short reply, please do so, otherwise we will send it later.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, what the Hon. Member has asked regarding the Health Insurance is different. During this period, people who are opening accounts are getting the facility of life insurance due to this account, which is different from those of insurance and other schemes of the Government.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 86 to 100

Unstarred Question Nos. 921 to 1150

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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

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

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Competition Commission of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Competition Commission of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Competition Commission of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 865/16/14)

(2) A copy of the Competition Commission of India (Manner of Recovery of Monetary Penalty) Amendment Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. R-40007/Reg-Recovery/Noti/04-CCI in Gazette of India dated 30th July, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 64 of the Competition Act, 2002 as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 866/16/14)

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002 as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007:-

- (i) The Competition Appellate Tribunal (Term of the Selection Committee and the Manner of Selection of Panel of Names) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 728(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th October, 2014.
- (ii) The Competition Commission of India (Term of the Selection Committee and the Manner of Selection of Panel of Names) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 729(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th October, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 867/16/14)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA
SITHARAMAN):** I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, 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 Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 868/16/14)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, 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 Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 869/16/14)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the EEPC India (formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council), 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 EEPC India (formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 870/16/14)

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 871/16/14)

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council, 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 Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 872/16/14)

- (6) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MMTC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 873/16/14)

- (7) A copy of the Boiler Attendants' (Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 577(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th August, 2014 under sub-section (2) of Section 28A of the Boilers Act, 1923.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 874/16/14)

(9) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 2200 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd September, 2014, making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 2953(E) dated 19th November, 2009 issued under Section 14 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 875/16/14)

(10) A copy of the Coffee Board (Cadre and Recruitment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 198(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th March, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 876/16/14)

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

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) The Income-tax (6th Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O. 1418(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2014.

- (ii) The Income-tax (10th Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O. 2556(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th September, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 877/16/14)

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) G.S.R.566(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum directing that the references to the authorities specified in column 2 of the notification in the rules made or deemed to have been made under the said sections or in any other notifications, instructions, decisions, or orders, issued or made under the said sections or rules or under any other section of the said Act, shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as references to the authorities specified in column (3).
- (ii) The CENVAT Credit (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.615(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 878/16/14)

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-

- (i) G.S.R.586(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose Safeguard duty on imports of specified Seamless Tubes and Pipes into India at the rate of 20% in the first year, 10% in the second year and 5% in the third year (for 6 months only) from the date of issue of notification in this regard.
- (ii) G.S.R.623(E) published in Gazette of India dated 28th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose Safeguard duty on imports of Saturated Fatty Alcohols of specified carbon chain length into India at the rate of 20% ad valorem for a period of two hundred days pursuant to the preliminary findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Safeguards.
- (iii) G.S.R.571(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'sodium nitrite', originating in, or exported from the European Union, for a further period of five year pursuant

to the final findings of sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

- (iv) G.S.R.587(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Polypropylene', originating in, or exported from the Singapore, for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of 29th July, 2015, pending outcome of sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.
- (v) G.S.R.592(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Ceftriaxone Disodium Hemiheptahydrate-Sterile', originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China for a period of five year, pursuant to the final findings of sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.
- (vi) G.S.R.664(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy provisional anti-dumping

duty on imports of ‘electrical insulators of glass or ceramics/porcelain, whether assembled or unassembled’, originating in, or exported from the People’s Republic of China for a period of six months from the date of imposition of the provisional anti-dumping duty, that is 16th September, 2014 pursuant to the preliminary findings of sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

- (vii) G.S.R.673(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ‘Sulphur Black’, originating in, or exported from the People’s Republic of China for a period of five years, pursuant to the final findings of sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.
- (viii) G.S.R.691(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 89/2009-Cus., dated 31st August, 2009.
- (ix) G.S.R.703(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th September, 2014, together with an explanatory

memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Phenol', originating in, or exported from the Chinese Taipei and the United States of America, for a period of five years, from the date of imposition of the provisional anti-dumping duty, that is, the 16th May, 2014, pursuant to the preliminary findings of sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 879/16/14)

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R.335(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th May, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum exempting the goods described in Schedule I of the Notification when imported into India for display or use at any event specified in Schedule II from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon which is specified in the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and from the whole of the additional duty leviable thereon under Section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, subject to certain conditions.

- (ii) The FICCI/TAITRA Carnet (Form of bill of entry and shipping bill) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 336(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th May, 2014.
- (iii) G.S.R.565(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide that a reference to the Chief Commissioner of Customs in the rule, notifications, instructions, regulations, decisions or orders issued under the customs Act, 1962, shall be construed as a reference to the Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs or the Chief Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be. Likewise, a reference to the Commissioner of Customs in the rules, notifications, instructions, regulations, decisions or orders issued under the Customs Act, 1962, shall be construed as a reference to the Principal Commissioner of Customs or the Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be.
- (iv) G.S.R.603(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.

- (v) G.S.R.674(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/1996-Cus., dated 23rd July, 1996.
- (vi) G.S.R.675(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.
- (vii) G.S.R.692(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.
- (viii) G.S.R.736(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th October, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.
- (ix) S.O.1841(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus.(N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (x) S.O.1857(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum

regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.

- (xi) S.O.1925(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus.(N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (xii) S.O.2009(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (xiii) S.O.2058(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus.(N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (xiv) S.O.2107(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-*

versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.

- (xv) S.O.2182(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus.(N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (xvi) S.O.2229(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (xvii) S.O.2344(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus.(N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (xviii) S.O.2439(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th September, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian

currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.

- (xix) S.O.2561(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus.(N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (xx) S.O.2574(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st October, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (xxi) S.O.2647(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th October, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus.(N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (xxii) S.O.2658(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th October, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-*

versa for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.

(xxiii) S.O.2804(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st October, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus.(N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.

(xxiv) S.O.2830(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) & (ii) of (4) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 880/16/14)

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:-

(i) G.S.R.567(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum

seeking to provide that a reference to the Chief Commissioner of Central Excise in the rules, notifications, instructions, regulations, decisions or orders issued under the Finance Act, 1994, shall be construed as a reference to the Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Excise or the Chief Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be. Likewise, a reference to the Commissioner of Central Excise in the rules, notifications, instructions, regulations, decisions or orders issued under the Finance Act, 1994, shall be construed as a reference to the Principal Commissioner of Central Excise or the Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be.

- (ii) G.S.R.598(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 25/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.
- (iii) G.S.R.613(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum appointing the 1st day of October, 2014 as the date on which the provisions of clauses (A), (B) and (C) of Section 114 of the Finance Act, 1994 shall come into force.

- (iv) The Service Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 614(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th August, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 881/16/14)

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:-

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Twelfth Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 632(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd September, 2014.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 733(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th October, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 882/16/14)

(8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution:-

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Railways) (No. 19 of 2014)-Railways Finances for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 883/16/14)

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 20 of 2014)-Allowance of Depreciation and Amortisation, Department of Revenue-Direct Taxes, for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 884/16/14)

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 21 of 2014) (Indirect Taxes-Customs)-Performance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Department of Revenue, for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 885/16/14)

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 22 of 2014)-Compliance Audit on Management of satellite capacity for DTC service by Department of Space for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 886/16/14)

- (v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 24 of 2014)- Hydrocarbon Production Sharing Contracts, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 887/16/14)

- (vi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (No. 25 of 2014)-Compliance Audit Observations, for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 888/16/14)

- (vii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Railways) (No. 26 of 2014)-(Compliance Audit Report) for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 889/16/14)

- (viii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 27 of 2014)(Compliance Audit)-Scientific and Environmental Ministries/Departments for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 890/16/14)

- (ix) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 29 of 2014) (Indirect taxes-Central Excise and Service Tax)-Administration of Prosecution and Penalties in Central Excise and Service Tax, Department of Revenue, for the year ended March, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 891/16/14)

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

- (i) Appropriation Accounts (Part I-Review) of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) for the year 2012-2013.
- (ii) Appropriation Accounts (Part II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts) of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) for the year 2012-2013.
- (iii) Appropriation Accounts (Part II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts {Annexure-G}) of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) for the year 2012-2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 892/16/14)

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) “In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th November, 2014 agreed without any amendment to the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill,

2014 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th August, 2014.”

- (ii) “In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 2014 agreed without any amendment to the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2014 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th November, 2014.”
-

12.03 hrs.**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE****80th Report**

[Translation]

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA (KAROLI-DHAULPUR): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the 80th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

12.03 ½ hrs.**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC
GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE****72nd Report**

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR (PURNIA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the 72nd Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the High Court of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sushma Swaraj wants to place some clarification before the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No matter when the notice is given, she has asked to give clarification much before.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PRESIDENT INDIA AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Hon. Speaker, if they want to raise the issue then let them speak first, I will speak after them.

Hon. Madam Speaker, please allow them first. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to the Hon. Minister's clarification first, then you can speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You give it in writing whenever you want. You should understand one thing.

... (*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): Any one person should mention the subject, then Madam will speak, then there will be an explanation. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I would like to tell Jyotiraditya Scindia Ji that Hon. Speaker Madam will allow it, I have no objection if you raise the topic. Who am I to allow? I have no objection, you let them raise the subject.

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise the issue in Zero Hour, you please sit down.

12.06 hrs

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

India's stand in the WTO

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Madam Speaker, I wish to make a statement in this august House regarding India's Stand in the WTO.

I am making this intervention in the House today in order to place before the Hon'ble Members the facts relating to recent developments in the World Trade Organization (WTO), which came to a successful conclusion yesterday, vindicating the principled stand taken by India. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): We have not got the copy of the Statement. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: It should be distributed any time.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): It is not mentioned in the List of Business.

HON. SPEAKER: I have permitted it.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: If you permit, everything is all right. ...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: There is no question, it is tabled, distribute it.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Can I continue?

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, you can.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: On 5 August 2014, I informed the Hon'ble Members that India had decided not to join the consensus in the WTO on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement till our concerns relating to the implementation of other Bali Ministerial Decisions, in particular, the Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, were addressed.

There was much criticism of this stand in the subsequent months but India stood firm. Over the ensuing months, we concentrated our efforts on explaining the concerns underlying India's stand and working with other WTO members to find a way forward. These

efforts have borne fruit. We were able to resolve our differences with the United States, and persuade them to support us in the WTO on our requirements.

I am happy to report to this House that we have been able to secure an outcome that addresses our concerns. Yesterday, the General Council of the WTO adopted a Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, a Decision on the Trade Facilitation Agreement and a Decision on Post Bali Work.

The General Council Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes is a new, unambiguous Decision. It makes it clear that a mechanism, under which WTO Members will not challenge the public stockholding programmes of developing country members for food security purposes, in relation to certain obligations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, will remain in place in perpetuity until a permanent solution regarding this issue has been agreed and adopted.

This would do away with any ambiguity on this aspect as well as guard against the possibility of no cover being available after 2017 in case a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes is not arrived at by then. It, therefore, strengthens the safeguard available for continuing the Minimum Support Price policy which is a lifeline for millions of our low income, resource

poor farmers. It is also critical for food security in India and in countries which have similar policies.

The indefinite continuation of the waiver mechanism ensures the interest of the WTO membership in expeditiously working towards a permanent solution and protects us from the risk of having to accept an unsuitable solution under the threat of a limited duration peace clause coming to an end.

The Decision includes a commitment to find a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes by 31 December 2015 on a best endeavour basis. This introduces a sense of urgency in the process and would encourage other developing countries also to join the effort in pushing for a permanent solution at the earliest.

The Decision has a firm commitment to engage in negotiations for a permanent solution through an intensified programme of work. The provision for dedicated sessions in an accelerated time frame for taking forward the negotiations will ensure that that the WTO accords priority to this issue and works on it in a focused manner. It would, moreover, avert the danger that countries like India would have to make concessions in some other area of the agriculture negotiations, in order to achieve a permanent solution.

The General Council has also unequivocally agreed to de-link

the negotiations for a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes from the agriculture negotiations on other issues under the Doha Development Agenda. This would ensure that the negotiations for a permanent solution would continue even if the negotiations on such other issues are delayed.

As per the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement, a General Council decision on these elements has the same legal status as a Ministerial decision.

The General Council also adopted a Protocol to make the Trade Facilitation Agreement a part of the WTO Agreement and opened the Protocol for acceptance. After this, the Trade Facilitation Agreement would automatically come into force if ratified by two-thirds of the members of the WTO.

As per the Bali Ministerial Decision, the Trade Facilitation Protocol was to be open for acceptance by Members until 31 July 2015. WTO Members have now decided to leave this open-ended. This would enable them to complete their internal processes for acceptance of the Trade Facilitation Protocol.

When I stood before this House on 5 August I expressed confidence that India would be able to persuade the WTO Membership to appreciate the sensitivities of India and other developing countries and see their way to taking this issue forward

in a positive spirit. And we have accomplished this without any concessions, I repeat without any concessions, compromise or new conditions.

This is what India has now done. We were able to achieve a breakthrough because we were negotiating from a position of unassailable strength in the interests of those vulnerable sections who have no voice. A just cause, clearly articulated and backed by the strong leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, made for a compelling argument. This ensured that our concerns were heard, understood and addressed.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Madam, it is a continuous process. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: It is not a new thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Anyway, it is a good work done. ...

(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You continue please.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: For your benefit, I would like to repeat a line – “A just cause, clearly articulated and

backed by the strong leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, made a compelling argument. This ensured that our concerns were heard, understood and addressed.” ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: It is a continuous process. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You continue please.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Only the statement will go on record. You please continue.

(*Interruptions*) ...*

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): This should not be a continuous process. Please hear the Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: This positive outcome reaffirms our faith in the multilateral trading system and proves that this is the forum that offers the best chance for developing countries to participate on equal terms in international trade. For that reason it is important to make our concerns known in time, I repeat, for that

* Not recorded.

reason, it is important to make our concerns known in time, ensure that development aspects remain in focus and to make all efforts to bring trade talks back on course when required. We were never alone or isolated, even though not many chose to – or were in a position to – speak up in support of India's stand. I know from my interactions with several of my counterparts over the last few months that our stand resonated widely because we were fighting for a just cause. India is grateful for their support.

I would like to thank the WTO membership for their cooperation and efforts in enabling this successful outcome. We now look forward to working with all WTO members on the full implementation of the Doha Development Agenda including all elements of the Bali package to obtain the real development dividend for the poor and vulnerable around the world.

In conclusion, I must once again express my sincere thanks to Hon. Members of Parliament, farmers' organisations, civil society groups and academicians; their unstinting support of India's efforts to ensure a fair deal has immeasurably strengthened our hands.

In fact I would like to add here that I am very grateful to all political parties in India who stood by us and expressed their support; and I am very grateful to this entire House which has stood by us.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Congratulations to you for this.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): What you have revealed in the statement is fascinating but what is being concealed is ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No questions please.

12.16 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Item No.8. Statement by Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri RaJiv Pratap Rudy.

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): Madam, with your permission I beg to lay on the Table the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 1st December 2014 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.

2. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Textiles Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2014.
3. Consideration and passing of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2013, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.
5. Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2014-15.
6. Introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill.
7. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014 – to replace an Ordinance.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Hon. Speaker, Vishwamitra's hermitage, in Buxar (Bihar), my Parliamentary Constituency which is known as Mini Kashi, is located near the sacred city of Kashi. Thousands of students from here, study in Banaras Hindu University. Therefore, I urge the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to set up a branch of Banaras Hindu University (Central University) in my Buxar Parliamentary Constituency.

Established by the Pala dynasty in ancient Magadha (Bhagalpur, Bihar) around 700 years before the common era, Vikramashila University became renowned worldwide as a centre for tantric practices and spirituality. Students from various countries used to come here for learning and education. Historians have extensively described the connections and history of this place.

Therefore, I urge the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India, to initiate the complete excavation of Vikramashila University through the Archaeological Survey of India and to re-establish Vikramashila as an International University on the lines of Nalanda International University.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shailesh Kumar alias Bulu Mondal. - Not present.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Hon. Speaker, the place where Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, took his last breath, at 26 Alipur Road, New Delhi, a National Museum Memorial should be constructed.

I also urge the Government to issue a postage stamp in memory of the brave Dalit saint 'Megh Maya' of Gujarat.

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Madam, there is a serious electricity problem in my Parliamentary Constituency Banda Chitrakoot. It is time for irrigation for the farmers. Transformers are burning out in various places and are not being replaced. The lines are broken and are not being repaired. Farmers' crops are drying up. The situation is very dire. Please include this problem in the agenda of the House and get it discussed and directed to solve the problem.

2. In my Parliamentary Constituency Banda, Chitrakoot, the paddy crops of the farmers are not being purchased. There are only banners in government procurement centres and most of them are locked. Procurement has started from the month of October, despite this, no purchase has been made from the farmers yet. The farmers are very upset, please include this problem in the agenda of this week and discuss it in the House.

HON. SPEAKER: Bhola Singh Ji, you speak.

DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Madam, I am Dr. Bhola Singh, Shri Bhola Singh is another Member. Have you called Dr. Bhola Singh or Shri Bhola Singh?

HON. SPEAKER: Sorry, Dr. Bhola Singh Ji, you speak.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Madam, I would like to add the following proposals to the programme presented by the Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the House for the coming week.

1. For the rapid development of Bihar, the Union Government should give it the status of a special state.
2. In Bihar, Barauni fertiliser factory should extend the Haldia-Jagdishpur pipeline to Barauni, Varanasi to make gas-based urea fertiliser. Thank you.

....

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit Somaiya Ji, you speak.

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): You are saying Dr. Bholu Singh, Bholu Singh and Dr. Kirit Solanki Dr. Kirit Somaiya, but he is a doctor of human and I am a doctor of finance.

[English]

Respected Madam, kindly include following issues for discussion in the List of Business for the next week.

1. The issue of wilful defaulters on the increase of NPAs and wilful defaults on the background of RBI Governor's statement that strong will and strong action must be taken against the NPAs and wilful defaulters as such money which is written off could have been used for the welfare of the society.

2. The issue of garbage/waste disposal system in urban cities on the background of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan announced by Hon. Prime Minister.
3. The issue of involvement of public, people's representatives to make Hon. Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan a success.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Hon. Madam, the following items may be included in the list of business of the coming week:

1. Persistent Chinese incursions in the Indian Territory and the resultant terror created among the peace loving citizens of border region in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.
2. A misperception prevailing in respect of genetically modified crops and the need for immediate debate to address the serious concerns of the public at large.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD (MACHHLISHAHR): Hon. Madam, the Constitution (One Hundred and Fourteen Amendment) Bill, 2010 may be taken up for discussion in the next week and be included in the next week's programme.

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA):

Madam Speaker, I request you to include the below mentioned subjects in the agenda for next week's business of Lok Sabha:

1. Drastic reduction in allocation of fund for MGNREGS.
2. Rising air pollution in cities and metros across the country.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam Speaker, I want to raise the following items to be included in the list of business for the coming week:

1. Proposed slashing of the allocation in the social sectors in the revised allocation for rural development, education and health.
2. Draconian attack on the MGNREGA Scheme which is a demand driven scheme for the rural poor. This will deprive them of their minimum earning.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Madam, the following two subjects may please be added in the list of business for the next week :-

1. In the adjoining districts, including Bhagalpur in the state of Bihar, there is no institution offering management education. As a result, local students are deprived of

opportunities to pursue studies in the field of management. Therefore, there is a need to establish an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Bhagalpur.

2. The declaration of Bhagalpur as a Railway Division was made by the then Railway Minister in the year 2009, but still the Bhagalpur Railway Divisional Office has not been established. Due to the non-existence of a Railway Division in Bhagalpur, several important aspects such as railway operations, passenger amenities, and reservation services are facing significant difficulties. Therefore, Bhagalpur needs to establish a Railway Divisional Office in the light of the official announcement of the Railway Division.
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-

12.27 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Indian Council of Medical Research

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Madam, I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of rules 1(xxiv) and 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Governing Body of Indian

Council of Medical Research, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of rules 1(xxiv) and 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Governing Body of Indian Council of Medical Research, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations.”

The motion was adopted.

12.27 1/2 hrs.

(ii) Indian Nursing Council

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Madam, I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of clause (o) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to be members of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi subject to the other provisions of the Act.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (o) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to be members of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi subject to the other provisions of the Act.”

The motion was adopted.

12.28 hrs.

**MOTION RE: SIXTH REPORT OF BUSINESS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[English]

**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):** Madam, I beg to move:

“That this House do agree with Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 27th November, 2014 subject to modification that the recommendations regarding items at serial numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4, already disposed of by the House, be omitted.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 27th November, 2014 subject to modification that the recommendations regarding

items at serial numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4, already disposed of by the House, be omitted.”

The motion was adopted.

12.29 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: 40 Indians reportedly abducted and killed by ISIS militants
in Iraq**

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SINDHIYA (GUNA):

Hon. Madam Speaker, we all have received a very sad information. Forty Indian nationals who were working in the Turkish Construction Company in Mosul were kidnapped by ISIS. Most of them were from Punjab and Kolkata. In the first phase, their mobile and passport were confiscated by the terrorists. We have received information that they all have been killed by taking them to a hilly area on 15th June itself. If this information is correct, it is very sad for the country, for the Parliament and for all of us. The Government has repeatedly given clarifications in the last 6 months. On 22nd June, a spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs had said in his clarification and assured that all these 40 people were safe. He had also said that the Government is trying to discuss with the militant organisation which has captured them, through different sources. Efforts are being made to communicate with them through sources such as Iraqi Red Crescent and local tribal leaders. On 29th June, this year, Hon. External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj ji, had assured

us that she had personally met their families. Our Ambassador's message was read to the family members and it was also said that the family members are completely satisfied and all our employees are completely safe. Many Hon. Ministers of this Government were doing photo-ops with family members. On 7th July, the spokesperson of The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated that we are in touch with our citizens through interlocutors and they are safe. Again on 13th August, it was stated that they are safe, and on 8th September, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ji reassured us once again that all 40 of our 40 citizens are completely safe and secure, and efforts are being made to get them released. So today, we have been given this very sad information.

I think today the Government has accountability. On one hand, the issue has been dragged on for 6 months, and it has been said that their family members will be given a gift on Eid. Today we seek explanation that if this information is true, it has completely misled their families, Parliament, and the country. The information system of the Government is a complete failure, the Government is completely inadequate. Today, not only all Hon. MPs sitting in Parliament, the people of the country also want complete clarification, transparency and accountability from the Government on this issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I want to say one thing to all the Hon. Members.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: One moment, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I need to make it clear here. The first thing is that the notice of the main opposition party has just arrived, before that the Hon. Minister had told me yesterday, it was informed here that she would like to give an explanation on this subject in the House and I had allowed her as well. Its just that, she just nodded in agreement, saying “alright”, as the main opposition party wants to say something, so I allowed them. You can associate with them. Please write and send your names for the association. The Hon. Minister had already said, I would like to report.

Now I will ask the Hon. Minister to make her point.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shrimati Kavitha Kalvakuntla, Shri Badruddin Ajmal, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Adv. Joice George and Shri P. Karunakaran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PRESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHAMA SWARAJ): Hon. Speaker, I am grateful to you for clarifying the situation. As loudly as Jyotiraditya Scindia ji was saying that accountability is needed, he did not even give a single notice today to clarify the situation. As you mentioned, I had already sent you a written notice this morning that I would clarify the situation myself because when I returned from Nepal yesterday night, I saw on a TV channel, an interview with two Bangladeshi citizens, where it was being said that where are the 39 Indians and it sounded as if they have been killed. I felt that I should resolve this state of confusion from my side. Therefore, without waiting for the opposition's notice, I have presented myself to respond. Even here, when Jyotiraditya ji said that he wants to speak, I said that I have no objection, he can speak. After he expressed his views, I stood up to speak.

First of all, I would like to tell the Hon. MPs that this news has not come for the first time. You mentioned that information has been given. Who provided this information? A news channel has aired a news report, and this news is not coming out for the first time.

Madam, this story has emerged for more than ten times in the last 5 months and the source is the same. The person who came from there, Harjit Masih is its source. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Where is he?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I will tell. Please don't worry. I will tell you where he is. ... (*Interruptions*) First of all, let me tell you if you want to know. He is in Government's protective care because his life is currently under the greatest threat. He escaped from there, broke free from their clutches, he is their primary target. That is why the Government has given him protection. If you are at peace with this, then I will continue. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Madam Speaker, this story has come up again and again. When this incident happened, after that Harjit Masih escaped from there, he told this story. He said that – “We and the Bangladeshis used to work in a company. On the evening of 15th June, some members of a terrorist organisation came and took us away from there. They were taking us to Erbil. But on the way, they told the Bangladeshis to separate from us. The Bangladeshis and the Indians were separated. They took the Indians to a forest and shot them. I managed to escape and I came back.”

There were so many discrepancies and contradictions in his story that we couldn't believe it the first time. Then we thought that

if we believe his story, it would mean abandoning the search for them and declaring them dead. After that, this was the option. But there was another option, to reject his account and continue searching for them. We chose the second option and we started looking for them. I felt the happiest when the first source, Red Crescent came forward, because it is an institution, therefore, I can take the name, they said that they have not been killed, they are alive. Then we tried so hard that all the countries that could help us, including Gulf countries and many others, we contacted them all and contacted them at the highest level. After that we got in touch with the institutions that could help us. We contacted individuals who were said to be able to help us. Hon. Speaker, I can stand here and say that one after another, six sources have told us that they are not dead. I still have the written messages from all these sources that were coming to us, they were not oral but written. But since there are confidential documents, I cannot share except with those who have taken an Oath of secrecy. But I have shared those with two of my colleagues who had taken the oath of secrecy. One is Shri Arun Jaitley, and the other is Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who is a Minister and hails from Punjab. This is because most of the people involved are from Punjab, as Bhagwant Mann Ji has stated, I shared with them. It's not like these messages came one day and didn't come for next ten days. This message comes every day. I had already said here in the Assembly

that on the day this incident occurred, we deployed an officer there on the very same day, solely for this task. There is an Ambassador, but apart from that, a person who was formerly an Ambassador there, though he was appointed as the Ambassador for ASEAN but we asked him to go to Iraq. We gave him only one targeted task - to find them, to look for them. He from there, through his contacts, used to send messages to us. I also made the two, read those messages. And it comes with the latest update, every day. Every night I go to sleep after taking the update that what has happened. You tell me that someone is saying, they have been killed, and six of the sources are saying that they have not been killed, they are alive. What should I do - accept that they have been killed, fold my hands and sit down, and abandon the search for them? This is an easy option. But the other option is to believe those six sources who are saying they have not been killed and are alive, and to continue searching for them. I have repeatedly stated in the Assembly that I do not have direct contact with them. But there is contact through sources who say they have not been killed. I don't have concrete evidence of them being alive, but I don't even have concrete evidence of them being killed. So, it's not just a matter of wisdom, but also a matter of responsibility that dictates that I accept the other option and move forward. That's why I want to say this to you as well.

As for Harjit is concerned, I have informed Shri Bhagwant Mann ji about him. I have a letter from Shri Bhagwant Mann Ji regarding the way we are evacuating people from Iraq. As soon as he spoke to me and we contacted their people, because they were not hostages, they were evacuated immediately. You know the difficult circumstances under which we are working. Those who control Mosul do not have a government and those who have a government do not have control. We are working in such adverse circumstances. Why will we mislead Jyotiraditya Ji? What will we benefit from it?

Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to say that we are not trying to mislead, we are trying to save.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): No one is imposing any allegation on you. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (DARJEELING): Madam, I have a request. This subject is such a sensitive and serious matter that ISIS is also looking at the procedures of this Parliament. Looking at all these facts, he will bargain even more. ... (*Interruptions*) Let this topic end here. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Ahluwalia Ji, please sit down.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister will also speak responsibly.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Alright, everyone can have their own suggestions, everyone can have their own opinions.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is competent to speak on this.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to express Ahluwalia ji's point in a different way. ... (*Interruptions*) The fundamental principle for the success of such operations is secrecy. Therefore, I should not be forced to breach confidentiality. I assure you, the day I find even a single piece of solid evidence supporting Harjit's claim, I will come and inform you. We are praying to God that what the six sources are saying is true, and that we bring them back safely. But, in such situations, it takes time for safe evacuation. As I said, those operating in Mosul do not have a government, and those who have a government are not controlling Mosul. We are working in such difficult circumstances, leaving no stone unturned. We have also sought the help of E. Ahmed Ji from Congress. I have also told him that he has very good relations in the Gulf, he should go there. We have been in touch with every organisation. I am taking latest updates. Therefore, I cannot say that they have been killed because no one except for Harjit is saying so.

If you look at yesterday's statement as well, which includes interviews of two Bangladeshi citizens, they are only quoting Harjit. They are also not supporting Harjit because they themselves are not eyewitnesses. At the same time, the story is gathered that the Bangladeshis and the Indians were separated. No Bangladeshi has seen what happened to the Indians when they were separated. They are saying what Harjit told them when he back. This is hearsay evidence. Even there, they are not supporting him, they are merely quoting him. In this entire story, whether it's published in the Indian Express, in Punjabi newspapers, or has reached their family members, the sole source for everyone is Harjit. But as I said, Harjit has also been given protection, he is under the protective care of the Government. We are trying our best.

Hon. Speaker, with your permission, I would seek the consent of this House that if they feel that I am on the right path, that I should not stop my efforts by believing in the statement of Harjit, then I would certainly wish to have the support of this House so that I can continue moving forward in my efforts. This House should also pray that those people should be alive and they should come out safely.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPOL): Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to speak about a player whom our legendary player Sachin ji has also acknowledged. What happened with our L. Sarita Devi during the semi-final match in the Asian Games boxing event should not happen with any player. Today, the A.I.B.A., which is considering imposing a life ban on her, I request you that in India, sports other than cricket do not receive as much respect. It is being said that the player should have had sports spirit. A female boxer who has worked hard for many years to achieve success, dreaming of waving India's flag high by winning a gold medal at the Asian Games and she was about to do it. Everyone saw it, we saw it too. If she is cheated and is told to maintain a sporting spirit, then shouldn't those associated with the association also be expected to show the same sporting spirit? Whether it's the Asian Games or the Olympics, there are frequent complaints that our players are accommodated in two-star hotels while accompanying officials stay in four or five-star hotels. How much sportsmanship do we expect our athletes to demonstrate in such situations?

Madam Speaker, through you, I want to say in the House that the Government should intervene, the discussion about imposing life ban on her should be opposed. The player who works hard to raise the flag of their country should definitely be saved. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh and Smt. Kavitha Kavalkuntla are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Smt. RanJit Ranjan.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARDWAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, Uttarakhand has been the centre of peace and spirituality. The people of the whole world are aware that Uttarakhand is a state, region, and place where law and order prevail, and every individual remains safe. However, in the past one year, the way incidents of murder and rape have increased indiscriminately there, it has not only shocked Uttarakhand but also deeply troubled the entire country. Recently, a seven year old innocent girl who had gone to a wedding in Haldwani, she was reported missing since 20th November. Her body was recovered after five days. She was raped. Her hands and legs were cut off and dumped on the banks of the river.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to say that the entire Uttarakhand is on the roads for this, because just days before this, a tourist woman, Shobhita Das, who was a teacher in an international

school in Gurgaon had gone to explore Lakhamandal. She was raped and then murdered. ... (*Interruptions*) Not only that, a 14-year-old girl was raped near Solani river in Bhagwanpur. ... (*Interruptions*) Before that, there was an incident in Ferrupur. ... (*Interruptions*)

I want to say, through you, in the House that whether murder is taking place in a posh colony of Dehradun, Smt. Saini has been murdered inside the house, dozens of murders after raping women are taking place on the soil of Uttarakhand.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to urge that Uttarakhand is a very significant region for the entire world and the country. It is the centre of spirituality, the soul of India's culture. Its protection and security should also be the first priority of the Government of India. Therefore, I would like to request you in a humble manner that strictest steps should be taken with immediate effect to strengthen the law and order situation there.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P. P. Chaudhary is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

SHRI VIKRAM USENDI (KANKER): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour. The National Highway in the state of Chhattisgarh, especially the National Highway from Raipur to Jagdalpur Bastar, which is about three hundred kilometres, is very dilapidated. Due to lack of

upgradation there, accidents and incidents continue to occur regularly. Especially in the district headquarters of Kanker, there was also supposed to be construction of a bypass road between stretches of the National Highway, but it could not be done. That also needs to be approved. Beyond that is the Keshakal Valley, there is always a convoy of vehicles jammed in that valley as well, due to which there remains a traffic jam for four-five hours. Its upgradation is very important. There is no railway line from Raipur to Jagdalpur, so this road is very important. ... (*Interruptions*) The construction of this road is very important in the public interest. ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, this road should be constructed by making a provision in the budget.

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI (YAVATMAL-WASHIM): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour. I would like to put forth the serious problems of the innovative tax payers of my constituency, Yavatmal. Those who pay income tax used to have to go to Wardha, but I have received information that now they will have to travel 175 kilometres to Chandrapur. The Assistant Income Tax Office which is in Wardha should remain in Wardha, because around 46 thousand people from Yavatmal go there for their work. If this office is moved to Chandrapur, then their time and money will be wasted.

Hon. Speaker, through you, I request the Government and the Hon. Minister to pay attention to this matter at the earliest. Let the office stay where it is, in Wardha. If you have to shift it then shift it to Nagpur. ... (*Interruptions*) I believe that the Government will take action on this at the earliest.

[English]

***SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** Avian flu has been detected in Kerala after 17,000 ducks died during last few days. The Members of Parliament from Kerala raised this issue in Parliament on 26 November 2014 demanding the Union Government to take necessary measures after the outbreak of bird flu. In order to take stock of the situation after outbreak of bird flu, as Tamil Nadu is a neighbouring State of Kerala, Tamil Nadu Government, functioning under the able guidance of *Puratchithalaivi* Amma, convened a high level meeting at the Secretariat, which was attended by ministers and senior Officials of various Departments. Pre-cautionary measures to be taken are discussed at this meeting. As many as 800 teams for preventive purposes and monitoring of bird flu were formed as a precautionary measure. A 24-hour control room has also been set up.

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Tamil Nadu Government, under the able guidance of *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has ordered for implementation of a 12 point programme. In my Namakkal constituency, 3 crore eggs are produced every day and out of which one crore eggs are transported to various States of the country and abroad. There is no bird flu in Tamil Nadu.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam Speaker, I would like to invite the kind attention of this august House and the Government of India on the sad plight and deplorable condition of rubber cultivators of India, especially of Kerala.

The price of rubber has come down drastically and it is Rs. 117 on 22nd November, 2014. It was around Rs. 152 during the last year in the same period. It is at an all time low in the last seven years. This has forced the rubber cultivators to indescribable hardships and misery.

HON. SPEAKER: You have given notice on bird flu. How can you change the subject?

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Madam, now I am raising another issue pertaining to rubber farmers.

HON. SPEAKER: All right. You may speak now. But don't do like this in future.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Okay Madam.

The international rubber prices are falling and this has resulted in a sharp rise in imports by Indian rubber industries such as the tyre industry. The supply and demand gap assessed by the Rubber Board is around 60,000 metric tonnes of rubber only for the year 2014-15, whereas so far 3.25 lakh metric tonnes of natural rubber has been

imported by the industry. This has put the domestic production of rubber in a jeopardy. If the situation of price drop persists, then the farmers' suicide may happen in the plantation sector, especially among marginal farmers.

There are about 11 lakh small and marginal rubber cultivators in Kerala who require urgent attention from the Government of India. In order to solve the problem of rubber cultivators, rubber industry may be included under the Make in India Scheme.

The import duty of sheet rubber and rubber products is only 8 percent at present. It has to be increased to 40 per cent. The import duty of block rubber may be increased by 40 percent since the tyre industry imports block rubber on a large scale. Safeguard duty is essential for retaining the cost of production of natural rubber.

So, I request the Government to consider the case on war footing and help the rubber cultivators, especially small and marginal farmers.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam Speaker, I am sorry to say that my name was fourth in the list.

HON. SPEAKER: I know, but he has also given notice on bird flu issue. So I have allowed him. But he has changed the subject

suddenly and that is why I said that it should not be done like that in future.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Madam, I would like to place before this House a very serious issue with regard to rubber cultivators in Kerala. The price of rubber last year was Rs. 235 to Rs. 250. Now it is reduced to Rs. 80 to Rs. 85. Kerala produces the highest quantity of rubber and also the best quality. The marginal farmers are the largest in number among the total number of rubber farmers. So, the decline in the price of rubber directly hits the ordinary people.

The reason as stated by my dear colleague is the uncontrolled import of rubber. When we have sufficient production in the domestic market, there should be a mechanism with regard to the need and demand of the imported rubber. It is not seen by this Government. There are two issues with regard to control of its price. One is imposition of import duty of rubber and also there should be a mechanism in place. Of course, I do not disagree that there should be import and export of rubber. But, at the same time, it should be in connection with the needs of the domestic market.

So I strongly request the Government to take some measures to give sufficient protection to the rubber farmers. Otherwise, as far as the rubber farmers are concerned, they are really on the brink of committing suicides.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH B. HUKKERI (CHIKKODI): Hon. Speaker, currently about 6000 advocates are on strike in Belgaum district of Karnataka for two weeks. Their demand is that there should be Karnataka Administrative Tribunal in Belgaum. For the past two weeks, they have closed the Additional District Court, District Court, and all courts in the district, causing a lot of hardship for the people. There are about 28000 cases pending. If there is one Administrative Tribunal in Karnataka, in Bengaluru then how will the 28000 cases be resolved? For this, I request the Law Minister that another Tribunal, Karnataka Administrative Tribunal should be sanctioned in Belgaum. It would have been great if Hon. Law Minister would have been in the House. I request you to respond to this on Monday, as those people are going on a hunger strike from Monday. If 6000 people go on a hunger strike, it will create a law and order problem there. The Hon. Law Minister should think about it. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Gopal Shetty ji, this issue was raised in the House yesterday, still you can speak on this issue again.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Hon. Madam Speaker, yesterday this issue was raised in the House, even after that you have given me an opportunity to speak on this issue, so I express my special gratitude to you because Arvind Sawant ji raised this issue in the House two days ago and Dr. Kirit Somaiya ji moved the petition in the House yesterday, despite that you have given me the opportunity to speak on this issue, I thank you.

Hon. Madam Speaker, this is a very serious matter. Every year, around 3,500 people die while travelling by train, either by falling or being run over, despite that, the railway administration seem to be indifferent. I want to make a special demand, through you, that the Hon. Railway Minister or the Hon. MOS should visit the city of Mumbai immediately and take immediate measures. Our police personnel, whether they belong to the State Government or the Union Government, only catch, fine, and take to court those who cross the railway tracks. However, it seems that the railway administration does not make any arrangements to prevent people from crossing the railway tracks in the first place. Therefore, I will make a special demand, through you, that the Hon. Railway Minister or the Hon. MOS may immediately visit the suburban area of Mumbai city and find some immediate remedy for this, so that this type of deaths do not occur in Mumbai city in future. Thank you.

12.57 hrs

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

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, after the 'Zero Hour', we are going to take up the Labour Laws Bill. Therefore, there will not be any lunch break now. This is for your information.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM): Deputy Speaker Sir, under my Parliamentary Constituency Sasaram (Bihar), there is news of discovery of mineral wealth, such as bauxite, limestone and Abraki Arenite in villages Jharpa, Gherkhania, Bardihan and Lewa in Adhaura block of Kaimur district. The Ministry of Mines has taken cognisance of the matter after investigation. However, because the land containing the mineral resources falls under a forest area, the mining work has been obstructed. I had requested the Ministry of Mining and the Ministry of Forests to release this land from the forest area, but no action has been taken so far. Most backward people are settled in this region and poverty is also at its peak.

Therefore, Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, we make a special request to direct the concerned Ministry to release the aforementioned mineral resources from the forest area for mining. This will not only increase government revenue but also provide employment to the people of this region and help alleviate poverty to some extent. Thank you.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that the outstanding payments for the paddy crop of the farmers in Punjab have not yet been received. You know that Punjab purchases the farmer's crops and supplies them to the central reserves. For that, a current credit list is prepared, which amounts to 21 thousand crore rupees. Out of that, 18 thousand crore rupees have been spent, but 3 thousand crore rupees, which are owed for at least 12 lakh tonnes of paddy, are stuck in files moving between the Finance Ministry and the Food Ministry. You know that the wheat crop is being sown. Farmers need money for fertilisers and pesticides, but there is a shortage of funds. I would like to request, through you, that the payments be released as soon as possible because in Punjab, only 5 percent of the rice crop is consumed locally, while 95 percent is supplied to the country. If the farmer who produces food grains for the country does not get his money, he will be discouraged in future.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra.

Shri Badruddin Ajmal- Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Thank you Sir. In United Bihar, the High Court had two Division Benches in Patna and Ranchi respectively. At present the population of Bihar is about ten and a half crore and there is only one High Court. The silk city of Bhagalpur is famous as the commercial capital of Bihar due to its adjoining areas of Bengal and Jharkhand. I am a native of Bhagalpur and have been an MLA for five times and a Minister for 7-8 years from there. The 12 districts adjacent to Bhagalpur - Banka, Munger, Jamui, Lakhisarai, Khagaria, Begusarai, Purnia, Saharsa, Katihar, Supaul, Kishanganj, Madhepura are located at a distance of about half an hour to one and a half to two hours. Besides, the distance of 4 districts of Mithlanchal – Samastipur, Darbhanga, Madhubani and Sitamarhi is also two and a half to three hours. More than fifty thousand cases of these areas are pending in the Patna High Court for the last several years and the people have not been getting timely justice, which is very unfortunate. Justice delayed is equivalent to justice denied. It takes four to six hours for people from the above districts to reach Patna due to which they have to spend the night in Patna itself and poor people face a lot of problems because of that. Therefore, I request the Union Government to approve the establishment of a second Division Bench of the High Court at Bhagalpur. For this, there are constant agitations. I would

like the Hon. Law Minister to say something about this on the next date.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shailesh Kumar, Shri Rajesh Ranjan and Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for allowing me to speak on a very urgent question of public importance. The top priority of this Government is to free holy rivers like the Ganga from pollution and ensure their water to be pure and clean. All industrial units, whether along the banks of Allahabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, or from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar, should be prohibited from dumping their waste into the river. Despite this, on 26th November, the water of Ganga in Allahabad turned red due to the dumping of wastes. The fishes inside it, died. The devotees who went to take a bath returned without bathing, while on one hand the Hon. Union Water Resources Minister ensured this in the Ganga Action Plan, for which they have also submitted a 21-point programme. There are 764 industrial unit along

the bank of Ganga, Whether it is the tanneries of Kanpur, the bangle factories of Firozabad, or other industrial units, pollution from these sources continues despite repeated warnings. In this context, no matter what efforts have been made in the past or are planned for the future, I believe we cannot even begin to imagine how we will succeed in ensuring a clean and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga.

I would like to request the Government, through you, that after declaring the Ganga as our national river, if we intend to make its water clean and free from pollution, then we must definitely create a law that prohibits any garbage from cities or industries located along the banks of the Ganga basin to be dumped into it. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Water Resources is taking care of that.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: If we do not do this then definitely, we cannot free Ganga from pollution.

Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important topic.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Deputy Speaker Sir, India comes second in exporting rice. India is the only country after China which exports the maximum amount of rice, while Iran is the largest buyer of rice. When a farmer in India plants rice and goes to sell it in the market, at that time Iran imposes a ban on imports because they also have their own crop at that time. They impose a ban on imports to safeguard the crops of their own farmers. Due to this, the price of paddy of Indian farmers is continuously falling.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in the year 2014, the price of rice had become Rs. 1,000 per quintal as compared to Rs 2,013 per quintal, that is, the price has reduced by 45 percent. This has forced farmers in Kota, Bundi, and Haryana, as well as Punjab, to sell rice at lower prices. The Hon. Minister has spoken to Iran in this regard. I request the Government to address this issue promptly and effectively. Iran should lift the ban on imports, so that the value of the crops of Indian farmers can be increased by exporting them at fair prices.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after three months when Iran lifts the import ban, by that time, the paddy of the farmers would have been

sold in the market, but the exporters and the importing traders would have purchases the crop of those farmers on lower prices will then sell it at expensive rates. I request the Government to immediately engage with Iran to lift the import ban swiftly, ensuring that farmers receive fair prices and their interests are protected. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Om Birla.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Deputy Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to raise an important matter about Western Railway. 60 percent of Western Railway's network is in Gujarat. As far as income is concerned, government revenue, whether it is passenger revenue or freight revenue, Gujarat has a very important contribution in it. The Western Railway network passes through Gujarat, as well as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to draw the Government's attention, through you, that the headquarters of Western Railway is currently in Mumbai. If Ahmedabad is considered for this position, it would be more centrally located for the Western Railway zone. In this regard, the Government of Gujarat has invited the attention of the

Union Government and the Railway Department from time to time. They have written several letters to them regarding this matter. The Gujarat Government has also shown readiness to allot land for the construction of the headquarter in Ahmedabad.

Therefore, I request you that the Government should establish the headquarters of the Western Railway in Ahmedabad.

[English]

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): My Krishnagiri constituency in Tamil Nadu is adjoining to Vellore and Thiruvannamalai districts in the east, Karnataka State in the west, Andhra Pradesh State in the north and Dharmapuri district in the South. Here there are FM radio channel broadcast/relay stations but the people of Krishnagiri district do not have the facility of listening to the FM radio channels broadcast from none of the broadcasting/relaying stations.

The total population in the Krishnagiri district is 18,83,731. The people from this district are not able to listen to the FM radio channel programmes from the FM radio stations of Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Thiruchirappalli and even adjoining station of Bangalore.

Recently, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry is having a proposal to establish 839 FM radio channels in nearly 294 cities.

Therefore, I would request the House to consider the welfare of the people of my constituency to establish one FM radio channel and include my district out of the proposed 294 cities. Thanking you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: ‘Zero Hour’ will continue after six o’ clock.

Now, we are taking up the Legislative Business—Item No.12.

13.11 hrs

LABOUR LAWS (EXEMPTION FROM FURNISHING RETURNS AND MAINTAINING REGISTERS BY CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL, 2014

(As passed by Rajya Sabha)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to amend the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill to amend the Labour Laws (Exemption

from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 2005. It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. After detailed deliberations, the Bill was returned with comprehensive amendments. The Bill was to come up in 2011, and the present Bill is in front of us after it was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 26th November.

The UPA Government, which introduced the Bill first in Parliament, had given primary importance to the welfare of labour. It was labour friendly whereas the policy of the NDA Government is towards helping the businessmen, corporate houses and industrialists. They forgot the sentiments of the workers in the guise of creating more employment opportunities and promoting entrepreneurs. Do we create more employment by rejecting the rights of the workers? Are we creating slavery in industry and service sector?

Sir, moving the amendment Bill, the Hon. Minister of State for Labour and Employment assured in the Rajya Sabha that the Government wants not to compromise on the interest of workers and the legislation was not meant to give exemption to any establishment; the Bill is a social security measure; it simplifies procedures; and the main purpose of bringing the Bill is, transparency, accountability and proper enforcement.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister may please apprise us as to how this Bill ensures the social security of the workers. If their rights are not protected by the labour laws, how can they protect themselves from the vagaries of the employers? They do not even keep the salary slips of the workers. The Bill, as amended, proposed to change the original Act of 1988 to increase the number of laws under which small establishments are exempt from furnishing returns and maintaining registers from 9 to 16. The amendment gives the definition of small establishment to cover unit employing between 10 and 40 workers as against the limit of 19 workers at present. The employer may maintain the returns filed and the registers on a computer, floppy disc, compact disc or other electronic media. The print-outs of these records shall have to be made available to the inspector on demand. The information may also be furnished to the inspector by electronic mail. It is true that such things will help the industries and establishments by reducing the paper work. They need not go to Labour Enforcement Officers for licence and it will reduce inspections also.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the seven Acts that are added in the list include The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961; The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979; and The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of

Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. It will allow firms to maintain returns or files on electronic media. All these Acts which have been exempted are related to the very poor and down-trodden workers. Now they will be under the duress of the employers. We need not wonder if the bonded labour system is brought back in the construction sector because the Government is doing like that. This Government is giving all freedom to the employers and not protecting the interests of the poor workers. So, as I mentioned, seven Acts have been also included. It also includes The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act. That is also very dangerous. This Bill will also allow them to maintain returns on electronic media. That is also very dangerous.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, who will take care of the employees and workers in establishments and industries where the number of employees is less than 14 and where the violations of labour laws are occurring in the areas which have been exempted of Labour Laws? If the laws are exempted, why should we have the laws at all? We need to reduce red-tapism and delay. That is what we are also supporting. But at the present stage, this amendment is totally against the workers. That is why, we are opposing this Bill.

Sir, the labour unions have also announced a countrywide protest on 5th December against the amendments because a large number of

units will no longer be regulated for maintaining registers of attendance and wage slips of workers. These amendments are against the interests of the labour and the workers will have difficulty in accessing the records. Therefore, all the trade unions have announced a nationwide protest against the labour law reforms. Even BMS, which is a pro-BJP union, has also joined the nationwide protest with other trade unions. What is the reason behind it? Hon. Minister must think as to why BMS has also joined this nationwide strike. It is because the Government is moving the Labour Laws Amendment Bill which is totally against the interests of the workers and also they are always protecting the corporates, the industrialists and other employers. Therefore, the workers in the entire country are very much unhappy with the movement of labour reforms.

During the UPA's tenure, under the leadership of Madam Sonia Ji and our former Prime Minister, we had moved many amendments in the labour laws which were all protecting the interests of the workers.

The then Hon. Labour Minister, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, is here. During his period also the attitude was that we must protect the interest of the workers, but this Government has changed that attitude and changed all the laws. This Government has changed all the original amendments moved by us, and they have brought their own amendment, which is in the interest of corporates / industrialists

and interest of the BJP. Therefore, these labour laws are totally against the poor / downtrodden workers and they are not protecting the poor workers. So, I am opposing this amendment.

The Hon. Minister should reconsider this amendment because all the trade unions -- including your Party's trade union -- are objecting to this. Therefore, you should withdraw this amendment; take all the trade unions into confidence; you have to discuss this with them; you have to interact with the trade union leaders; and their opinion is also to be taken into consideration; and then only the workers' interest will be protected.

We oppose this amendment in the interest of the poor workers.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): Just now I was listening to the long speech of the Hon. Member, it seems that many people believe in living in an imaginary world. I not only support this Bill, but I also welcome it. I would like to briefly explain why I welcome it. Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi always endeavoured to bring industries, small-scale industries, and cottage industries to the villages. If cottage industries had flourished in the villages, the condition of villages would not have been as it is today. People are leaving the village, there is no employment there. They will go out and drive a rickshaw, but have no means of living in the village. To overcome this shortage, it was thought that small industries should be established in the villages. I do not talk about my area, I talk about the whole Uttar Pradesh, talk about Bihar, talk about Haryana. Thousands of industries were closed only because Inspector Raj made it impossible for them to run. Crushers were mounted, there were small units of sugarcane, people used to make sugar, the sugarcane used to be crushed in the village itself. Ten-twenty-thirty-fourty-fifty workers used to get jobs there, they used to get wages and the farmer used to get the facility as well. Those who could not take

their sugarcane to the mill, used to take it there. Today they are all closed. Why are they closed?

This Inspector Raj, this is such a term that today it has become so infamous that wherever it goes, it ends up shutting down industries. It is a big mistake to imagine that inspectors will go there to protect the interests of the workers. In big industries where their protection is needed, there are many knowledgeable people sitting there. They have their own labour officer, personal officer, legal officer sitting there, they will find some fault and remove the worker they want to remove. He will fight the case up to the Supreme Court all his life, but he won't get his job back, nor will he receive his salary. The effort here should have been that instead of being an inspector, instead of being a regulator, there should have been a facilitator on how to take that industry forward and encourage it, but that has not been your intention. Let us imagine that the person who started a small industry in the village, set up a workshop, installed a crusher, or started a small grinding business, will they keep their own legal officer there? To understand this law, he will need a technical person, he will need to understand this law. I say that the amendment you have brought forward, there is still a need for it to be further advanced. The further need lies in the fact that the language used in our laws today is not common language and has never been for a common person. Even a person like me, who has studied law for a

few days, faces difficulty in understanding the language and sometimes we have to take help of a dictionary. There was a need to simplify things to such an extent that even a person setting up a small industry could understand the language and he would not need to go to the court, he would not need anyone's legal help. If one control after another is imposed on it, then who will be able to run their enterprise? I congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for the fact that he thought about this and it didn't just come out randomly. This was considered at many stages. There was a scrutiny in the Rajya Sabha, was examined by the Standing Committee, and after thorough deliberation at various levels, it was brought before this House. The Standing Committee consists of leaders of all parties, representatives of all parties, and a lot of deliberation took place there. I emphasise that this needs to be looked into further. All the proformas you have placed here should be simplified. If an industry runs, it will run on mutual trust and will not run in a state of stress. If someone is standing there all the time asking whether you have filled this form or not, whether you have filed your return or not? If one only keeps filing returns then the industry will cease to function. We also got some experience of being in the Government. When I was the Food Minister, I saw that a person required 25 farms to run his business. When I asked them and obtained information for its renewal, every day a representative of that shopkeeper was either

with the R.F.C. or with the collector or with the D.S.O. I kept thinking that if so many of his people were stationed here, how would his business run? And then to simplify things, I established a composite place permanently, and now there are no more problems. Just because someone has hired a labourer doesn't mean they have hired to exploit them rather, they have hired to provide him employment. His livelihood depends entirely on that. If there is no cooperation between the industrialist and the worker, if there is no trust among themselves, then the industry will automatically collapse. Today, we need to change our philosophy, we need to change our thinking that we work on the basis of mutual trust. All the laws that exist today are based on a sense of distrust. The worker will go, they won't get salary or will get less pay, and their working hours will be longer. After all, who am I to verify this? If my checking could set things right there, why would so many industries be in ruins?

Hon. sir, if we had followed the philosophy of Gandhi ji, Sardar Patel ji, and Chaudhary Charan Singh ji, the people would not have to migrate from villages today, there would not have been any need for them to come to cities and drive rickshaws. They would have produced in that industry, increased the capital of the country, increased the wealth of the village and the condition of the village

would have been what Gandhi ji had envisioned. I urge you not to confine yourself to this only, consider it further.

There should come a situation where no inspector stands at the door. Corruption should not flourish under the guise of our law. Simplify the entire situation so that both the industry operator and the worker understands it. The worker is also just an ordinary person who understands simple things. What you said surprised me because this isn't a factory where thousands of people work. It is not a factory in Bangalore, Mumbai or Delhi, where thousands of people work. Let's say a mustard oil extraction mill has been set up in the village. If mustard is grown, it's good to extract oil from it as well. If paddy is produced in a village, a machine should be installed to crush it. If a paddy mill is set up and let's say 15-20 or 25 people work in it, then the people living there will get employment. They will earn income from it. The farmer will benefit. If inspectors stand there every day to check whether they have shown the register, shown returns, deposited forms, or shown slips, then it will be difficult to operate the industry there. Therefore, I urge you that along with a revolutionary step that you have taken, the Government should also consider that all the proformas are so simplified that they make sense to every man and even a 12th pass person can also fill up those proformas. He doesn't need to go to court to fill those forms. Only

then will it seem that the ideals envisioned by Gandhi ji are truly being realised.

I fully support your Amendment Bill and appeal that further deliberations be continued on this matter, and that we consistently move forward in the direction of simplification to the extent possible.

[English]

SHRI R. PARTHIPAN (THENI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let me commence my maiden speech in this august thanking our revered leader, our Party's General Secretary and the former Chief Minister, Amma for enabling me to be a peoples' representative here. I also thank the electorate of my Theni Lok Sabha Constituency for having heeded to the appeal made by our leader, Amma to get me elected.

Before I could continue, I seek the protection of the Chair to allow me to complete my speech in full for which I may use some notes as this happens to be my maiden speech.

I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to revise the definition of the expression "small establishment" and to provide for

maintenance of returns in computer. We all know that it has always been the practice under every law pertaining to the labour that registers have to be maintained by the employers and to furnish such returns to enforcing authorities. Now, we find that the numbers of such registers have increased considerably. There have been demands to simplify the forms of various returns. That is understandable. It is also understandable to go in for filing such returns using computers and transmitting the returns electronically. It is quite relevant that in a computer era like that of ours, we go in for using the modern technologies. At the same time, when computers can cover so many entries in so short a span of time, we are leaving out many small establishments to move away from the ambit of the enforcing authorities who will be ensuring the employee welfare. If you go by the basic principle to be adopted by any labour law, it should be a balancing act to get the maximum benefit for the labour who create wealth both for the employer and the nation and to get matching benefit for the employer who gets several concessions from the State to create a domain of wealth in the form of an industrial establishment.

As one hailing from the Dravidian Movement which believes in bringing about an egalitarian society where the divide between the rich and the poor is sought to be minimized to a maximum level. At this juncture, I would like to bring to your notice the 'Vision

Document Tamil Nadu 2023' which points at implementing physical and social infrastructure project that will aid economic development. It is needless to say that the labour constitutes the social infrastructure. Under the dynamic leadership of our leader, the former Chief Minister, Amma, the Government of Tamil Nadu, our Party, AIADMK, commits itself to pro-active policies pertaining to labour class. This has to be seen in the light of the increase in foreign direct investment in many sectors in Tamil Nadu which is one of the most industrialized States in the country under the AIADMK's rule in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, globalisation and liberalisation have thrown up new challenges to ensure labour welfare. The avowed policy of our Government is to create an atmosphere of industrial peace and harmonious relations between the employees and employers to achieve common growth. Hence, we have always taken care to protect the interests of the workers by way of effectively enforcing various labour legislations. Even when it comes to unorganised sector workers spread across various sectors of employment, our Government of Tamil Nadu has always taken pioneering efforts in providing various forms of assistance.

While pointing this out I would like to dwell on the Bill the House has taken up now. It looks simple that to reduce the burden on employers and to simplify the forms of various returns the Union

Government goes for creating new divide within the small establishments sector. This Bill seeks to create 'small establishments' and 'very small establishments'. At a time when jobs are reduced due to mechanisation and computerisation, the Bill seeks to exempt establishments which have their number of workers up to 19. The Bill increases the number to 40. This may look innocuous but the result will be that more than 70 percent of small establishments will not come under the purview of labour welfare authorities.

It is understandable to go in for online computer filing of returns when the volume of data is more. It is also true that computers can handle work much faster than the earlier manual way of handling things. When that is so, I fail to understand why some of the small establishments should be exempted from the ambit of this law.

This Bill not only exempts the furnishing of returns and maintaining of registers but also exempts quite a number of small establishments which I am afraid may affect the labour class who may not be able to get the legal cover to protect themselves from the onslaught of anti-labour moves of industrial establishments.

I would like to know from the Union Government whether State Governments have also been taken into confidence while framing this Bill. It is true that several rounds of talks have taken place with

the trade unions. Is it not necessary to consult State Governments also who are ultimately the regional custodians to protect the interests of the labour class in their regions?

The First Schedule and the Second Schedule of the Principal Act are sought to be substituted. In the light of new enactments that have come about, the number of Acts in the list has increased from nine to sixteen. In this list we find mention of building and other construction workers, the child labour, the contract labour, the beedi and cigar workers who are in the unorganised sector. The labour welfare measures for these sections are being felt in very few States of which Tamil Nadu is a leading State. For instance, the Minimum Wages Act is being implemented effectively and even teachers have been brought within its purview.

I am afraid this Bill may help some of the contractors to circumvent their obligations under the Act. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to bear in mind the welfare of the workers who create wealth for the country. Expressing my concerns which I hope this Government will attend to, I conclude my speech supporting the Bill.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the background of more than 40 years of trade union work behind me and representing an industrial Constituency, with all humility and with all the strength at my command, I oppose The Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Amendment Bill, 2014.

Before I go to the Bill proper, I want to mention that the working class in this country has not got anything without struggle. During British times, labour rights were not recognised. On becoming Independent, the first law that was brought was the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to sort out the problem of labour. Next

the Factories Act, 1948, was introduced which specified working hours to 8 hours a day and not more than 48 hours a week, specified the condition of the factories, described the canteens, holidays, etc.

After Independence, as we gained experience, workers who worked outside factories were also brought in the ambit of legislation. For instance, the tea garden and other plantation labour were brought in. Then, the working journalists were brought in. The Motor Transport Act was there. Then the Payment of Bonus Act 1965 was done. Similarly, the contract labour and various other kinds of workers were brought within the ambit of legislation.

Now, all this was done because there was a demand from the working class and the Government of the time thought to ensure the working of the laws, certain enactments were necessary. I find that the present Government is trying to reduce the powers of the working class and take recourse to anti-labour legislations in homoeopathy doses. They are intelligent in the sense that they are not doing anything at one go. They first introduced some anti-labour legislation in Rajasthan against which there has been widespread agitation. Then they passed the Apprentice Act and now they have brought this Act.

Basically, this Act covers small establishments. If you take establishments employing say up to 40, though there is no total

national census on this, 75 percent establishments and 80 percent of working class are covered in the small establishment category and they are not in big cities alone. If you go to small cities like Ludhiana, you would find some industrial clusters have come up there. They are small establishments and in their case, labour laws are observed in violation.

The biggest problem is that today the employers are not giving permanent employment to workers. They all work through the new word 'outsourcing'. The Government of India itself is resorting to outsourcing. When I go to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, I find there the maximum number of contract workers. They constantly say that they are getting Rs.100 or Rs.150 per day. They request me to raise their issues. Now slowly these people are being weeded out. I have worked in the organised big industry and at least there the rights of workers are somewhat protected. But in the smaller industries, rights of workers are not protected. A thing like feudalistic approach is always there. They employ 10-15 people. They do not give them any wages according to laws. They do not give them social security in the form of EPF and ESI.

Now what the Government originally envisaged in 1947 and later when Minimum Wages Act was introduced, for instance, in 1948, that the Government would appoint Inspectors and they would inspect. It is true. But unfortunately, after Independence, in some

cases, this Inspector Raj became a disliked word because the inspectors did not do any inspection. They went to a factory, collected some money and came back. It does not mean that the legislations were bad. Now, all these legislations entailed furnishing of returns so that the Government could keep a check on whether the company was observing a particular labour law or not.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Now, in which Department are there no inspectors?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: It is there in every Department. You have also done good work in this field and I will come to you shortly.

Some people started saying that for smaller establishments simplification of procedures were necessary because they have to fill up so many forms and so it was difficult. Nobody can disagree that simplification of procedures were called for as a result of which originally there was a Bill brought in 2005 by the UPA-I Government. This amendment Bill reduced some of the procedural problems. This Bill was examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour headed by Shri Hemanand Biswal, who is no longer a Member of this House. The Standing Committee gave a detailed report.

As far as the Bill is concerned, there are two aspects. One is, the Government in the present Bill had followed the recommendations

in the sense it has called it a Bill for simplification of the procedures for furnishing returns and maintaining registers in relation to establishments employing a smaller number of persons under certain labour laws. My objection is not to that. The main thing that is being done now is that they are increasing the number of workers, in the simplification procedure, from 19 to 40. Let us now see what the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour had recommended. You may kindly see how this Government is violating the recommendation of a Standing Committee of Parliament. The Committee recommended that in the given circumstances, the Committee is apprehensive that further increasing the number of employees would entail most of the industries being exempted from furnishing the returns and maintaining the registers. Mindful of the stout opposition from the major trade unions, the Committee desires that *status quo* be maintained as regards the number of employees for inclusion in small establishment. So, the Standing Committee recommended that you simplify the procedure but do not increase the number of employees and keep it at 19. The Standing Committee recommended the number at 19 as prescribed in the principal Act, or at the most the number could be increased to 25 and results studied closely. That is why I have given an amendment saying that if you want to increase it, increase it utmost to 25 as per the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on

Labour. This Government has not looked at the recommendations of the Standing Committee. This is the problem. The problem is that, nowadays there are the IT companies and quite a large number of them. Most IT companies have small number of employees, 10, 15, 20. Now, all these IT companies will be exempt. The Standing Committee on Labour dealt with this issue. The Committee felt that in the increasingly automated world, the number of employees is persistently reducing as manual interference is going down. The Committee felt that the turnover of a smaller hi-tech establishment with lesser number of employees may be many times higher than the turnover of many smaller units put together.

So, with a small company, you can have a high turnover in the automated world. You are increasing it. That means you are putting a large number of companies out of the ambit of the Act. What is the purpose of having inspectors or giving returns? The purpose is that there will be some control or some check as to whether labour laws are being observed or not. But you are taking it out of the purview of the labour and it will be a Government inspection which will make it very bad for the workers.

I have no objection if the returns are submitted electronically or online. Let them simplify this.

Sir, how many institutions is he touching? The Central Statistical Organisation say that there are 418.27 lakh such small establishments. Their workers all be put in difficulty.

Then the second defect in the Bill is this. Earlier also, it was there when the Bill was brought in 2000. There was no penal provision. Now, any Bill without a penal provision is a Bill without teeth. If there will be no penalty, then people may feel that they need not submit any return. It is a strange Bill where there is no penal provision. This is what the Standing Committee on Labour also mentioned. They say: "The proposed amendment if enacted would be highly detrimental to the labourers as there is no deterrent penal provision of keeping a check on the defaultee establishment." There cannot be a law without a deterrent penal provision. Unfortunately, Shri Dattatreya is new to this Ministry. He has not addressed this problem.

Thirdly, you are now bringing 16 laws under the ambit of this Bill. The main problem of the Government everywhere is that enforcement machinery is not strong enough. Enforcement will become difficult if there are 1000 establishments and if you have only ten inspectors. So, the main thing is, it is not just enough to have a law. It is also necessary to have a strong enforcement machinery.

The Standing Committee on Labour also mentioned that the Committee are of a considered view that strengthening of enforcement machinery is an imperative need of the hour and therefore, the field staff needs to be augmented urgently and adequately so as to facilitate regular inspection of the establishments and strict enforcement of labour laws.

Sir, actually the Standing Committee recommended that the Government should not go ahead with this amendment. The Committee therefore recommended that the Government reconsider the serious implications of the proposed amendment.

I do not know whether you will be able to do it or not but keep this simplification intact. Take out the numbers part because you do not know whether you will be able to handle this as return under 16 laws has to be given together. Establishments are not able to do it and your inspectors will not be able to inspect them.

I strongly feel that the Government should not press for this law as in the present stage. Trade unions have all opposed this law. Now, Mr. Bandaru Dattatreya from Secunderabad has become the new Minister in the recent shuffle of the Cabinet. He will need time to acquaint himself with the different labour legislation and working of the Ministry. So, why cannot he take back the law instead of standing on prestige? Passing this law will satisfy only a few people in the

Chambers of Commerce but not passing this law would make happy a large number of working class who are suffering like the contract labourers, the plantation labourers of these are working in the small factories. You have to decide on whether you want the working class to be with you or you want the industrialist class to be with you. The choice is yours.

I again oppose the Bill. While keeping the simplification, you should do away with this numbers game.

[English]

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

I will speak from my own experience and not from any other consideration. I say so because I had the advantage of working in an industry for about twenty years. Having joined the industry at the bottom most rung of the ladder as a Trainee, I left the industry after twenty years as the Managing Director of the company. Hence, I had the advantage of getting myself associated with various labour issues in course of my association with the industry in those twenty years.

Having said that, let me go back to the Bill in detail. The Bill was first brought in the year 2005. But the Bill was returned with primarily two observations. One is, extensive discussion must be held with all the stakeholders, more precisely with the employers and the employees. The Bill was again re-introduced in the year 2011. After this, discussions were held with the employers but no consensus was arrived at with the trade unions and with the employees.

One of the basic things which I would like to point out is that the whole Bill is based on a certain study conducted by the CSO, Central Statistical Organisation. The CSO, in its Report, has very clearly

opined that about 418 lakh of such establishments are there in the country. But it was silent on the number of people working in those industries. This is a very important point that I would like to make. So, the number of workers have not been ascertained or determined. But the amendment has been brought forward basically on the basis of the numbers, which several Members who spoke before me have also pointed out. The study was never conducted on the number itself. It is a very important point I would like to bring to your notice.

I will come to some of the critical observations about the Bill. We had a lot of discussions on the Standing Committee's Report. The Member who spoke before me has said that the Standing Committee has given its consent to the Bill. The Standing Committee has made several recommendations. But several of those recommendations have not become part and parcel of the Bill.

I will point out a few of them. For example, the Standing Committee has said that there is no penal provision in the Bill. I would just like to read out the Standing Committee's recommendation. It said:

“In the given scenario when there is no provision of punishment in the Act itself, it is open for the establishment not to furnish the return which could reveal the status of micro, small and medium

enterprises. The Committee are of the considered view that a law without penal provision is toothless and cannot be enforced.”

Any law without a legal provision is basically a law which is defunct and has no existence. I would sincerely urge upon the Hon. Minister to take cognizance of this serious and important point. Otherwise, we would digress from the main objective of the Bill.

Now, I will come to point no. 2. It is basically a number game. One of our senior Members said that it should be increased from 19 to 25. You need to understand that on the face of it the Bill may look very simple, that this Bill is nothing but the number is getting increased from 19 to 40. But it has got a very serious consequence on the number of people who will go out of the ambit of the labour laws or the legal framework. The moment you increase it from 19 to 40, more than 70 percent of the workforce in the country from this sector will go out of the ambit of the legal framework.

14.00 hrs.

To whom are we addressing? It means that the fate of all the labour class is slowly and silently getting transferred into the hands of a chosen few who are, by and large, driven by profit motive. Are we doing justice? Are we supposed to pass this kind of a law with this type of a provision in it? It is very serious that while the return is

submitted in the electronic format, there is no provision that the names and other details of the employees need to be filled up. This will put to non-transparency in the system. People will take advantage of this. So, I would very seriously and honestly urge upon the Hon. Minister to take cognisance of the three points which I made just now. We, *per se*, do not oppose this Bill but while supporting the Bill, we very strongly urge upon the Hon. Minister to consider the three critical points while passing the Bill.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my Party, the TRS, I support this Bill, of course, not *in toto*.

I would like the Hon. Minister to take into consideration the views expressed by a few Members who spoke just now. This Bill was introduced 8-10 years back in the Rajya Sabha. Later, a Standing Committee was constituted. The Standing Committee had expressed that the Government ought to have had discussions with the trade unions in the country as also the employers. After a few deliberations with the trade unions and with the employers, I learnt that the Standing Committee had also visited many places in the country and had discussions. Ultimately, they have given some suggestions to the Government before introducing this Bill in this House.

The very title says Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act. The Standing Committee has suggested that the word “exemption” is not giving a good opinion because the word is giving an impression that we are doing something wrong to the working class. So, they have suggested the expression “simplification of procedures”. As suggested in the amendment to Section (1), we are amending that today.

At the same time, they have further stated that the number should not be 40; let it be 25. I too feel that let the number not be 19 or 40 but let it be 25. That would be better because if we increase it up to 40, as told by the senior Member, there are lacks of establishments which will be let out of the purview of this Act in future.

Coming to section (4) which this Bill proposes to amend, I would say that this is a good proviso wherein we are coming with a provision that the details may be furnished electronically, that means, through computer, e-mail and they can send it to the officers concerned electronically. It is good. It is not good that a small establishment need to fill up all the registers, forms running into hundreds each day. So, this provision which we are amending today, is a good one because nowadays every establishment is having a computer.

Prof. Roy suggested that the Standing Committee had expressed 5-6 years back that there were a few establishments without computers. But after a span of a decade, I hope that every small establishment will have it. Every small establishment or even a *kirana* shop will have to have a desktop in future. This is a good amendment. What I would like to say is that in the guise of labour reforms, employer should not take advantage. There are few establishments, particularly beedi employers, though they are employing hundreds of employees, they are not reporting that they

are employing so many people. In the main Act, there is no penal provision. For not furnishing the details, there should be some proviso of imposing huge penalty which can be fixed by the authorities against the employers who misuse the Act.

Yesterday, the Chief Minister of Telangana, Shri Chandrashekar Rao Garu declared a new industrial policy for Telangana. Our Government is coming forward to also tackle all the labour laws. We are for reforms. So, let us first give employment to the young generation of the country. Particularly in my State, our Chief Minister has taken a decision by enacting a law yesterday in Telangana Legislative Assembly wherein we have come forward with very good suggestion. I hope that this Bill will also help us in the coming days not only Telangana but also the whole country.

In clause 4, probably authorities might have missed. They are still mentioning the word, 'exemption'. In paragraph 5, in clause 4(1), line 2, where the word 'exemption' is still there. Whereas in para 3, 'exemption' is replaced with the words 'simplification of procedure for'.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, here I stand to oppose the Bill. All of I know that in 2005, this Bill was placed in the House of the People. At that time, all the Members agreed upon that that Bill should go to the Standing Committee. After a thorough discussion in the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee opined that the Committee, therefore, desire – I quote – that the Bill should be returned to the Government with the request to hold discussions with the employer and the employee groups before reaching any consensus on reforming the labour laws. This was the opinion of the Standing Committee but at that time, during the tenure of earlier Government, we saw that up to 2011 that Bill was lying in Parliament. In 2011, this Bill was withdrawn. Why? Earlier Government was not interested to talk with the employers and employees. They could not arrive at a consensus among the employees, those who will get maximum benefit. They are the main stakeholders of the industry. So, at the time of the UPA Government while this Bill was withdrawn, again, we are seeing in today's Bill that the clause which will have the interest of the workers is exempted.

Here, the clause remains which will protect the interest of the employers and that is why I am opposing this Bill. In this Bill, on page 2, in line 8 it is stated that in Section 2 (e) of the principal Act,

for the word “nineteen” the word “forty” shall be substituted. Why has it been done like this? It has been done so because the BJP-led NDA Government is for the corporate, of the corporate and by the corporate. For the sake of corporate houses, this Bill has been introduced here. If this Bill is passed, then 71 percent of our factories and more than 80 percent of our workers will go out of the ambit of labour laws. So, where will the workers of our country get justice from? The workers who are getting only Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 per month will not get justice. The employers who want to make more and more money will not protect the interest of workers. Why is this Government interested to bring this type of amendment? The Government wants to protect the interest of corporate houses of our country and not the interest of the workers of our country.

Sir, I would like to quote here what the Standing Committee on Labour has stated in their Report in the year 2005. The Report says:

“The Committee are apprehensive that further increasing the number of employees would entail most of the industries being exempted from furnishing the returns and maintaining the registers. Mindful of the stout opposition from the majority of the trade unions, the Committee desire that *status quo* be maintained as regards the number of employees for inclusion in small establishments, that

is, 19 as prescribed in the principal Act or, at most, the number could be increased to 25 and the result studied closely.”

In the Standing Committee, various opinions are represented and they unanimously opined that this Bill should not be passed in the present form. But why is the BJP-led Government interested to pass this Bill now? The BJP-led Government is interested to bring in major amendments to labour laws which are prevailing in this country. We are hearing that the Factories Act and other labour related Acts which protect the interest of the workers are being taken up for amendment in Parliament by the BJP-led NDA Government. This is the first step of this Government. They are thinking that they have the majority and this is the proper time to save the interest of the corporates. They are in a hurry to pass this type of Bills. The persons who have voted for them do not matter to them now. The 31 percent people have voted for BJP; they are not interested about the voters. BJP-led Government is only interested about the persons who have given votes to them. BJP-led Government is not interested about the voters. BJP-led Government is interested about those who have given thousands of crores of rupees to them. For their sake, this Government is bringing this type of Bill in this Parliament, in this august House. It is the duty of this House. The maximum number of voters of our country have elected the Members of this House. The

people who participated in the last Lok Sabha election hoped that this Government will look after matter what the UPA Government could not do. But all went in vain. From the very beginning, this BJP-led Government is trying to keep the interests of the capitalists, the corporate houses and others and not the interests of the poor people, the peasants, the agricultural workers, the workers, the students, the unemployed youths of our country. That is why, today, I have also given an amendment in this Bill. Later on it will come. I hope this august House will look after the matter sincerely. This august House will look after the matter to keep the interests of the people who are serving the people of our country.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you, Sir.

[English]

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI):

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. At the outset, let me say that I do not want to politicize this Bill. In view of my past experience as the Labour Commissioner, Government of Tamil Nadu, I thought I should give some inputs here. Incidentally the Hon. Minister is also very well experienced and I thought you could also get some points from here and ponder over them. So we are neither against the Bill nor for the Bill.

The simplification of the procedure is very encouraging. But if you get into the details, rather than simplification, it is only complicating the matter. Only one simplification that we could see here is that the registers and the returns could be sent electronically. In the present day, we admire that. There is not much of transparency in all that. It is as good as hard copy submission. But coming to the number, increasing it from 19 persons to 40 persons, as earlier speakers have very loudly and clearly conveyed, it takes away almost 70 to 80 percent of the workers out of the gambit of the Labour Laws. Particularly in the present day of computerization the number of the employees in each of the office is coming down because earlier whatever work five people who could do, they are getting it done with one person. So more number of work force will

go out of its gambit. Therefore, I submit before the Government to re-look at this issue also.

Secondly, the most important point is that there is no penal action. Obviously any legislation without a proper penal action is toothless. It does not serve any big purpose. That is one of the reasons why the Parliamentary Standing Committee after having 10 to 12 sittings, referred it back to the Government saying not to reintroduce the Bill. It is in the same form after so much discussion in the Parliamentary Standing Committee, without even changing one line of it. In 2005 it was introduced. The Committee sat for almost ten times. It came again in 2011 and accepted that some more amendments could be removed. But now it is coming again in 2014 in the same letter and spirit. Therefore, the number has to be reconsidered. Instead of straightaway increasing it to 40, it could be considered, as the Committee has clearly stated, to 25. Penal action has to be there because employers are misusing it. You have added new Acts. Earlier there are only nine Acts and now they made it to 16 which come under the purview of this Principal Act. One of the most important Acts is the Minimum Wages Act, which all of us crave for. In villages women are paid very paltry sums of Rs. 50 per day. So the very purpose of the Government putting that the minimum wages is getting defeated if you bring all these acts into this principal Act. There are other Acts like the Bonus Act, the Beedi

Workers Act. That is another important thing where the piecemeal work is done. So unless the returns and registers are maintained in this, there is no justice and these workers could be benefited out of this.

So as against the nine original Acts which are coming under the purview of this Act, they have also added another seven Acts and made it to 16. There is no consensus also. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has repeatedly mentioned that consensus has to be obtained between employees, employers and the Government. But it was not done as the notes very clear say that.

Therefore, taking into consideration what the Parliamentary Standing Committee has pointed out, I request once against the Government to consider the number and penal action has to be provided in this Act. The number of laws which have come under the purview also should be re-examined. With these few points, I once again thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Sir, I rise to dwell on the Bill under the nomenclature the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Amendment Bill, 2011.

Sir, as you know, labour is the lubricant of our developmental engine. Since Independence, in view of the social security and in view of the safety, a number of regulations have been made for the welfare of workers. If the labourers are deprived or famished, then consequently the country has to suffer for it. So the welfare of the labour should be the primary objective of any democratic nation including India. India always promotes the welfare of labourers, farmers and vulnerable sections of the poor society.

Sir, we have to think over the stark reality of the present world. We are living in the age of information and technology. We are living in the age of digital world. Naturally, if any laws, regulations or acts are seemed to be antiquated in nature that also needs to be reviewed, re-examined and reconsidered but never at the cost of welfare of the labour class.

Sir, my esteemed Members have already spelt out a number of issues on this Bill. Yes, it is true that during the UPA regime it was introduced. But, here in the name of fresh legislation, the

Government took a backdoor step by inserting seven new Acts in the list which are supposed to be exempted. They are: the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961; the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979; the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986; the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; and the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

Sir, there lies the reason as to why we are opposing this Bill. The Government has diverted from the contents of the original Bill and has inserted seven new Acts in the list which, we think, will affect crores of labourers in our country. Take, for example, beedi and cigar workers. I am hailing from a district where eight to ten lakhs of workers are engaged simply in beedi manufacturing. They are subjected to extreme exploitation. So, naturally, if these Acts are included in the list of exemption, then, I think, it will be a great injustice to those hapless labourers.

Sir, it was rightly pointed that the definition of small establishment was amended from 19 to 40; industrial representatives proposed the number to be raised to 100; trade union proposed to reduce the number below 19; and the Standing Committee proposed

the number to be 25. However, the Government has arrived to the number of 40.

The main objective of the original Bill was to simplify the procedures to extend the scope of this Act to establishments employing a large number of workers and extending the list of Acts covered by it.

Sir, the law is enacted. The employees of small establishment and very small establishment need not furnish the returns to maintain the registers to be furnished or maintained under various scheduled Acts provided they furnish in lieu of such returns, annual returns and comply with other formalities as was laid down in Clause 3 of the present amendment.

Another important part of the amendment is sub-clause 2 of clause 3, which says:

“The Annual Return in Form-1 and the Register in Form-2 and 3 and wage slips, wage books and other records as provided in sub-section 1 may be maintained by an employer on a computer, computer floppy, diskette or other electronic media, provided that a print out of such returns, registers, books and records or a portion thereof is made available to the inspector on demand.”

We need to encourage small entrepreneurs also because this is the need of the hour. If India wants to progress, we ought to promote the small entrepreneurs so that more employment could be generated. So, naturally, those entrepreneurs are to be provided with a little incentive. But we ought to be very rational. We ought to be pragmatic. We ought to be realistic in all our approach so that a balance could be maintained between the interest of the employer and the interest of the employees. There should not be any conflict of interest of all the stakeholders. I think this is the hallmark of any developmental model.

Sir, labour laws is a subject that comes under the Concurrent List which means both the Centre and the States have to play their respective roles. Here we do not have any distinct idea of how many small establishments exist in our country and how many employees are engaged in all those small establishments, that is, the workforce deployed in those establishments. That is why, the Standing Committee has suggested to the Government to conduct a survey to ascertain the actual number of small establishments that exist in our country and the workforce deployed by them.

Secondly, there is an acute shortage of manpower in the office of the Labour Commissioners. I do not know how the huge workforce in our country could be supervised and inspected with the inadequate and inefficient human resources. Therefore, the

enforcement machinery should be strengthened with adequate human resource. Otherwise, how will the inspection be conducted? I do not know in our country how many offices, which are performing the job of enforcement, are equipped with computer and other modern gadgets.

If your intention is to do away with even the minimum inspection, then how are you going to secure the rights of the workers? There is also a mismatch between the number of workers actually employed and the number of workers who are shown to be employed in the register. This is the most salient point. In order to deny them the benefits of social security and minimum wages, where will the workers go for getting justice done? How will the workers know whether they are on the rolls of the employer or not, if the details are going to be provided on a computer or computer disk or other electronic media? Is our entire workforce well equipped for computer learning? Otherwise, how will they come to get the knowledge that they are being enrolled or they are being de-enrolled or they are being de-listed from the employer's record?

Sir, like many other Members, I also propose that the penal provision should be inserted again. Without the penal provision, no justice could be given to those hapless workers.

Last but not least, I would quote former President of America, Andrew Johnson:

“Legislation can neither be wise nor just which seeks the welfare of a single interest at the expense and to the injury of many and varied interests.”

We should do away with all the provisions that may implicitly or explicitly cause the grievances in the labour class.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request for order in the House. There should be no discussion among the Members here. Only one Member has to speak, not all.

Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Deputy Speaker
Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2011 introduced by the Hon. Minister. The way the world is changing, the present time is the era of globalisation and liberalisation. Today, to make India a great nation, it is very important to improve the relationship between workers and managers. This need was felt by the makers of the Constitution of India and in the Preamble of the Constitution, a provision was made that we will protect the interests of our people belonging to the labour class of our country. Keeping that in mind, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, included the Right to life and the Right against exploitation in the provisions of the Constitution. Over time, many labour reforms have been enacted to uphold these rights. This trend started at the international level as well from the year 1919. The United Nations also enacted many laws on this subject. Today, the vision of our Government formed under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji is absolutely clear. We want employers and employees to understand their responsibilities towards nation-building without viewing each other as adversaries. By developing such relationships, we aim for the progress and advancement of the nation. With that in mind, these changes will come. Our Government is completely against the fact that one side

keeps on exploiting and the other side continues to tolerate it. Against all these, a transparent plan has been brought forward through this Bill.

Just now, my friends from Congress said a lot many things while speaking. They said that they have introduced this Bill. I want to ask these friends of mine whether the draft of this Bill was not made in the year 2005? Did this Bill not go repeatedly to the Standing Committee? Didn't all the labour unions in the country call for a nationwide strike on 20 & 21 February, 2011, due to the anti-labour policies of the UPA Government? Didn't the then Prime Minister issue an appeal to the nation to end that strike? Wasn't this Bill brought back to Parliament in 2011? Looking at the world scenario today, such a Bill has come in which there are no major changes, only simplification has been attempted, which will benefit our labour class. The kind of environment we want to create in our country, our Hon. Prime Minister is making efforts day and night and presenting a growth story to the entire world. He is inviting all the governments and leaders of the world to come to India, promising that they will find every kind of facility here. He is encouraging them to invest their capital here, assuring them that we will create a framework where they will face no difficulties in carrying out their work. This Bill has been brought, keeping that in view. There is an old saying that no matter how expensive a person

has bought a shoe, if that shoe bites, he will try to find a way to avoid wasting their money. In order to make them wearable, they would add padding, put something in to protect their heels from getting cut, but after repeated attempts, if the shoe still hurts their foot, then no matter how expensive it is, it gets thrown away. Similarly, for the progress of the country and society, the Parliament deliberates from time to time. If any law becomes an obstacle in the nation's development or doesn't align with the current circumstances facing the nation, the Parliament re considers it. When these laws were being made, where was the internet, where was Facebook, where was the digital revolution, where was the IT sector? At that time, India's image in the world was such that whenever any of our leaders, President, or Prime Minister visited another country, cartoons were published saying, "De do, Allah ke naam par de do, international fakir aaye hain, kuch maangne aaye honge. Anaaj maangne ke liye aaye honge, kapde maangne ke liye aaye honge." (Please give, in the name of Allah give, international fakirs have come, they must have come to ask for something. They must have come to ask for food, or to ask for clothes.)

I would like to tell my Congress friends that look, Hon. Narendra Modi, the beloved son of Mother India, has changed India's image globally today, and how the whole world is now drawn towards India. Japan is saying, "I will invest in India," and China is

saying, “I will invest”. America is saying, “I will invest,” and you must have seen the spectacle of SAARC the day before yesterday, when Pakistan’s Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif tried to adopt a slightly hostile stance and create obstacles in the agreements that were being made. At that moment, the SAARC countries stood like a rock with Hon. Narendra Modi ji, and everyone said that they would walk with him, and Nawaz Sharif was also compelled to sign the Energy Charter reluctantly. These transformative Bills are being brought considering all these things. We want the welfare of the workers of India. We want them to be contributors in this country. They should live a life of dignity in India. Our Government will not do anything of this kind that the workers living in India continue to struggle for their wages and continue to be exploited. We will adopt policies like these so that the light of the country’s development reaches inside his home as well, and India becomes a great nation. We want to shed the image of our country being seen as beggars or as a land of snake charmers. We want the world to recognise that this Government which is driving change and the laws being enacted in the Lok Sabha whether related to workers or other matters are all aimed at making our country a great nation. From that perspective, this is a very good step taken by the Government, and I would hope that the Congress party, which couldn’t learn any lessons in 10 years,

will now learn something from the changing image of India that is emerging in the world, it's time to open your eyes now.

SHRI DHARAM VIR GANDHI (PATIALA): Sir, after listening to the big speech of our BJP friend, I come to the Bill. I want to share this new Labour Bill with all the Hon. Members. 90 percent of the people in our country are in the unorganised sector. In our Punjab, 98 percent people work in factories where the number of workers is less than 40. We are well aware of their condition. Being a doctor and a social worker, I have been amongst them. Only 10 percent of people work in organised sectors where working conditions are good, their standard of living is high, their children have access to hospital facilities, and their lives run smoothly. If this new law with the amendments being proposed is implemented, 70 percent of the country's unorganised sector workers and industries will be adversely affected. Those workers who are entitled to ESI and pension benefits may also be deprived of these rights. Their condition which is already bad will become worse.

Can you tell which factory worker pays the minimum wage to his workers, whether they are 20 or 25? You should conduct a survey in the entire country regarding this and see how much wages they

get. Unlike the small and medium factory owners, there is some arrangement for the big factory owners and the wages there are still decent, although not at par with European countries, still they are respectable wages. Apart from this, they have got some rights like ESI, pension and facilities for their children etc. The condition of 90 percent workers of the unorganised sector is going to get worse because of this Bill.

You have talked about removal of Inspector Raj. But isn't there an Inspector Raj in your Income Tax and Excise? If there are some flaws in Inspector Raj, then fix them, not use them as an excuse to allow small factory owners to avoid keeping registers and exploit the workers as much as they want, implement the contractual system, pay minimum wages to the workers or don't pay. There is no grievance centre for them, they have nowhere to go. There will be no law for them, no labour law with the help of which they will be able to get rid of their suffering, you are going to create such a system with this.

I want to tell everyone that, [English] it is not the capital which boosts the fields of our economy; it is not the buildings; it is not the machinery; but it is the working people who turn capital into products and products into profit and then, keeps the country moving. [Translation] If you are going to treat the unorganised sector like this in the name of simplicity and new law, then that is

absolutely unacceptable to us. I request you not to talk about punishment, this law itself should be scrapped. In this law, the provision that sets the minimum number of workers at 19 or 20 should remain unchanged, so that the interests of 90 percent of the country's workers are protected. If someone does not follow this then strict penalty should be imposed on him.

Sir, the [English] Right to collective bargaining [Translation] that the workers have achieved has been attained after a long struggle. You are going to snatch away that right from them. This is the right to improve their lives. You are reducing their numbers and giving owners unrestricted freedom to do as they want without anyone to question them. No inspector is going to come and these workers will not be able to go anywhere. This is outright injustice, and it saddens me that under the guise of progress, reform, and national development, you are misusing the votes you have received. Ours is the working class, which is already living in very bad conditions, which is dying of hunger, whose children do not have education, health, and good means of living. By this, you are going to do more injustice to them. This will cost you a lot. You will take the country to the brink of havoc.

Sir, I request that this law be repealed and demand it to be scrapped. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY (KADAPA): Sir, I thank you on behalf of our party and its President Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy garu for giving me this opportunity. As we all know, this Bill was first introduced during UPAs regime by providing relaxation to employers on furnishing returns and maintaining employment registers for certain kind of establishments. At that time, the Parliamentary Standing Committee raised severe objections on this Bill and submitted its recommendations as well. The same Bill is introduced now with new content. This present Bill proposed to increase the threshold level of employment from existing 19 to 40 for small scale establishments and on the other side of it, the present Bill do not have any provision for increase in penalty on employers if they violate labour laws. While trying to increase the number from 19 to 40, the Government of India must also remember that with the advance technology and machinery in place, there are many

establishments with large capital investment, high levels of turn-over and profit, but who are employing less than 20 workers. This morning I read in one article that an estimate of nearly 72 percent of factories in the country will find it much easier to violate all the labour laws with impunity subjecting the workers to more severe exploitation. In this regard, it would be more ideal to consider the recommendations given by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour.

This Bill looks like as though it aims to give reasonable advantage for employers of small scale establishments. It is like simplifying procedures and encouraging employers to abide by law. So far, many small scale establishments have not been maintaining registers properly. They are not filing returns properly. This Amendment will certainly encourage employers to maintain Forms 1, 2 and 3 in place of maintaining registers and filing of returns. While making more employment-friendly laws, the Government of India must also remember the workers' class. There are many laws in favour of workers. But they are often violated than implemented. About more than sixty percent of country's work force in the organised sector is refused even the basic statutory benefits like minimum wages, PF and ESI. Other labour laws pertaining to working hours, over-time work and safety at work place are also being violated. The 12 hours work without over-time wages has

become like a norm in many establishments. Therefore, my request to the Government of India would be to make serious efforts in implementing the labour laws. The laws empowering the workers are already there. All that the Government has to focus is on implementation of these laws for the good and for the benefit of workers at large, by using its enforcement machinery efficiently.

As we all know, 90 percent of the disputes that arise today between the employers and the workers pertain to only implementation of labour laws and nothing else. So, while we bring new laws to force, the Government must also ensure that old labour laws empowering the workers class should not be weakened. No doubt, through this Bill, the Government of India is trying to benefit several lakhs of employers. It is also encouraging several lakhs of new entrepreneurs to set up small scale establishments. But the Government of India must also protect and implement the labour laws pertaining to the betterment of several crores of workers. Before proceeding further on this Bill, it would be appropriate on the part of the Hon. Minister of Labour to tell this House what measures will be taken by the Government to protect and implement the labour laws more effectively in order to empower the workers class. It would be very ideal if the Hon. Minister calls the representatives from all the trade unions, address all their fears and then proceed further, once majority of the representatives are convinced. On

behalf of our Party, we request the Hon. Minister to consider our hesitations and to hear our suggestions.

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I myself was an industrial employee. I have worked on the trade union side near about 25 years.

As far as this Bill is concerned, *prima facie* it looks very simple. To simplify certain process of submitting the returns, some employers are exempted from that. Certain very important laws such as the Payment of Wages Act, the Minimum Wages Act, the Factories Act, the Contract Labour Regulations Act and things like that, will come under this.

Prima facie, even if we feel that this is an innocent kind of legislation, I wish to state that it is like a sample fire works.

15.00 hrs.

Why should we give exemption to employers in submitting returns in time? Employers have to be made duty bound to submit adequate information and submit returns. If they can run a company, is it a big burden for them to submit returns on payment of minimum wages and such things?

There is just a figure change in this Bill from 19 to 40. If the number of employees is below 40, then the employers need submit returns. They can even keep the information in a floppy disk or using

some ICT methods. I wish to say that from this Bill which the Government has introduced, there is every reason to believe that the Government has a hidden agenda. Why am I saying this? Now the Government has exempted the employers from submitting the returns. What is the next agenda? That agenda also has been proclaimed by the Hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has already said that hereafter inspectors need not go to the companies, employer will just make self certification. What is going to happen, Sir? On this side and that side of the House there are trade union leaders. If employer himself does self certification in respect of payment of wages act or under Plantation Act or Factories Act, what will happen? Why all these Acts were made? In the Factories Act there are provisions for health and all kinds of things. Here you are saying that inspectors need not go to the companies. Hon. Prime Minister says we will put an end to inspector raj. Inspectors are supposed to go and do on-the-spot studies. They are supposed to make reports to the authorities. If they find that an irregularity has taken place or a law is not followed, employer can be prosecuted. Instead of that you are saying that it is a disturbance for the employer, and so inspectors need not go.

You just take an example of the Factories Act. Even though there are provisions for safety, health and all kinds of things, the data from National Crime Records Bureau shows that in 2013 boiler explosion

related accidents alone led to 359 deaths in the country, another 955 persons died in the factory machine related accidents. Data also shows an upward trend in both industrial mishaps and fatal accidents involving the workers. This is the situation. If you take your second step under this, what will happen? The employer will do things according to his will and pleasure.

As a trade union worker, as a person who worked in factory, I appeal to the Government not to go to that extent. We must have industries. Industries must come. But we should not construct the industries on the graveyards of the poor workers. They have got certain rights. These registers were established after a lot of fight, after a lot of struggle by the workmen. Now you are diluting the whole thing.

What is your second move? The Prime Minister has already declared that a company which is employing below 300 workers need not take permission for retrenchment. Is it not a cruel thing you are trying to introduce? Job protection is a great thing for workers. You are giving open general licence to employers to retrench the workmen. The working class in the country irrespective of party lines will fight against this and they will defeat your ill-motivated ideas. I say this as a worker.

Similarly, on some other legislation also, they are going to make some basic reforms. The labour law will have to be amended, we are not against that. But why can't you not discuss it with the trade unions and the State Governments? Only after making such discussions comprehensively, you should go ahead with it. We will not be against this. But if you do this sort of things, that you will be encroaching on the rights of the workmen, which they have gained after a lot of struggle. I appeal to the Government to desist from this kind of ill-motivated action. With these few words, I conclude. Thank you

[Translation]

DR. ARUN KUMAR (JAHANABAD): Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill. This has been discussed in great detail. Just now the Hon. Member was saying that there is ill-motivation in this. I support the amendments brought in this labour Bill. There has been no major change. One aspect I wholeheartedly welcome is that under the previous law, there certainly existed an 'Inspector Raj'. This Bill will go a long way in putting an end to that system. Till date, the inspectors, while inspecting the units of small entrepreneurs, never looked into the interest of the employees, rather, keeping in mind the shortcomings, they used to extort from the employer itself. Now there will definitely be no fixed inspector, no fixed time. The inspection process is not being scrapped. There will be inspection under this law, but the Inspector Raj will definitely come to an end. The kind of environment created between employers and employees in the industries seems like a battlefield. Due to which a graveyard industry was formed. As per the final procedure, the industries remained closed. Just now, an Hon. Member was saying that there was a web of industries in that State, but as much as these people advocated for the interests of employees, industries died out and today, they are migrating and not finding employment.

The NDA Government under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi, is going to remove the shortcomings in it, so that a friendly environment can be created and industries can develop in a positive environment. Where the interests of employees are protected rather than employers exploiting them under the guise of the Inspector Raj. There is a plan to abolish such a system. So, we support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I stand here to speak in support of the [English] Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by certain Establishments) Amendment Bill, 2014 [Translation] presented by our Hon. Minister. The views of the Hon. Members have been discussed in great detail. I do not want to repeat what the Hon. Members have said earlier. This act is being brought in relation to the protection of the rights of the workers, so that their interests are not attacked. I understand that the first schedule has been done to simplify the existing process. The number that was mentioned, about which Hon. Members also suggested, should be increased.

Sir, I would like to say a few things, through you. Its original Act was of the year 1988. Till now, only 9 labour laws were covered under its first schedule. [English] The Payment of Wages Act; The Weekly Holidays Act; The Minimum Wages Act; The Factories Act; The Plantations Labour Act; The Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions Act; The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition)

Act; The Equal Remuneration Act; etc. [Translation] Now in this amendment, instead of those 9 labour laws, we have made 16 labour laws. It is natural that what was not covered till now, like [English] The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996; The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, etc. [Translation] In this way, instead of 9, 16 labour laws have been covered. We have provided the opportunity to incorporate all these laws into that statute. So far the minimum was 15 to 19, its number has now been increased to 40 so naturally a lot of facilities have been given. Be it in relation to digital, now we can give information through CD, we can give information through floppy as well.

I would like to say to the Hon. Minister that the act has been simplified for filing returns, and it is definitely welcome. In the changing environment of the entire world, there is a shortage of papers today and we are filing return through CD or floppy. I would like to say one thing that today there will be a need to see that the returns that we file, our management system files the returns, under the small establishment, are they giving the actual figure in it, are the returns of the actual figure being filed? or is the actual benefit that

the labour should be getting, whether he is getting it or not? The number they show, as many of our Hon. Members have expressed concern that even if the number is more and they show it less, then it is natural that we have expanded it further to protect the rights of those people. We have expanded it, simplified the procedure a lot, so naturally we have now relaxed the establishment on one hand.

At present, as far as the interests of the existing workers are concerned, huge ESIC hospitals are available today, but considering their actual situation, I would like the Hon. Minister to look into the fact that there is a shortage of doctors there. There is shortage of medicines, there is shortage of electricity. If we have established it for the health of the workers, for their rights and privileges, then surely, we should pay attention to these things. With this, I conclude by supporting this Bill.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, the Government has made a change in the number, *i.e.*, 19 to 14. I do not know what the use of it is and who would be benefited? I strongly oppose this amendment because a large number of workers would be adversely affected. A large number of factories that come under small scale sector would also be affected which means it would be beneficial to the employers. Maybe, it would be true to say that there is electronic filing and all that but we have to bear in mind that in the labour laws itself, there is a clause that each and every thing should be written in the local language and that should be placed in the factory itself so that ordinary workers could understand that. The workers may not be able to go to the computers and they may not be able to do all these other things.

So, I am sure that this change will not benefit the workers and at the same time it would benefit the employer. So, I strongly oppose this amendment. Not only that, the Standing Committee itself made it clear that we should not go for such a hasty amendment. So, I do

not know as to why the Government has taken this decision?
Therefore, I oppose this Bill.

[English]

PROF. SADHU SINGH (FARIDKOT): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. With your kind permission I would like to submit that there have been many such Bills in previous times and there are working people in restaurants, hotels, in agricultural field and in industry also but their lot has never been improved upon. Further, I would like to submit that if this Bill, which is being passed with certain amendments, if it can bring about a change in the living conditions of those working people, who are, as my colleague Shri Tarunveer said, are the real producers of wealth in this country, then only such a Bill should have some meaning.

[Translation]

I would like to conclude my speech with a couplet.

“Bill aate rahe aur jate rahe, hum galiyon ko dukhde sunate
rahe”

(Bills kept coming and going, while we kept sharing our sorrows in
the streets.)

[English]

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Mr. Deputy-Sir, I am extremely thankful to all the Hon. Members those who have participated in this debate and have given very meaningful suggestions. I have noted down all the suggestions related to implementation and I will definitely see that whatever suggestions that have been made will be taken as an input and can be taken into consideration.

I am happy that a large number of Members have spoken with a positive intent and have felt that the need of the hour is more employability. The vision of our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, is Skilled India and Digital India. In order to have skilled India, our main focus will be on skill development. We are very much concerned about that. Skill development alone can provide more employability in the country. The main purpose is to have simplification, transparency, accountability and enforcement. The law is being framed keeping in view these things.

I will reply in short about the apprehensions that have been expressed regarding the provisions of this Bill. But our main purpose is to ensure decent working conditions and better and effective implementation of the labour laws and also facilitating increased productivity as well as development of entrepreneurship and

improving the employability in the country. The focus and emphasis of my Ministry will be mainly on the unorganized sector which constitutes a 93 percent of the total workforce. They include, as has been mentioned by some of the Hon. Members, the *bidi* workers, the building construction workers and also plantation workers and agricultural labourers. There are a large number of workers who are in the unorganized sector. My focus area will be the employees of the unorganized sector and also on providing social security. Many Members have talked about providing social security and welfare of workers. We propose to take much care with regard to these two aspects of providing social security and welfare of workers.

I am happy to say that our Hon. Prime Minister, on 16th October, has inaugurated the *Shramev Jayate* programme. For this *Shramev Jayate* Programme, we have taken major initiatives in the Shram Suvidha portal through which initially 16 labour laws can be combined with our four enforcement agencies. They are EPFO, ESIC, DGMS and CLC. So, I have to make the features of the portal clear because a large number of establishments are there and a large number of workers are there in the unorganised sector.

Sir, Unique Labour Identity Numbers (LIN) are allotted and will be given to all the employers. Secondly, there is the filling up of the simplified single online return under 16 labour laws. Thirdly, there is the computer-generated random inspection scheme. Most of the

Hon. Members were telling that inspections will not be done and inspectors will go away. There will definitely be inspections. Nobody should feel so. All the existing laws will be applicable. Nothing will be left out.

I only feel that you may please go through the Bill once again. Kindly note that we have already issued universal account numbers to more than four crore members of the Employees Provident Fund Organisations which assure portability, transparency, accountability and efficient service.

I want to mention another important factor. Some Members have expressed an apprehension. We have held consultations in tripartite meetings. Many tripartite meetings were held. A large number of suggestions were given. Ten national major trade unions have given positive suggestions.

Members also mentioned about the Standing Committee on Labour. We have taken care of all the recommendations of that Committee. The Government is committed for reforms but at the same time, it is our duty to look after the interests of the workers and see that their rights are protected.

I would like to say about our policy and our commitment. [Translation] There is no difference between our policy and our commitment.

[English]

Lastly, I would like to make one clarification. The section of six main Acts reads as follows. Among them, one is penalty. Any employer who fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall, on conviction, be punishable. In the case of the first conviction, it shall be a fine of Rs. 5000. In the case of second or subsequent convictions, it will be imprisonment for a period which shall not be less than one month but which may extend to six months.

That is why, I appeal to all the hon. Members to please cooperate in passing the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill to amend the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 4

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): Yes. I beg to move:

“Page 2, line 8,--

for “forty”

substitute “fourteen”. (1)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment No. 1 moved by Shri Sankar Prasad Datta to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Saugata Roy, are you moving your amendment?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Yes. I beg to move:

“Page 2, line 8,--

for “forty”

substitute “twenty-five”.” (2)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment no. 2 moved by Prof. Saugata Roy to the vote of the House.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I want Division.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the lobbies be cleared. Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The Secretary-General will read out the instructions.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Hon. Members, I would request you to kindly wear the head phone because interpretation is going on.

Kind attention of the Hon. Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording System:-

1. Before a Division starts, every Hon. Member should occupy his or her own seat and operate the system from that seat only. Kindly occupy your own seat.

2. When the Hon. Speaker says “Now Division”, the Secretary-General will activate the voting button whereupon “RED BULBS” above display boards on both sides of Hon. Speaker’s Chair will glow and a GONG sound will be heard simultaneously.
3. For voting, Hon. Members may please press the following two buttons simultaneously “ONLY” after the sound of the GONG and I repeat only after the sound of the GONG.

Red “VOTE” button in front of every Hon. Member on the Head Phone plate and, second, any one of the following buttons fixed on the top of desk of seat:

For AYES : Green Colour

For Noes : Red Colour

For Abstain : Yellow Colour

4. I may emphasise that it is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till another GONG is heard and the Red BULBS above plasma display are “OFF”.
5. Hon. Members may please note that their votes will not be registered:
 - (i) If buttons are kept pressed before the first GONG or

(ii) Both buttons are not kept simultaneously pressed till second GONG.

6. Hon. Members can actually “SEE” their vote on display boards installed on either side of Hon. Speaker’s Chair.

7. In case vote is not registered, they may call for voting through slips. Thank you

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“Page 2, line 8,--

for “forty”

substitute “twenty-five”. (2)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The amendment is negatived.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Division. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have not asked for it.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I said it.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have not asked for it.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): He has asked for it. He said it.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I asked for Division.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Please go through the record. When I put the question, you have not asked for it. Can you prove it?

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I said it. Please listen to me. I asked for Division. You should say “Let the Lobbies be cleared.” Then, Division should take place.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Please listen to what I am saying.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: This is not correct.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: First, you take your seat. I am on my legs. I am telling you that when I called, at that time, you have not raised your voice.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I said “yes”.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want it now, I will read it once again. I have no objection to that.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I have said it.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am ready to read that once again. There is no problem. But I am telling you that when I read, at that time, you have not raised your voice. Afterwards only, you raised your voice. The record is there. You can go through it. Anyway, for

your satisfaction, as a special case, once again I am allowing Division. Do not say that you have raised it. That is wrong. You have not raised it at that time.

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): Sir, some Members are still in the learning stage. You must have that much of heart to give an opportunity. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am telling you this. I am reading it once again. I am allowing it. But, at that time, you have not raised it. That is what I am telling.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Once again, I am reading. Lobbies have already been cleared.

The question is:

“Page 2, line 8,--

for “forty”

substitute “twenty-five”.” (2)

The Lok Sabha Divided:

DIVISION**AYES****15.32 hrs.**

Banerjee, Shri Abhishek

Basheer, Shri E. T. Mohammad

Chaudhury, Shri Jitendra

*Datta, Shri Sankar Prasad

*Jayadevan, Shri C. N.

*Kalvakuntla, Shrimati kavitha

Karunakaran, Shri P.

Kumar, Shri Santosh

*Mondal, Shrimati Pratima

Patil, Shri Bheemrao B

*Poddar, Shrimati Aparupa

Reddy, Shri Konda Vishweshwar

Roy, Prof. Saugata

*Salim, Shri Mohammad

* Voted through slip.

NOES

Agrawal, Shri Rajendra

*Ahlawat, Shrimati Santosh

*Ahluwalia, Shri S.S.

Amarappa, Shri Karadi Sanganna

Ananthkumar, Shri

Azad, Shri Kirti

Badal, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur

Baheria, Shri Subhash Chandra

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Bala, Shrimati Anju

Balyan, Dr. Sanjeev

Bhamre, Dr. Subhash Ramrao

*Bharti, Sushri Uma

Bhatt, Shrimati Ranjanben

Bhole, Shri Devendra Singh

Bhuria, Shri Dileep Singh

* Voted through slip.

Bidhuri, Shri Ramesh

Birla, Shri Om

Chandel, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh

Chaudhary, Shri C. R.

Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai

*Chaudhary, Shri P.P.

Chaudhary, Shri Pankaj

Chauhan, Shri Devusinh

*Chavda, Shri Vinod Lakhmashi

*Choudhary, Shri Birendra Kumar

Chouhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh

Danve, Shri Raosaheb Patil

Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru

Devi, Shrimati Rama

Dhotre, Shri Sanjay

Diwakar, Shri Rajesh Kumar

Dubey, Shri Nishikant

Gaddigoudar, Shri P.C.

* Voted through slip.

Gadkari, Shri Nitin

Gaikwad, Dr. Sunil Baliram

Gandhi, Shri Feroze Varun

Gavit, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar

Gowda, Shri D.V. Sadananda

*Gupta, Shri Shyama Charan

Hikaka, Shri Jhina

Jaiswal, Dr. Sanjay

*Jat, Prof. Sanwar Lal

JigaJinagi, Shri Ramesh

Joshi, Shri Chandra Prakash

Karandlaje, Kumari Shobha

Kashyap, Shri Dinesh

*Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal

Kateel, Shri Nalin Kumar

Kaushik, Shri Ramesh Chander

*Khadse, Shrimati Rakshatai

Khaire, Shri Chandrakant

* Voted through slip.

Khanna, Shri Vinod

Kher, Shrimati Kirron

Kinjarapu, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu

*Kishore, Shri Kaushal

Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh

*Kumar, Dr. Arun

Kumar, Kunwar Sarvesh

Kumar, Shri Dharmendra

*Kundariya, Shri Mohanbhai KalyanJibhai

Kushawaha, Shri Ravinder

*Lakhanpal, Shri Raghav

Lekhi, Shrimati Meenakashi

Mahajan, Shrimati Poonam

Maharaj, Dr. Swami SakshiJi

*Mahato, Dr. Banshilal

Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari

Malviya, Prof. Chintamani

Manjhi, Shri Hari

* Voted through slip.

Maurya, Shri Keshav Prasad

*Meena, Shri Arjun Lal

Meghwal, Shri Arjun Ram

Mishra, Shri Bhairon Prasad

*Mishra, Shri Daddan

Mohan, Shri P.C.

Munde, Dr. Pritam Gopinath

*Nath, Shri Chand

Nishad, Shri Ajay

Nishad, Shri Ram Charitra

*Nishank, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

Paatle, Shrimati Kamla

*Pal, Shri Jagdambika

Panda, Shri Baijayant Jay

Pandey, Dr. Mahendra Nath

Pandey, Shri Hari Om

Pandey, Shri Rajesh

*Paswan, Shri Chhedi

* Voted through slip.

Patel, Dr. K. C.

Patel, Shrimati Anupriya

Patel, Shrimati Jayshreeben

Pathak, Shrimati Riti

Patil, Shri A.T. Nana

Patole, Shri Nana

Phule, Sadhvi Savitri Bai

*Prasad, Dr. Bhagirath

Radhakrishnan, Shri Pon

**Radhakrishnan, Shri R.

*Rai, Shri Nityanand

Raj, Shrimati Krishna

Rajbhar, Shri Harinarayan

Rajoria, Dr. Manoj

Rajput, Shri Mukesh

Raju, Shri Ashok Gajapathi

Ram, Shri Janak

* Voted through slip.

** Corrected through slip for Noes.

Rathod, Shri D.S.

*Ray, Shri Bishnu Pada

Rudy, Shri RaJiv Pratap

Sahu, Shri Chandulal

Sahu, Shri Lakhan Lal

*Saini, Shri Rajkumar

Sanjar, Shri Alok

**Sarswati, Shri Sumedhanand

Satpathy, Shri Tathagata

Sawaikar, Adv. Narendra Keshav

Shah, Shrimati Mala Rajyalakshmi

**Sharma, Dr. Mahesh

Sharma, Shri Ram Swaroop

Shetty, Shri Gopal

Shyal, Dr. Bhartiben D.

**Siddeshwara, Shri G. M.

Sigriwal, Shri Janardan Singh

* Corrected through slip for Noes.

** Voted through slip.

Singh, Dr. Bhola

Singh, Dr. Nepal

**Singh, Dr. Satya Pal

Singh, Dr. Yashwant

**Singh, Shri Giriraj

**Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan

Singh, Shri Lallu

Singh, Shri Nagendra

**Singh (Raju Bhaiya), Shri Rajveer

Singh, Shri Rakesh

Singh, Shri Virendra

Sinha, Shri Manoj

Solanki, Dr. Kirit P.

Sonkar, Shri Vinod Kumar

Sonker, Shrimati Neelam

Swain, Shri Ladu Kishore

Tripathi, Shri Sharad

Tumane, Shri Krupal BalaJi

** Voted through slip.

Udasi, Shri Shivkumar

*Usendi, Shri Vikram

Vardhan, Dr. Harsh

Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Verma, Shri Rajesh

Verma, Shrimati Rekha

Yadav, Shri Hukmdeo Narayan

Yadav, Shri Om Prakash

Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal

Yediyurappa, Shri B.S.

* Voted through slip.

ABSTAIN

Baite, Shri Thangso

Chowdhury, Shri Adhir Ranjan

Ering, Shri Ninong

Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh

Meinya, Dr. Thokchom

Suresh, Shri D.K.

Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the Division is:

Ayes – 10

Noes – 116

The motion was negatived.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula, the Long Title were added to the Bill.

* The following Members also recorded/corrected their votes through slips.

Ayes : 010 + Shrimati Kavitha Kalvakuntla, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, S/Shri Mohammad Salim, Sankar Prasad Datta and C.N. Jayadevan **-(minus)** S/Shri Rajkumar Saini and R. Radhakrishnan = 14.

Noes : 116 + Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Shri G.M. Siddeshwara, Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat, S/Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya, Giriraj Singh, Rattan Lal Kataria, Rajveer Singh (Raju Bhaiya), Vinod Lakhmashi Chavda, Raj Kumar Saini, Daddan Mishra, Sushree Uma Bharti, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, S/Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Kirti Vardhan Singh, Jagdambika Pal, Chhedi Paswan, Bhishnu Pada Ray, Dr. Banshilal Mahato, S/Shri Vikram Usendi, Chand Nath, Sumedhanand Saraswati, Kaushal Kishore, Raghav Lakhnopal, Shrimati Rakshatai Khadse, Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat, Dr. K.C. Patel, Dr. Bhagirath Prasad S/Shri Arjun Lal Meena, Shyama Charan Gupta, P.P. Chaudhary, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, S/Shri Birendra Kumar Choudhary, Dr. Arun Kumar, Shri Nityanand Rai and Shri R. Radhakrishnan =151.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): 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: Now, the Lobbies may be opened.

15.37 hrs

**MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Item No.13.

SHRI THANGSO BAITE (OUTER MANIPUR): With your permission, I beg to move:

“That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members’ Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th November, 2014.”

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members’ Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th November, 2014.”

The motion was adopted.



15.39 hrs

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS-Introduced

(i) COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2014*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Item No.14.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section –2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.40 hrs.

(ii) INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*
(Substitution of new section for section 124A)

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section –2, dated 28.11.2014.

15.40 1/2 hrs.

**(iii) CIGARETTES AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS
(PROHIBITION OF ADVERTISEMENT AND
REGULATION OF TRADE AND COMMERCE,
PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION)
AMENDMENT BILL, 2014***

[English]

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section -2, dated 28.11.2014.

15.40 ¾ hrs.

(iv) FAST TRACK COURTS FOR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES BILL, 2014*

[English]

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish fast track courts for trial of cases involving criminal charges against elected representatives.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish fast track courts for trial of cases involving criminal charges against elected representatives.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section –2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

15.41 hrs.

**(v) CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2014***

(Substitution of new section 24, etc.)

[English]

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section –2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

15.41 ½ hrs.

**(vi) SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE
OF WEST BENGAL BILL, 2014***

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of West Bengal for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Sections of people; for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources and to relieve its debt burden.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of West Bengal for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Sections of people; for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources and to relieve its debt burden.”

The motion was adopted.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vincent H. Pala - Not present
15.42 hrs.

**(vii) SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE
OF WEST BENGAL BILL, 2014***

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of West Bengal for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Sections of people and for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of West Bengal for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Sections of people and for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.42 1/2 hrs.

**(viii) OLD AGE PENSION AND REHABILITATION BILL,
2014***

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):
Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of rehabilitation facilities to old persons.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of rehabilitation facilities to old persons.”

The motion was adopted.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

15.43 hrs.

(ix) PREVENTION OF FEMALE INFANTICIDE BILL, 2014*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent female infanticide.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent female infanticide.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

15.44 hrs.

**(x) AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (EMPLOYMENT,
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND WELFARE) BILL, 2014***

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to protect the interests of agricultural workers and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to protect the interests of agricultural workers and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section –2, dated

28.11.2014

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.45 hrs.

**(xi) PROHIBITION OF RAGGING AND UNFAIR
PRACTICES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND
UNIVERSITIES BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition of ragging and unfair practices in educational institutions and universities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition of ragging and unfair practices in educational institutions and universities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[English] 15.45 ½ hrs.

(xii) COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.46 hrs.

(xiii) HEALTH INSURANCE (FOR PERSONS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE) BILL, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): I

beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for health insurance to persons living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for health insurance to persons living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.46 1/2 hrs.

(xiv) STREET CHILDREN (REHABILITATION AND WELFARE) BILL, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and the State Governments for the street children who subsist on rag picking, begging, shoe polishing, working as potters or performing acrobatics at road crossings or public places and for their rehabilitation by taking their custody and providing them due care, protection, education, vocational training and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and welfare measures to be undertaken by the Union and the State Governments for the street children who subsist on rag picking, begging, shoe polishing, working as potters or

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

performing acrobatics at road crossings or public places and for their rehabilitation by taking their custody and providing them due care, protection, education, vocational training and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: I introduce ** the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.47 hrs.

**(xv)PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES
IN EVERY VILLAGE BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the facilities of telephone and post and telegraph office in all the villages of the country and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the facilities of telephone and post and telegraph office in all the villages of the country and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.



15.47 1/2 hrs.

**(xvi) ACID CONTROL, PREVENTION OF ACID
ATTACKS AND REHABILITATION OF ACID
ATTACK VICTIMS BILL, 2014***

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of trade and business of acid, prevention of acid attacks and rehabilitation of the victims of acid attacks and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of trade and business of acid, prevention of acid attacks and rehabilitation of the victims of acid attacks and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.48 hrs.

(xvii) SURROGACY (REGULATION) BILL, 2014*

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of the practice of surrogacy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of the practice of surrogacy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

15.48 1/2 hrs.

(xviii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*
(Insertion of new article 371K)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (DARBHANGA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India in the year 2014, incorporating a new Article 371T specific to Mithila.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI AZAD: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

15.49 hrs.

(xix) COW (PROTECTION) BILL, 2014*

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for protection of cow and its progeny.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for protection of cow and its progeny.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.50 hrs.

**(xx) PROVISION OF COMPENSATION TO FARMERS
AFFECTED BY NATURAL CALAMITIES BILL, 2014***

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of compensation to farmers affected by natural calamities and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of compensation to farmers affected by natural calamities and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 28.11.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.51 hrs.

**CENTRAL HIMALAYAN STATES
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BILL, 2014 – Contd.**

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take further consideration on Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2014.

Item No. 37 – Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARDWAR): Deputy Speaker Sir, last time we had brought a resolution to make a separate Ministry for the overall development of the Himalayan states. I am grateful to this House, wherein 18 Members from about 15 States had expressed their sentiment on that Motion and since Himalayas is very important for the country and the world, therefore, they had given their consent to constitute a separate Ministry for these States.

Sir, till the time a Ministry is formed, there should be a separate Hill Council for the development of the hilly region, for the development of the Himalayan States, we have presented this Bill in this House, with this view. This House has felt that the Himalayas have their own distinct geography, ecology and ecosystem. It has a

distinct social, economic and cultural aspect and we have to take all this with utmost seriousness and sincerity.

Sir, in this very Assembly, it was felt that due to lack of proper planning and developmental strategy, the entire Himalayan region is going through a state of despair and dissatisfaction, which is not good for the nation. Even after 22 years, the recommendations of the Qasim Commission remain untouched. Ecology and climate change have definitely had a dire effect on the Himalayas. Conservation of the Himalayas is very important for the survival of people living in mountains. As a matter of fact, there is a need for such measures that can balance physical development with short-term social and economic sectors, while also focusing on long-term benefits for nature and human welfare. Its medium can only be a strong willpower, along with science and technology, discipline, human dedication, and the systematic use of local resources.

Sir, this can only be possible when a separate Council is formed specifically for policy formulation in this regard. If I were to discuss the Himalayas in broad terms, the Himalayas are indeed the water tower of Asia. If we look at it broadly, while studying the symbolic development of pressure on water resources, a scientist from Sweden University, Mr. Malik Falcon Marak, stated that if the annual per capita water availability falls below 1 thousand 700 cubic metres, there will be problems related to water supply in the region. And if

this availability drops below 1 thousand cubic metres, then it will not only become a serious problem for the region or country but for the entire world. If I look at it, in 1951, the cubic metres per person per year was 5177, which decreased to 1869 in 2001 and further to 1341 in 2005. It is projected to potentially reach 1140 by the year 2050.

Sir, if we look at it, there could potentially be a global war over water in the near future. If there is to be another world war, it will likely be over water conditions. In some areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat, this symbolic range is from 200 to 800 cubic metres and with a global population of 1.3 billion, which means 20 percent of the world's population is dependent on the Himalayas. There are more than 19 major rivers in the Himalayan range. Brahmaputra and Sindhu are the largest. Each of them has extensive water catchment basins spanning 2 lakh 59 thousand square kilometres in the mountains. If you see other rivers as well, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej and Sindhu are of the same system which has 2 lakh, 17 thousand 560 square kilometres. If we see, Tista, Raidak and Monsoona cover 1 lakh 83 thousand 890 square kilometres of Brahmaputra system.

There are 6694 icebergs in Ganga, 4366 in Brahmaputra, 5097 in Indus i.e. 16617 such icebergs which are continuously retreating. This is going to be a big problem for the country and no one is paying attention to it. The Himalayas supply 8 crore 60 lakh cubic metres of

water. In this way, 67 percent of the glaciers are retreating. In Uttarakhand itself, there are 900 glaciers in Ganga, Yamuna, Bhagirathi basin. I understand that 73 percent of the Himalayan region lies within India's territory, hence it is crucial to be concerned about the Himalayas. When I was the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, we created the Glacier Development Authority. We had also established the Sparsh Ganga Board for the conservation and enhancement of rivers and the streams that flow into them.

I urge the Government of India that this is not a matter of any state or any mountainous Himalayan state, it is a matter of the country, a matter of the world. In this field, it is very important to develop education and skills here. Curriculum should be set up here as per the need of the Himalayas. Here engineers, administrators, scientists need to be imparted with a special kind of training. This work is a huge challenge for human resource development, however, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government that it has announced the establishment of the Institute of Himalayan Studies. I am confident that a lot of work will be done here on horticulture, hydro-electric engineering, geology, ecology, education, research and it will be useful for guidance to the world.

Weather changes are being discussed around the world but no one is paying attention to the reasons. Between years 2000 and 2010, there has been a seven percent increase in world greenhouse gas

emissions. This is a very surprising figure. I understand that if India has committed to not allow per capita emissions to increase at any cost, then alternative approaches will also need to be considered. The threat of climate change is a serious challenge. Scientists are unanimous that climate change is unambiguous. I want to say that Himalaya is a very important centre for this. To mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, disaster management, insurance assistance to farmers, use of agricultural land, management, resource conservation, technology, forest related schemes and programmes will have to be developed. There is a need for improvement in water use and measurement, water use management policy. This can only be possible when permission is given to form a separate Council for the Himalayas.

Today, every man in the world has become hollow from inside. The competence inside man is decreasing. In such a situation, products produced in a natural way are needed. According to a study, this belt has a market of Rs. 6240 billion. This market is only for organic food produced in a natural way. From 2010 to 2015, the size of organic agriculture has increased by 22.3 percent. Flower production is increasing at the rate of 30 percent by the year 2015, its market is worth Rs. 8000 crore. If this belt of the Himalayas is properly planned, regulated resource utilisation and conservation of nature is done, then a lot can happen. In the international market, the

business of herbs can reach 6.2 billion dollars, which is approximately Rs. 360 billion. AYUSH production in India can increase and currently this production is worth Rs. 900 crore. The total revenue generated from Indian forests is 65 billion dollars i.e. 390 billion rupees. 65 percent of the forest area is in the Himalayas alone, which is 24 percent of the country. There are eight states in the Himalayas, there are other areas as well, but 65 to 70 percent is forest area.

16.00 hrs.

Therefore, my request is that 70 percent of the area of the Himalayas is based on agriculture and the agriculture in the Himalayan region requires a specialised approach. Factors such as low yields, minimal inputs, insufficient irrigation, traditional farming methods, and unprofitable grain-based cultivation on small and large farms alike must be systematically redirected towards horticulture. Because they produce flowers that do not wither for up to six months. Such flowers can be produced, which has fragrance. Out-of-season vegetables can be produced there in large quantities. Therefore, a policy should be made in this regard. This is also possible only if there is a separate policy. Here is an example of this. The Government of India established vegetable villages in Nagaland in the North-East. Today, their situation is such that they are producing 25 to 50 lakh rupees per farmer per year, and this is a model. Hence, if a dedicated policy

directive were established to guide such efforts across the entire Himalayan region, it would lead not only to the welfare of the Himalayan states but also contribute positively to the nation and the global community.

Even in the field of tourism, if we look at the lands of Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand, then they are heaven on earth. Whole Switzerland is nestled within our land. But it could never be used systematically. Tourism directly and indirectly supports 3.9 crore jobs in the country. If tourism is organised and promoted, then crores of youth can be given jobs and wealth can also be generated from it. 6.6 percent of Indian GDP still comes only from tourism today. Two thousand crore dollars i.e. 12 thousand crore rupees comes from medical tourism only, if it is to be increased then imagine how much it can increase. Currently, approximately 70 lakh foreign nationals come to India for this purpose. Our share in the global tourism industry is 1.59 percent, which comes at 42nd position in the world, which should have been on number one in the world. I belong to Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand is called the heaven on earth. Nature has bestowed boundless beauty upon that land. Wherever a person looks, that very sight captures his attention and fascination. I said that the entire valley should be explored. Today, we are at 42nd position, solely because of not making a proper policy regarding the Himalayas, we are at 42nd position today. A similar situation exists

in the development and promotion of industries. When we have life saving herbs, Sanjeevani, then why are we wandering? We are bringing medicines worth billions of rupees to the country from China. We are facing a double whammy. Our youth, women and village people are migrating from here. They should have been stopped based on the herbs there. We have such rare herbs available even today. Therefore, I want to say that this is only possible when, it is not so, the conditions are favourable, the possibilities are immense, but the system is undergoing a transformation and that transformation pertains to how it is to be planned, how policies are to be formulated, and there is a greater need to deliberate upon these aspects.

16.04 hrs.

(Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

Sir, with regard to disaster management, if we look at the disaster at Kedarnath, there have been more than 24-25 thousand casualties. People from 24 states of India and many countries of the world have suffered casualties. In such situations, whether it's a natural disaster in Uttarakhand or Jammu and Kashmir, thousands of people are affected and lose their lives. All this is happening due to lack of policy. There are some reasons like non-availability of proper policy of water promotion and no availability of devices like Doppler Radar

in this area. So, I think it is very important that we manage the disaster. Floods, landslides, forest fires, earthquakes, land conservation and 90 percent of the fires occur due to man-made factors. We can make people aware about that as well. Glaciers account for 17.5 metres per year in Gangotri, Meelam 13.3 metres per year, Pindar 13.5 metres per year, Dokriani 17.0 and Warsingi 43.3 percent. If the speed at which the glaciers are retreating is observed, it should not only be a matter of concern for the people of the Himalayan belt, but it should be a matter of concern for the entire country and the world.

The day the Himalayas stir from their repose, the entire world shall stand on the brink of crisis. Therefore, there ought to be Doppler radars in place, and a separate national-level policy for disaster management must be formulated. The Disaster Management Forces should be sent to every place. These areas, which are adjacent to the borders of many countries, are also very important for the strategic unity and integrity of the country. Be it waterways or ropeways, there has never been any concern over the construction and maintenance of strategic routes. In the entire country, there is 891 kilometre waterway in just one of the three Himalayan rivers. The 891 km waterway in the Himalayan region is only in Dhubri and Brahmaputra. There is a need to develop ropeways in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu-Kashmir and North-Eastern states. I

liked that when Hon. Shri Nitin Gadkari ji came to Uttarakhand for his visit, he was concerned that instead of digging the mountainous areas and breaking big rocks, ropeways should be built there. This will protect our environment and also improve transportation, hence I want to say that from the environmental point of view, the ecological sensitivity and wildlife of the Himalayas can definitely be conserved by developing waterways and ropeways. This will conserve wild animals, improve people's economy, reduce time and also protect the environment. If we look at biodiversity, the situation is shocking. The Himalayas are the largest biodiverse region in the entire world. In this entire land area of 2 crore 38 lakh seven thousand five hundred and ninety square kilometres in the entire world, only four places are famous for biodiversity, amongst which the Himalayas are at number one. But till date, the Indian Government has never used it, never tried to know that after all we have a huge wealth in the form of biodiversity in the whole world, how should we use it. Since this was never paid attention to, never seriously considered, I want to say that at present Hon. Narendra Modi Ji's Government is dedicated to the Himalayas. He is now being known as the Son of Ganga. I am confident that now the Himalayas will be developed in a systematic and good way. For biodiversity as well, 130 crore people of the whole world are dependent on the resources and drainage of the Himalayas. If 130

crore people of the world are dependent only on this, then it is a very important topic for us. More than 7000 plant species, 175 mammalian and 500 bird species are found in the Eastern Himalayan region. There cannot be greater biodiversity than this anywhere in the world.

Therefore, my concern, on which basis I had proposed the establishment of a separate Ministry, is that until that Ministry is formed, there should definitely be a Council that formulates policies and implements them. If we look at the forest area – Himachal Pradesh has 14683 sq. km., Jammu and Kashmir has 22538 sq. km. and Uttarakhand has 24508 sq. km. In our North-Eastern States, 65 percent of the areas are covered by forest. This too has not been used systematically. What I wish to state is that the loss being suffered by India due to environmental factors amounts to eight billion dollars, which is 5.7 percent of the GDP. This is a shocking fact. This needs attention. The expansion of forests and trees shall absorb carbon dioxide from the environment and help mitigate climate change, reducing the earth's temperature on which grand seminars are being held across the world in air-conditioned mansions, yet yielding no tangible results. This concern can only be addressed by standing on this very earth. As far as waste is concerned, I would like to submit that waste management in the Himalayan region is a task fraught with challenges. Alongside waste management, new provisions will

have to be introduced to ensure cleanliness. We will need to implement the process of segregating and categorising waste in different ways even in those areas, because we must free the Himalayas from pollution and such debris at any cost.

Sir, this morning, when the Hon. Health Minister was discussing, in response to a question he said that medicines coming from China cost around 700 billion rupees, and if herbal medicines are included, we are giving billions of rupees to China. We should be giving the medicines to China, but the opposite is happening. The reason for this is that there has never been any thought in this direction in this country. China is patenting our herbs, Germany is patenting our things, and we are sitting idle doing nothing about it. This is a matter of concern.

Sir, through you, I want to say that the Government is working in a multi-pronged manner, but there is a need to think in this direction and it is the need of the country today. It should not be seen just as a necessity for Himalayan states but as a necessity for the entire country and the world. Ayurveda has cured the whole world, we have Sanjeevani herbs. Today a 25 year old youth is holding his heart, while a 16 year old young person is bogged down with many diseases, he has got a disease like diabetes. When we have the system to cure the whole world, then why not develop it, why not make such

policies, so that those herbs can be produced and utilised for Ayurvedic medicines.

Sir, whether it's typhoid, cancer, asthma, knee pain, fever, cough, diabetes, depression, malaria, or liver medicine like Liv-52, Ayurveda is prescribed by doctors worldwide for all these ailments. When I was a Minister in Uttar Pradesh, the company that made Liv-52 in Dehradun paid the highest income tax in the state. This single medicine has established its place in the world. More than 45 thousand herbs are found in India but they need to be utilised systematically.

India's total hydropower generation capacity is more than one lakh MW, while production is only 39,788.40 MW. Mainly the projects like Satluj Hydroelectric Project, THTC, NTPC, NHPC etc. are in the Himalayan region. Given the potential for hydropower generation in the world, India is ranked 5th in the world but is able to produce only 35 percent of the world's hydropower. India is currently ranked 35th but it can come down to 5th if this Himalayan belt is secured, preserved and organised and its policy is framed and planned properly.

Presently, the Govind Sagar Dam and the Bhakra Project in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh have brought about the Green Revolution. So, hydropower potential in Uttarakhand alone is more

than 25,000 MW whereas Himachal has more than 23,000 MW, J&K has more than 25,000 MW and if these three states are combined, then these three states have the capacity to generate around 80,000 MW of power. Then why is the Government silent on this? Why not form a Council, make its policy and use it in the development of the country.

I come from Uttarakhand, a land that is the birthplace of the Vedas, the Puranas, and the Upanishads. It is also the birthplace of Sanskrit and Ayurveda. The Ganga too descends upon this very land for the welfare of the entire world, and everyone knows how significant the Ganga is. Dr. Saheb is not here now, when I discussed Ganga, he had raised some objection. I had said that the water of Ganga is like nectar water and the water of Ganga never goes bad. It is in that context that I urge you to view the Ganga. With your blessings, I had the opportunity to organise the Kumbh in the year 2010. It was my privilege. I was the Chief Minister at that time. Eight and a half crore people from more than one hundred and fifty countries took a dip in the Ganga. Many people also came from Indonesia, which has the largest Muslim population. Their Ambassadors also came. That is why, I want to say that it is our property. How can it be promoted in the form of cleanliness and even a single drop of Ganga water has the power to fight thousands of diseases. That is why, people around the world used to put a drop of

Ganga water on the newborn's head, and whenever someone departs from this world, whether a king or a prince, a drop of Ganga water is put in their mouth. It has been a tradition not from today, but has been upheld for thousands and millions of years.

Sir, this is the world's centre of peace and spirituality. It is the life of the country's culture. There are Buddhist monasteries in the Himalayas. Char Dham Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamnotri and Gangotri are located here in the Himalayas. On one side is Hemkund Sahib, and on the other side is Piran Kaliyar. Hazratbal situated in Srinagar is also in the Himalayan states. All the holy rivers like Alaknanda and Bhagirathi are here. I have mentioned about Peeran Kaliyar. Mount Kailash is located at 6338 metres. This is the biggest place for Buddhists. Kedarnath out of the 12 Jyotirlingas is also here. Gompa located in Lahaul Spiti district is situated at 13 thousand 668 feet, which is in this area. Hamis and Thiksey located in Ladakh are also the main monasteries of Buddhists. Our friend from Himachal had also expressed their concern about it last time.

Sir, I humbly wish to request that it is very important for the economic, cultural, geographical, and spiritual development that there be a separate Ministry for the Himalayas. Until a Ministry is formed, a Council should be formed so that policies can be made and those policies can be implemented.

I am sincerely grateful to you for giving me the time to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): Sir, I would first like to thank Pokhriyal Ji for bringing this proposal.

Sir, here the facts of historical, geographical, economic, political and social aspects of the Himalayan region have been presented. It is not only important for our regions but also crucial for the entire country and all of South Asia, whether it's for future energy needs, drinking water, or food security, which depend on the future of our

Himalayas. I think the Himalayas have been very much ignored in all this. Today, it's time for us to address how to confront all these challenges we are facing. This Bill proposes the establishment of a Central Council or Ministry for that purpose. There are suitable people to become Ministers in this matter, but there is no Ministry. I think that by having one Ministry, all the challenges can be looked at in an integrated manner through coordinated moves.

The Bill mentions Central Himalayan State, but it also discusses the entirety of Northeast India and even refers to parts of Uttar Pradesh when addressing the Shivalik region. I hail from the northern parts of West Bengal in the lap of the Himalayas. In the Himalayan region, there are small states and demands are being made in many places to create separate states. If their problems are solved then there is no need to create a separate state. Today it is being understood that we cannot solve their problems even by creating small states. If we do not look at the problems like integrated wholes then we cannot solve the problems. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Government to take into account the entire geography and all types of situations, from Jammu and Kashmir to Tripura. So, we have to take its sensitivity into account. We aspire to pursue development, and we often observe this not only in the plains but also when we visit the Himalayan states. There, we find a tendency to replicate what we have seen in certain other parts of the

world. However, the question that arises is that what should be the approach to such development? We also have to keep in mind the geographical conditions. Our flora and fauna, our animals, birds, insects, crop varieties, they also need protection. The different tribes that live there are also like a living museum. If you go from the extreme west of the Himalayas to the eastern Himalayas, all this diversity is there. We should protect our cultural heritage on a very large scale. Just now, citing the Hon. Surface Transport Minister, someone said that it is better to build a ropeway instead of breaking huge boulders and rocks to build roads. I am fully aware that to meet the challenges of today, we must mobilise modern means of transport, and returning entirely to the old ways is neither practical nor advisable. However, where traditional modes of transportation are relevant and reflect our collective wisdom, we must continue to utilise them effectively.

When it comes to the question of energy, I would like to say that the big dams and hydraulic power projects that are being built, I do not think they are good for our Himalayan region. We also have Chief Minister and Hon. MPs from there and they know that the way nature is being treated unfairly, is not right. We understand there is a need for electricity, water, and dams in the region, and many scientific researches have been done. But we also need new researches, so we also need more Councils on how we can cancel

this facility and develop the resources there and use the bounty of nature.

There was a need for small dams there. Small-scale hydro projects can be built at various levels there. Maybe there are not many in the economic scale, so this is not a matter of criticism. We are concerned that scaling up everywhere alongside skill development may not be feasible everywhere. We cannot take our Himalayan states to that scale with equality but we will have to take development to that scale. I would also like to say that the people living there are the most hardworking people but they are also the most backward due to economic and natural disasters. There is also a shortage of educational institutions and the level of healthcare facilities that should be there, which is causing concern. We should provide all necessary facilities related to education and healthcare for human development there, so that we can harness human potential to its fullest. I believe that the northern part of Bengal, not being a distinct region, ought to be included within the Himalayan area. It would be more appropriate if this Bill is amended so that, instead of referring to it as Central Himalaya, a council is constituted for the entire Himalayan region. Some people also demand to create a separate province in North Bengal or Darjeeling. But I think that the reason for that is also backwardness. By forming a Council and viewing development from an integrated perspective as a whole, we

see that many false promises are made. In our region, when the government was formed in Bengal, they stated that they would turn Darjeeling and North Bengal into Switzerland. But such a separate Switzerland cannot be created in this manner. It is not a museum piece that can be bought separately and pasted there.

Therefore, I believe that the most essential thing for the development of that region is to figure out how we can bring the modern industries there. Whether they are in the northeastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, the northern parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, or Jammu & Kashmir, to achieve this, the Indian Government should work on establishing industries as special zones while considering the geographical conditions, weather challenges, and the skills of the local people. Like the Himalayan states, there are many types of states there, such as North Eastern states, but the part of North Bengal, whether it is Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri or Cooch Behar, that does not come under it, because it is a part of West Bengal. We indirectly push them towards the idea that if they create a separate state, it will be resolved. The thing which is available in Sikkim should also be available in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar; what is available in Assam should also be available in North Dinajpur, should be available in the entire part of North Bengal. Therefore, North Bengal should also be considered as a region, like

the Himalayan or Sub-Himalayan terrain. This will ensure that industrial development can reach there.

The second problem there is traffic. Today, if you look at the Himalayas, you feel proud. It is the crown jewel of our nation. But whether you go to Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, or Jammu and Kashmir, if you compare parts of India on one side and China and Tibet on the other, you will see a significant difference in development. When India and China started, between 1947 and 1939, not much difference, but we were much ahead. But if we look at China's latest developments today, they are pushing development in their hinterlands. They are sending more from the coastal areas to the hinterlands and due to this their means of road transport, rail transport and air transport are growing at a very fast pace. We are not looking at them only from the point of view of defence, we need it, but along with that if you look from the point of view of development, if we look beyond the Tawang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh, the road has reached there and if we are not able to take today's modern road there, then shame on us. If railways can reach Tibet and we have not been able to connect the people of this region with rail travel yet, whereas the highest station in the world was in Ghum, Darjeeling. We have the technology to send spacecraft to Mars, but we cannot give the people of the Himalayan province the means of transportation, it is not possible. Therefore, we need to pay

attention to this. In this regard, I myself had stated that it may demand for a separate district, separate region but that demand cannot be fulfilled if we don't view it in the context of the entire nation or don't look at it from the eastern to the western part of the country.

Third is agriculture. A huge amount of agricultural produce comes from our region, it is the most fertile land, since there is water, water is available there for the whole country. I am not ignoring it from an environmental perspective because it has been extensively mentioned. However, the way glaciers are retreating, the way our rivers are getting polluted, the way we have adopted modern methods, but due to not utilising them properly, we are destroying our forests, land, and water resources. I think we need to pay attention to them. We have crop diversification in agriculture, there are hundreds and thousands of such seeds which are becoming extinct, they need to be preserved. What we have received there in accordance with the geographical conditions as our heritage, we can offer to the entire world.

Similarly, we should extract and utilise the produce from our forests but it should not be destroyed. You see, that now the greenery is diminishing. When I go to Shimla, I feel the need to go to Shimla to recharge my oxygen and energy once a year. But we see that we are trying to turn it into Delhi. Are we trying to make it like

Seelampur in Old Delhi? Concrete structures are being built there. Not just Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, but you can see the same in Darjeeling and even in Jammu & Kashmir as well. Modernisation does not mean that we have to bring concrete, we have to bring cement, we have to build RCC structures, but I think all that is wrong. We have to develop keeping in mind the environment, geographical conditions and ecological balance of that place.

We have taught the whole world through Jain philosophy, Buddhist philosophy that how we should maintain equilibrium with nature, animal and birds. We cannot break that relationship, but that bond is breaking. I think when this separate Council is formed, attention will be paid to it. People across the world are travelling extensively and, after becoming modern and even ultra-modern, they now wish to return to the lap of nature. I believe that for this purpose, the Himalayan region is a vast space which can be offered to them. The best tea in the world is found in the lap of the Himalayas, in Darjeeling, in Jalpaiguri. Today, tea garden workers are being forced to commit suicide, the State Government is not looking in that direction. I know in the last session also, in response to the question, it was said that both the Union Government and the State Government should work together. The tea garden has been exploited. We earned foreign exchange from it, but could not plough back there. We will not be able to make Darjeeling tea anywhere

else. If we look at Assam, leave aside Darjeeling, the CTC tea, the expensive green leaf tea, the small farmers who do gardening, are being forced to sell it today, they are facing great problems. Whereas efforts should have been made to develop tea gardens up to Uttarakhand. There have been some exposure, but they haven't been very successful, but some are happening now. How can we diversify crops to provide employment opportunities to people. Do this according to the weather there. In this regard, the Hon. Member made a very pertinent point about herbs and medicinal plants. As lifestyles are changing, and people's ways of living are undergoing transformation, so are the patterns of diseases evolving. In that context, we must consider how our medicinal plants, our herbs, and our traditional remedies can be further modernised in accordance with today's scientific standards. We should also explore how to develop proper extraction methods and, alongside medicinal plants, establish pharmaceutical companies in that region. Even now, most medicines we take are obtained from synthetic sources, from chemicals. How can we get it from natural resources and for that the Himalaya is a huge field, a farm, from which we can extract. I understand that I am supporting this Bill. There was a lot to speak about, but Ramesh Ji has covered most of it. I fully support his statement. I just want to say that instead of limiting it to the Central Himalayan region, if you embrace the entire Himalayas and include

it from West to Northeast, Eastern Himalayas to Western, Shivalik to Arakkonam, it will be much better and I think that the demand will become very strong and the Government will also be forced to do this work.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Sir, I stand in support of the very serious and sensitive issue related to human life

raised by the former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. But I would like to remind him that perhaps his Government was in power in Uttarakhand at that time when a Baba died due to hunger strike. ...

(Interruptions)

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): Who had died? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: A baba had died, ...* a baba had died who was against the mafia who destroyed nature ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rajesh Ji, you should not take that name.

This name should be removed from the records.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, this name should be removed from the records.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rudy ji, an order has been given to remove the name from the records.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I am saying this so that it does not get misinterpreted outside.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: All right.

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It has been taken out of the proceedings.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: If it gets misinterpreted wrongly then it is not right.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Your commitment is justified, there is no problem in that. What I am saying is that whatever you have said, this country or 120 crore people are not different from this. Nature and the Supreme Being, God guide by nature or nature guide by God, Nature and the God are each a manifestation granted by the other. Our strength and way of life, our ultimate goal and practice, which is our way of life, is connected with the Himalayas, mountains and nature. The question arises that most of the Chief Ministers living in the Himalayas have been from BJP. You were also Chief Minister in Uttarakhand, Shri Khanduri was Chief Minister, our friend has passed away, his father was also Chief Minister. There is no debate of politics today, but the question arises, how do you want to make this rule? A person goes on a hunger strike for more than a month and ends his life for the protection of the mountains. Just five kilometres away from there, another person goes on a hunger strike, the whole country and the entire Government comes together for him. When a person ends his life for the protection and structure of the mountains, no one in this country is concerned about him. I am seriously asking how serious you are on this serious issue and how

serious is the House, this is a very important question. That is why I have put forward these things.

Everyone knows that our civilisation. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Right now, he is standing, you can speak when he sits down. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I follow the rules.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: You can tell me later, I have no problem. The world knows that Sadashiva, who is our foremost revered guru, has been spoken about from ancient times to today. Even before him, during the times of sages and monks, from the time of Adam to the early ages, discussions have been held about great souls, sages, and monks, as well as about ways of life. You have spoken about Ayurveda. You spoke about spirituality and culture, you have mentioned etiquette, and you have spoken about life, water, forests, and land. There are a lot of things in it. I do not want to quote the words spoken by Hon. Narendra Modi in the mountains. In the time of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the agreements made with many countries regarding trade along with our foreign policy also include all these points about how to increase trade. By tampering with nature, destroying both nature and life, giving rise to a consumerist culture, and reducing the entire Western civilisation to the pursuit of money and wealth, we have diminished the sensitivity inherent to

human life. The arrival of all the capitalists, along with our policies, has been directed solely towards the material happiness of the capitalists. We seek to know, till date, whether it concerns the question of Uttarakhand or the gravest earthquake witnessed in our country. There have been two tragedies in this nation: one being the tragedy of Sikkim and the other, the tragedy of Uttarakhand. Are these two tragedies man-made or are they nature-made? These two big incidents have happened and they are man-made tragedy. The reason for this is the policy of the Indian Government. The policy of the Indian Government has never felt the sensitivity of the human life living in the Himalayas and mountains, due to which such tragedies occur. We want to know, the Hon. Minister is sitting here.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Chairperson Sir, Rajesh Ranjan ji is speaking in the House. Our point is that he is speaking so well, and the whole country is listening to him. May he always speak this well, this will be our request to him.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: The matter has been taken far from its original context. Rajiv ji is like my brother. Many other brother likes are sitting there and they show great respect; they are all my friends. Since childhood, I, Rajiv ji, Ram Kripal ji, we have stayed together, became M.L.A., became M.P. We are together and we have a lot of love, there is no doubt about it. The matter has been taken far from

its original context. On the issue of Indian democracy and culture, we stand together. Do not be concerned; on this subject, there is no difference between us. We are together when it comes to human civilisation.

We would like to say just two or three things. Why was the Ministry not envisaged regarding the question of the safety of the Himalayas before the Ganga when the Ganga originates from the lap of the Himalayas? Has former Chief Minister ji ever bathed in the holy waters of Rishikesh? The water there has become so rotten and people from all over India go and take a dip in that rotten water. I would like to say to the Hon. Minister sitting here that without any further delay, a Ministry should be found and a Ministry should be formed. The son of a king from Himachal Pradesh is also sitting here, and a king who was a former Chief Minister is also sitting here. Either of these two people should be given the responsibility of that Ministry so that the Himalayas are protected completely and strongly. We would like the Government to do this and if they bring you along, it would be a great step.

Sir, I would like to quote a small incident. It is written in it that there were problems during the British rule. These problems cannot be solved unless the Centre takes appropriate policy initiatives. Modern technology cannot be implemented for building roads in the mountains. There is neither rail, nor air, nor road in the mountainous

region - even after 67 years of Independence, there are only two-three railway lines. If we do not mention Darjeeling and some other things, although you have mentioned all the things, then I would like to know from Nishank ji that in the mountains, 100-year-old, 200-year-old trees are planted whose age is 100 years, 150 years and 200 years. Trees like pine or deodar, which hold the mountains with their roots, which is the strength of the Himalayas, which gives strength to the Himalayas, you mortgage and sell such trees to capitalists, corporate houses, mafias and brokers and plant new 10-20 year old trees. ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Hon. Chairperson, I have strong objection to this.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: I have not taken your name.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: I think if Hon. Rajesh Ranjan ji had read my proposal, it is mentioned there that this Bill is for the protection and development of the people, forests, land and water of the Himalayan states. This Bill is for the policy made to protect it. That is why I want to say that two-three things which you have said are objectionable, you are repeatedly saying that we are going to do it by bringing people from outside.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: No no, not you.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Then you speak on this Bill. This Bill is important for the entire world only for the conservation and development of the people, forests, land and the entire region of the Himalayan region. Whether it is the Ayurveda there or the forests there, all the things, all the property is for the entire country, for the entire world. Therefore, we brought this Bill so that a policy can be made on this and it can be organised by making a policy.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Sir, I am coming to your very points.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nishank ji is explaining your sentiments in detail and taking your sentiments forward.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Pakistan, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh.. ... (*Interruptions*) I am coming to your points. I have not said about the Hon. Member. I was referring to the way the policy is and the incidents that have happened till date. Since you have brought this important subject in the House, I brought it to your attention that you know how brokers, middlemen and mafias are working there. You are bringing power projects there. I want to know, can't we develop the Himalayas by bringing big universities, cinema things since it is a tourist place, big hospitals, yoga, sadhna system etc. to it? Can we develop the economic prosperity of that area only by bringing electricity? Whereas you know what kind of

incident or accident it leads to. It is not hidden from anyone what kind of accident is going to happen there due to these power projects. The big capitalists of the country, about whom it is said here that their names should not be taken, if their names are taken then there will be objection. The country and the world are being toured for them and power is being given to promote such capitalists. Such capitalists are being brought there. You have, in the past as well, brought in such capitalists, thereby causing the complete destruction of the culture of the Himalayas and the hills, along with the entire way of life that existed there. Will the Government formulate a policy through this Ministry under which life is preserved there, nature is not destroyed, the environment is not polluted, and the daily life there is not affected? This is my most important question.

The second thing is that my area of Bihar, like Madhepura, Saharsa, Supaul, Purnia, Madhubani, Darbhanga and some portions bordering Nepal, every year the entire life is destroyed due to the floods of the world's biggest tragedy, the river Kosi. In this regard, I want to know that when you form a Ministry, will you include those areas in any Council? If you take our areas of North Bihar like Kishanganj, Araria, Madhepura, Saharsa, Katihar, Bhagalpur, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi etc. under any Council, then I think that there will be development in that area. Currently, there is a severe lack of development in that region. Everyone knows this.

Ram Kripal ji is sitting here and he has always been fighting for the development of that area. If today we make that region of North Bihar free from floods, then certainly it will be very good for the farmers and youth of that area. That area is known for these four things - fish, paddy, betel leaf and house. These four things will make the common man of that area prosperous and give him strength. Do you have any plans for this?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rajesh ji, now you conclude.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Sir, I will conclude my speech in two minutes. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Where are the Himalayas in this?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: It includes the Himalayas, that is why I am saying so. Friend, you are a resident of Himachal, the region of snow, i.e. Devbhoomi, I would just like to say that the Himalayas have made the biggest contribution to world history. If anything more than the military, it is the Himalayas that serve as the strongest force and pillar of our security for safeguarding the entire Indian democracy, traditions, culture, and so forth. We must not allow the nature of the Himalayas to be destroyed. The question before us is how we can strengthen the Himalayas and ensure the development of the regions situated within and around them, whether it be

Bangladesh, Himachal or any other region in this expanse. The present challenges to their development, along with reflections on the past and our aspirations for the future, must be addressed with foresight. What happened in the past must not be allowed to happen again in the future. For this purpose, the Government must act through a solid and dedicated ministry that does not destroy but rather protects the combined strength of our culture, civilisation, nature and divinity. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to know whether the Government will take any steps for this or not.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: The point which he has made when I was the Chief Minister. ... (*Interruptions*) I want to say this because our Government made the policy of small hydro power project. Let me also tell you that there are 18 to 20 universities there. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You will get time to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rajesh ji, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Rajesh ji, you are a senior Member. If he also speaks up, then what else is left to say? You have just said so many things. If you say this as well after it, then I think there are some parliamentary traditions about it that we do not mention it, which you have mentioned. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you that you have given me time to speak on a very important issue raised by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank ji. He has not only talked about Uttarakhand, he has also proposed to establish a Council named Central Himalayan State Development Council to prepare development plans and schemes for the balanced and all-round development of the hill states falling under the Central Himalayan region and to monitor their implementation. A Bill providing for matters related to it should be considered. In the last Session as well, you had demanded for a Ministry at that time. At that time as well, you provided an opportunity, in that debate Nishank ji and all of us participated including you, because it was an important topic. What he means today is, I think there are certainly a lot of things that go into the formation of a Ministry that may take time, there may be a process

to it. Nishank ji has presented a Bill, and we wanted that at least until then, for the development of the entire Himalayan region, management, and for those areas that Hon. Members were concerned about, at least a hill council or development authority should be established in that manner.

It is not just a question of one state, today the states that come in this Himalayan region include 11 states. These include Uttarakhand, Himachal, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura. Today, you can see that there is a change in the weather in 11 states. The tragedy at Kedarnath affected not only us and the people of our country, but also drew the attention of people all around the world to understand the reasons behind it. Today, the question is not about pointing fingers or engaging in political debate regarding the causes of that tragedy. However, it remains a significant tragedy whose scars are still felt today. Perhaps even today, the prayers inscribed on the walls still reflect the pain that has not faded away. We haven't been able to forget that incident yet. The way the tragedy struck Uttarakhand and then subsequently Jammu & Kashmir was perhaps unimaginable. In Srinagar, the capital of Jammu & Kashmir, people might suddenly find themselves trapped in their homes, government offices closed, and the State Government left helpless. The way the Hon. Prime Minister took the initiative for this, otherwise it seemed

that the tragedy that happened in the floods in Jammu and Kashmir and the way nature started playing havoc, there would be loss of thousands of lives and property. Our soldiers went there. Our brave soldiers and the way the Centre was managed, a Disaster Management Team of Authorities was deputed, Ministers were sent, I think surely that management is being praised by the people of the whole of Jammu & Kashmir today. In the past years, there was a belief in the minds of people that there is some kind of discrimination against Jammu & Kashmir, due to which a feeling of separatism was also being created in the minds of the people. Somewhere, people across the border were also successful in exploiting this situation. Today I can say with confidence that the Union Government under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi has definitely worked in the flood tragedy of Srinagar and Jammu and Kashmir. Today the result is that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have love for India in their hearts and they have established an unbreakable bond with India.

If we look at this topic, then in relation to it you will see that first there was the tragedy of Kedarnath, then there was the tragedy of Jammu & Kashmir. If such incidents re occur in the future, in any of the 11 states I mentioned, how long will we continue to witness these tragedies? This is not a small area. The area of these 11 states is 5 lakh 93 thousand square kilometres. It is natural that a very large part of this country lives in that area of 5 lakh 93 thousand square

kilometres, somewhere there are dense forests, somewhere there are skyscrapers, somewhere there are lakes, somewhere there are rivers. In this way, you all know how difficult the life of a person living in the Himalayas is. We all have had the opportunity to visit these areas, be it Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, or Jammu & Kashmir. We have seen these places and have even done trekking there. I myself have been at the NCC's trekking camp in Manali, I have also done mountaineering in that trekking. Sitting here, we cannot even imagine those areas. Our colleague Anurag ji represents that state. If we look at the census of the year 2011 of these states, there is a population of approximately 7.5 crore. With a population of 7.5 crore, today we are facing three to four challenges.

It's not just India that is concerned about global warming, the entire world is worried about it in some way or another. The alteration in ecology, climate, and weather patterns happening worldwide are evident in the results we are witnessing. Today, these results are certainly becoming detrimental to human life in some way or the other. Today, this is the type of situation there. Glaciers are melting, and illegal logging of forests is taking place there. You yourself used to worry about this matter in the Legislative Assembly for twenty years and we also used to worry about this. The balance of our environment depends on how much of these forests should be

cut, because if there is forest cover on 33 percent of the land area, only then can we achieve environmental balance. When such circumstances arise, it is high time that we are dealing with the development there today, the way the Forest Act 1980 has come, due to which there is a lot of difficulty in construction work. Whether it is a road or dry wood, the people there cannot pick it up. You see that in all our national forests, Rajaji Park, the old people there, Tharu, Buksa or hill castes, tribes, whatever rights they had, today they do not even have those rights.

Today the situation is such that if a small drinking water scheme is to be initiated in a village, if a road to the village is to be made, then that is also questioned because of our forest regulations, 1980. Today, what is happening there is that people are migrating out of those states. The youth of those states are leaving from there. You can be sure that whether it's Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, or even Nepal, today everything is running on a money order economy.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Since another subject is coming up, you will also probably agree with this. Ten minutes were allotted and they are about to be completed. Please wrap up your statement in a minute.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I will follow your orders. Today, development of the Himalayas has been talked about, the pain of which has been expressed by Hon. Nishank ji, is important in every way, it is important from social and strategic point of view. The way China is consistently encroaching today, China's 350-kilometre area is only connected to Uttarakhand. If our entire borders are looked at, they meet the international borders of Myanmar, Nepal and China. On one hand, it is not just a question of internal security of these states, but the international borders connected to the country are definitely important for us from a strategic point of view. Char Dham pilgrimage is done in these states. It is not merely that the lives of the people of Uttarakhand are limited; rather, it is the centre of faith and belief for people across the entire nation. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you please conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I will follow your order. I understand that the visit of Char Dham should surely take place there. While we are talking of tourism, recently the Hon. Prime Minister had gone to Nepal and he had said in the Constituent Assembly there that we have to move forward together, we have to work in harmony. He has talked about maximum connectivity, India's movement with Nepal. I am not going to shed too much light on the tourism sector, but now tourism opportunities exist for the economy of this country, for Nepal as well, and it for the entire Himalayan range. I think this is a

very important subject. If you give us more time for this, then we can express our views. ... (*Interruptions*) Our feelings are attached to this, you understand this. It is a land of Gods and is like heaven. Today nature is being tampered with, so the Government should definitely think about this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP SHARMA (MANDI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank ji has introduced the Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill - 2014 in this House. I stand to speak in its support. I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister of India who has set up the Ministry to cleanse the Ganga and has taken this step to make Mother Ganga clean, which has made the entire nation happy. Taking the inspiration and blessings of Mother Ganga, whose blessings we used to take before going somewhere, today a Ministry has been established for this purpose. Similarly, Dr. Pokhriyal Ji has put forward in the House today the importance of setting up a separate committee or Central Himalayan State Council for the development of the Himalayan regions. The Mandi Parliamentary Constituency is the second largest tribal area in the country, comprising three tribal regions. In these hilly states, particularly in the State of Himachal Pradesh, the challenges are

numerous. The tribal communities residing in the Mandi Parliamentary Constituency face considerable hardship, and in terms of development, we remain significantly backward. If we focus on those areas today, many tourism destinations can be developed there. When we visit 'Kaza', it feels like we have landed on the moon. Beauty, waterfalls and lakes are a source of inspiration. After the great deluge, Manu's ark came to rest in Manali. During the Mahabharata war, Ghatotkacha altered the course of battle, and a temple dedicated to his mother Hidimba was built in the land of Himachal Pradesh. I would like everyone's cooperation in passing this proposal as the Hon. Nishank ji has put forward. When we talk about the Himalayas, Ganga, Ram, Krishna, Hindi, and India, everyone begins to look the other way. If we talk about Vietnam today, it fought a war with America for 17-18 years. When it was asked how it fought the war, it said that it fought for 17 years after reading Maharana Pratap's war policy. Our culture is very magnificent. That is why we would like that Ganga and Himalayas should be protected and steps should be taken for that. I would like the motion moved by Hon. Nishank ji, to be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Chairperson Sir, the Central Himalayan State Development Council Bill, 2014 has been brought in this House by our colleague and former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Ji. I am standing here in front of you all to support it. Chairperson Sir, through you, I want to bring to the notice of Hon. Members that when it comes to Himalayas, I feel that every person in the House stands with us on this issue. Whether it is from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, everyone has a soft corner towards the Himalayan States somewhere. Even in the last session, when a similar issue was discussed, a large number of Hon. Members here supported that Bill. After all, what is it that brings everyone together with the land of Gods, with the Himalayan states? If you live in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab or any other

big region of India, whenever you feel that your body, mind, heart needs rest from the health point of view, I think that if you want to come back rejuvenated and work with full strength, if you need to take a break, you look towards the Himalayas to spend your holidays. But when you go to the Himalayan states, what is the biggest cause of worry? The infrastructure there is collapsing. Even if a small road has to be built there, there are problems in getting forest clearance. The land on which there is not even a single tree, that land also comes under forest and for its case clearance, one has to approach the Union Government. The youth there yearn to get a good education despite being born in poor families. They walk for 15-15 kilometres. A five-year-old, ten-year-old child studies with the hope that someday he will do well in life and will contribute to the development of India. But when it comes to getting employment, one has to look towards Delhi and other big states. There is no infrastructure, no good education, no employment. What is there in those states after all? The circumstances under which the people live their lives there, may be known to people like me, Nishank Ji, and Ramswaroop Ji. As a tourist, spending a few months or even a few days there might not make you fully aware of the ground-level issues. Yes, it's true that when a natural disaster strikes somewhere, it becomes the breaking news on every TV channel and makes headlines on the front page of every newspaper.

When there is talk of forming a Ministry for the Himalayan states to help them progress and to provide them facilities in the Parliament, not even two lines are seen in any newspaper. The nation stands up after a disaster, but no one is ready to worry and discuss before a disaster strikes. Will we discuss it every time and then leave it at that? Does the Private Member's Bill means that it will come here, it will be discussed, and ultimately the Hon. Member will withdraw it. After all, if there is any fact, strength in that Bill, then I think the House should accept it and the Government should take some step in this direction.

Chairperson Sir, natural calamity struck Uttarakhand two years ago and Kashmir this year, both of them were very sad incidents. Hundreds of people have lost their lives in those incidents. People have given money from every corner of India, but what should be done with that money when there is no family? When there are no houses, no roads and no strength to go there, then what is the point of building those roads? After all, when we talk of sustainable development, every member of the society will have to associate with it and think about it ahead of time. After all, what does Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Kashmir lack? If we want, we can give employment to every person of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and North East only through tourism. But if someone from West Bengal, Gujarat and Chennai

wants to go to Himachal Pradesh, there is a flight to Delhi for him, but one has to spend Rs. 18,000 to take a flight to Dharamsala. There are flights to Kullu for two days a week. There is no flight to Shimla. How will you go there and from where will you see? When you have to go, you break your back for 12 hours to reach some corner. The person who goes to rest comes back feeling nauseous and tired. Industries can be set up there. It was Vajpayee ji who had been kind enough, he didn't bother that Jammu & Kashmir had a National Conference Government, Uttarakhand had a Congress Government, and Himachal Pradesh had a Bharatiya Janata Party Government, but on the suggestion of Prem Kumar Dhumal ji, if anyone provided an industrial package to all three states in the year 2002, it was done by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji's Government. Lakhs of industries were set up, lakhs of people got employment. Somewhere, in its bordering areas, industries could be established, leading to industrial development there. But even today lakhs of people are unemployed there. When people are unemployed there, migration problem will arise. People from the mountains will come here and leave their homes and families behind. Why is growth centralised? The centre of attraction is towards the big cities, because there is infrastructure here. There is no shortage of educated people there either. There is no shortage of land there either, but when it comes to feasibility, any industrialist would think to set up industries where the market is

nearby. But these problems will remain forever. Till the time we do not pay attention to these, till the time we do not stand with the hill states, these problems will keep on occurring.

I want to say that whenever it comes to defence of India, as my friend just said, the Himalayas provide great security. Along with the Himalayas, the youth of the Himalayas also play a very important role in the security of India. Not a month, not a week goes by when the youth of the Himalayan states, especially Himachal Pradesh, do not lose their lives in the defence of India. We do not step back in defending the country, but when it comes to employment for the rest of the youth there, we have to look at the entire country. When it comes to education, we have to look at the rest of the country. When it comes to setting up industries, we have to look at the rest of the country. When will we stop looking towards the rest of the country? When will the country look towards the Himalayas? Today there is a need to look towards the Himalayan states only then they will be able to develop. Sustainable growth requires a department that will surely be able to see their problems. The people in our flat regions here cannot understand why prices are three times higher there? There are no roads in many places, so goods have to be carried on mules, which costs more to transport. There are less workers. All the raw material comes from outside. Problems are still there.

The Government should pay attention to tourism. If tourism has to be promoted in the Himalayan region, then these areas should be brought under a package so that the infrastructure here improves. Rural tourism should be promoted so that people go to the village and stay. Attention should be paid to next door farming so that people can cooperate and get good prices. Medicinal plants are a huge asset, these should be promoted more so that good prices can be obtained. There is a lot of forest resources here. Countries around the world cut their trees, do new plantations many times more and earn from that. Here in our hilly states, cutting trees is banned. If someone has a tree in his house, even that person cannot cut it. If some family member dies in someone's house, he cannot cut the tree in his house and burn the pyre. There are such problems here. If we give something to the country, it is clean water, clean climate. I think if the people there snatch this from you then it will become difficult for the people to live in a state like Delhi.

This place has a huge contribution in the development of the states of the country. A separate Ministry has been formed for the North-East. There are many provisions for them which benefit them. One can travel to Jammu & Kashmir by flight for around 4000 rupees. But if someone wants to go to Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, he has to buy a ticket worth 18000-20000 rupees. The Government should also cooperate in this. Some Hon. Ministers are

sitting here, I request that whenever a cabinet meeting is held, our sentiments should be conveyed to them.

I thank you all for listening to me here.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2014 which has been brought here by senior leader Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal. Earlier, in the previous Session of Parliament, he had asked for a separate Ministry to be formed for the development of Himalayan States and now he urges the Government to create a Central Himalayan States Development Council, till a separate Ministry is formed, for the development of Himalayan States.

Sir, I come from Rajasthan. Water for my State comes from the hill State of Himachal Pradesh. So I look forward for the progress and prosperity of hill States. A large number of our people are very closely associated with the hill States. The purpose of this Bill is basically to uplift the States of Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and other North Eastern States of our country.

There was a cloud burst in Uttarakhand area and before that there was an earthquake. There was a lot of destruction in the State of Uttarakhand. Due to the cloud burst in Uttarakhand, a lot of pilgrims going to Kedarnath had to face difficulties and many people were stranded in the hilly terrains. The infrastructure in the State was

completely damaged. So, to improve infrastructure and other basic facilities of the State, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal has brought this Bill.

I would like to focus on a few important issues here. These hill States do provide our country with the Army and the para-military forces. They provide us an opportunity of tourism which has been mentioned by the previous speakers. The most important thing is the cultural tourism which people undertake especially in States like Uttarakhand and other hill States of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. We need to look into that. They are also located strategically vis-à-vis our neighbours. So need to have a special focus on that.

Education in this area has to be uplifted. We need to look at the future growth of this area which we are asking for through our GDP growth. We must uplift these areas with the new Skill Development Ministry which has been formed. We need to look at the industries which were helped by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee *sahib* through a special package.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir has experienced flooding which has totally devastated the region. A special package to this region will certainly help us. Railways in these regions are dismal. I would just like to focus on Uttarakhand which has only 345 kilometres of railways and 90 percent of the area is hilly. The same

condition happens to be in Himachal and other parts of the region. There is shortage of medical facilities and staff. We need to look at improving the air connectivity to these regions. We can improve transportation vis-à-vis health, vis-à-vis tourism and help people to travel to different parts of the region. The basic function of this is to help industrial growth, to promote the remote areas by connecting them by roads and rails, to help telecommunication which is not there, to provide electricity, drinking water and housing which are not there, to provide health services, to provide educational facilities and employment and to lessen suffering of people coming in from the hill States to major towns so that they get employment there.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dushyant *Ji*, please conclude now.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, I am just concluding. The North East Council was set up in 1971 which consists of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. In 2002, Sikkim was added. They have a vision: the 2020 plan. The other States also want to be a part of that vision. By this we can make India and the hill States more stronger. We also need to look at organic farming. My State, Rajasthan also has hilly areas of high repute like Abu and Aravallis. We need to focus on that. So I would urge the Ministry to give a special package to our region.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Chairperson Sir, the State from which I have been elected, borders Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The water of Punjab comes from Himachal Pradesh. The rivers of Punjab, Sutlej, Vyas, all originate from Himachal Pradesh, as my friend Shri Anurag Ji said. But the effort which should have been made in the field of tourism, no Government has done so far. Every year two crore tourists visit London. Every year five crore tourists visit New York and only 20 lakh tourists visit India in a year. I want to convey this message to the Government, through you, that whether it's cultural tourism or religious tourism, there are many historical temples and Gurudwaras in the Himalayan states. Millions of people visit there for pilgrimage. If good arrangements are made for them on roads and accommodation there, then it will also be a huge economic benefit to the country. I agree that the hill youths have a lot of talent; no matter which field they want to go into, they have to migrate here and there. I want to give an example. There is a PGI hospital in Chandigarh, patients from four states come there and there is a lot of burden on the doctors. PGI Chandigarh is for the people of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, Haryana and Punjab, this causes a lot of problems. Therefore, there should be provision of hospitals in the Himalayan region from Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh. The youth of the mountains can

make a big contribution in sports, like a stadium was built in Dharamsala and Dharamsala came on the world map. Now we have very beautiful cities for this. Such provision should be made for infrastructure like hockey, cricket, athletics and shooting range etc. so that the youth of the mountains can contribute in Olympics, Asian games and national sports. Recently, in the natural calamity that struck Jammu & Kashmir and Kedarnath, we should accept our human error. This loss has happened because of the tampering with nature. Even God cannot change the past, we cannot change the past, but to ensure that this does not happen in the future, I urge that special packages be given to these States so that people of these States can proudly say that they are Indians, so that the mountains and their youth who are contributing to the security of the country, feel proud of being Indian.

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDRAJIT SINGH): Chairperson Sir, for the last one and a half hour today, the Bill brought by Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ji is being discussed. The Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2014 is being discussed. I want to congratulate Pokhriyal ji that the hard work he has done in making this Bill is clearly visible. After that, the way he has advocated this in the House, it is also convincing. He is experienced, he understands everything and has put the essence of everything in this Bill. I compliment the efforts he has made to bring this Bill. I agree with his views. Not only him, all the other Hon. Members who have spoken, members of various parties have expressed their views, the Hon. Member from the hilly areas has spoken, Members from the plains have spoken and almost everyone has agreed that the Himalayan region, especially the Central Himalayan region, should progress at all costs. Mohammad Salim Saheb also discussed Assam and Bengal Hill Areas, but this Bill belongs only to the Central Himalayan States and there is a Ministry already which was created the Council about the North Eastern States in the year 1972. Perhaps they might not be aware of this. There are three provinces in today's

discussion, they are deprived of that Development Council, I think that is why this Bill has been brought. All the Hon. Members who have participated in this discussion, the Government agrees with their views.

Not just today but for the past several decades, whichever Government has been in power, they have realised that unless we encourage the Himalayan region, India could never have become the golden bird in the past, nor can it even aspire to become so in the future. Whether it's from a security perspective or a medicinal perspective, whether it's because of the people there or because of the biodiversity, all these things are under the consideration of the Government. I would like to tell Hon. Nishank ji that the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) has already been proposed and implemented by the Government and under this, expenditure of Rs. 550 crore has been regularised under the 12th Plan. The Government is actively pursuing this scheme under the National Action Plan for Climate Change. Whether it involves discussions on glaciers, natural disasters, biodiversity including flora and fauna, wildlife, or traditional indigenous societies and their ways of life, this national mission aims not only to shed light on these aspects but also to develop programmes for the future by learning from them. Hon. Pokhriyal ji, I want to tell you that the Government is working on this thing.

When our Government came, our Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi went to Katra and when he reached there to flag off a train, he said this in his speech that,

[English]

“The Government will work on a model for the common development of the Himalayan ecosystem from Jammu and Kashmir up to North-East.”

So, he is also aware [Translation] That we will have to give some thought to it. Thirdly, I want to tell that there is the National Development Council, which is chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister and all the Chief-Ministers are its Members. Through this Council, these three provinces already fall under the Special Category States. Apart from these, there are 8 more provinces which come in the Special Category States. Which are the individual states of the North-East that have been given special categorisation due to various reasons? Within it, there are also those provinces which probably have areas of plains as well as hill states, within which Assam is also included. These 11 are considered special category states, they have got this categorisation through NDC and the normal central assistance is given by the Government of India to the states, so these 11 provinces have already been given 56 percent normal central assistance. The remaining 18 provinces which are not getting special

category, get only 44 percent assistance from the Government of India through normal central assistance. Similarly, there is a special plan assistance from the Government of India which is given for the projects. Within this, special plan assistance is given by the Centre, in which 90 percent assistance is given in the form of grant and the remaining ten percent is given in the form of loan, which these provinces have to return to the Centre. If we compare this with the provinces which do not fall in the specialised category, then whatever assistance is given to them, is given in the form of back-to-back loan, which those 18 provinces have to return to the Union Government. Block grants which are given by the Union Government to the State Governments. It is given through the Planning Ministry and the Ministry of Finance. Hundred percent of the block grants goes to these areas and this money is not taken back.

Along with this, Border Areas Development Programme is run for the provinces adjoining the border areas, from Jammu-Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh etc. Keeping myself limited only to the three provinces that have been mentioned today, I would like to say that this programme is monitored by the Home Ministry. In the year 2014, under this programme, Rs. 9111 lakhs have been released to Jammu-Kashmir and Rs. 12 thousand 800 crores have been allocated to them. Rs. 3565 lakhs have been allocated for Uttarakhand and Rs. 2821.84 lakhs have been released. Rs. 21 hundred crores have been

allocated for Himachal Pradesh and till now Rs. 782 lakhs have been released. The Union Government agrees with this and is making efforts in this regard. At the same time, from the discussions that my colleagues are having here, I understand that there is pressure on the Government and it is being forced to think about a special package or Ministry. Until this happens, we are trying to do whatever efforts we can from our Government. Our Government, our Hon. Prime Minister, our party and every citizen of India would ever wish that the natural wall which stands between us and the countries opposed to us, along with all the beings, animals, and plants inhabiting it, should be destroyed from this day forward. It is in this spirit that efforts are being undertaken by our Government and active discussions are going on regarding this. Our Hon. Thakur ji has said that the discussions held here should be deliberated upon in the Cabinet meeting. As a lawyer, our department will present your case further, this is what I can tell you. Rajesh Ranjan ji discussed Bihar outside the Bill, but he said one thing whether the disasters that have happened are man-made or natural. This can be discussed.

Sir, in the views expressed by Jagdambika Pal ji, Ramswaroop Sharma ji, Dushyant Singh ji, Bhagwant Maan ji and other Hon. Members on this proposal, their heartfelt feelings and pain to preserve and propagate it was visible. This Government is aware of that.

I would like to request Pokhriyal ji to withdraw his Bill today keeping all these points in mind. This issue is already being looked into with full sympathy by the Government.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Chairperson Sir, Mohammad Salim, Rajesh Ranjan, Jagdambika Pal, Ramswaroop Sharma, Anurag Thakur, Dushyant Singh, and Bhagwant Mann ji expressed their sentiments on this Bill. I think if there was time, a lot of more Hon. MPs would have expressed their feelings on it.

I am very grateful to the Hon. Minister for acknowledging that yes, it is needed and it is in the perspective of the whole country. I am very grateful to them for not only respecting everyone's sentiments but also mentioning that they are actively considering it for the near future until it happens. Therefore, I am very hopeful that a separate Ministry of this Himalayan belt will be formed which will become the strength of the country. If we have formed a separate Ministry for the North-Eastern states, if we have formed a department of the Home Ministry for Jammu & Kashmir but have left out Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, then what crime have these two states committed because in these two states on an average, one person from every family joins the army and sacrifices his life on the borders of the nation. In the second line, his mother and sisters provide evidence of the same unparalleled patriotism as soldiers. There are not just one but many examples of this fact.

Therefore, I wish to place a request before the Government, for it is indeed true that the Government provides many grants, particularly to the special category states. I would like to make a sincere appeal that, whether it pertains to the North-Eastern states or others, there should be a thorough analysis of where the funds being disbursed actually stand in the absence of clearly defined Central policies. This is discussed in this House itself. Where is that money going? The Government of India is doing it fairly and is also giving money. You have also formed the Council and are also giving grants according to 90 and 10 percent. But due to lack of policies, that money is not going to the right place. That's why I said this last time, not just for the sake of discussion, but let us think about the country. We think about the progress of the country. That's why I had said that a separate Ministry should be formed for the entire Himalayan belt, whether it is for the North-Eastern states, whether it is for Jammu & Kashmir or whether it is for Himachal and Uttarakhand. It should have a separate Ministry. A policy should be made for this because if a policy is made then it will be implemented and our intention will materialise on the ground. When this policy is made from here, the benefit will be many times more than the amount of money currently being released by the Government of India. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that this Department must be constituted so that this Department can make an

important contribution to the progress of the country and to prosperity. Since he has also assured, therefore, on the assurance of the Hon. Minister that we will soon get a separate Ministry for the Himalayas, and until it happens, somewhere in this session, the process to make a council will begin, so with this hope, I withdraw my Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Chairperson Sir, first of all, I thank the Hon. Minister that he assured. I want a brief clarification, in the discussion Nishank Ji drew our attention towards two states in particular. However, you are seriously considering forming a ministry for these states, for that I thank you sincerely for this. But there are adjoining areas with these states, which are foothills of the Himalayas, as you know, in Kalka district, and adjacent Saharanpur district where you come from. Ours is the area of Shivalik. I understand that when you consider these regions, form Ministries and make policies, please also pay attention to these areas. This is the small suggestion which I wanted to make.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the setting up of a Council to be called the Central Himalayan States Development Council to formulate development plans and schemes and also to monitor their implementation for the balanced and all-round development of the hilly States comprising the Central Himalayan region and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the setting up of a Council to be called the Central Himalayan States Development Council to formulate development plans and schemes and also to monitor their implementation for the balanced and all-round development of the hilly States comprising the Central Himalayan region and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Sir, I withdraw this proposal.

17.46 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, before I call Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki to move the motion for consideration of the Acid (Control) Bill, 2014, I have to inform the House that Shri Haribhai Parathibhai Chaudhary, Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* communication dated 27 November 2014 has intimated that the President, having been informed of the subject matter of the Bill, recommends the consideration of the Bill under Article 117 (3) of the Constitution in Lok Sabha.

17.47hrs.

ACID CONTROL BILL, 2014

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Dr. Kirit PremJibhai Solanki.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Chairperson Sir, I beg to move:-

“that the Bill to provide for control of sale and distribution of acids in order to prevent the acid attacks on human beings particularly women and girls and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

Chairperson Sir, you have permitted me to speak on a subject which is a very important. Today atrocities against women are continuing to escalate. But as far as the crime of acid attack is concerned, I think it is a heinous crime in itself. This is such a crime which brings shame on the entire human race. The way women are harassed in this crime, the kind of torture they have to undergo, the way women have to wander from door to door, I think that you have sent me to highlight such a subject of India. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Chairperson Sir, where is the Hon. Minister sitting?

HON. SPEAKER: Very senior Ministers are sitting.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: You have given me permission to highlight this issue in the highest Panchayat of India i.e. Lok Sabha. I have stood up to draw the attention of the entire country, through you, and the House and through the Government. As far as Indian culture is concerned, India is such a vast culture which is thousands of years old. The crucial point of this culture was the respect towards women, which is emphasised throughout our scriptures and Vedas. It is written everywhere that there should be a sense of respect towards women, reverence towards women. It is also written in the Puranas - 'Yatra Naryastu Pujyante, Tatra Ramante Devta.' (Where women are honoured, there the gods rejoice.) This is the heritage of our country, it is the heritage of the land of Bharat and when there is harassment towards women on such a land, there is atrocity towards women, then everyone needs to introspect. We all need to rise above party politics and think on this. On such an occasion you have permitted me to bring the Acid Attack 2014 Bill. I have great respect for all the Hon. Members. This acid attack is done on women. Often acid attacks are carried out on young women and young girls. Due to this attack, the acid that is poured on their face sometimes leads to their death. They survive, but survive in such a state that they

stumble from door to door. They die every moment. They are helpless every moment. Her life is completely ruined. When such an attack happens, then a question arises for the entire society and the democratic system. How to deal with such a situation? How can we prevent them from such a situation and that is why I think this House can show light to the entire country. This House can pass such a stringent law that no person can misbehave towards women in this manner. Considering this I have presented this Bill. When women are attacked by acid, they often lose their eyes, their ears, their face gets deformed and their lips are often melted away. After that, the society does not accept them as they are. They feel ashamed due to inferiority complex. This situation is worse than Death itself. Such women are dying every moment. It becomes difficult for them to live even a single moment peacefully.

That is why we should all take a concrete step for the care of such women. This Parliament should take concrete steps. If democracy is to be strengthened then we must stop such oppression towards women. I was also a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha. At the time of the Nirbhaya incident, the type of attack that occurred, the brutality that was inflicted upon her, and subsequently, the death of that helpless woman, the whole country stood behind her. This House also unanimously expressed its condolences towards her. Not only did they show empathy, but they also enacted a law, passed

unanimously, in her honour. I felt then that this House is so sensitive that in such matters it rises above party politics and shows its commitment towards the respect of women. I myself feel proud to be a Member of such a House. When the attack happened on her, the way the entire country, whether it was the media or even small children, they protested by lighting candles. Not only did it happen at India Gate, people also protested against it in small remote villages. The way the protest occurred, the entire country stood together united. At that time, the situation was such that the country united in a manner similar to how it did during our wars with Pakistan and China in 1962. Similarly, the country united for the cause of justice and respect for women.

Chairperson Sir, this weapon of acid is a very trivial weapon. The cost of one litre acid is only Rs 20 to 25. It was previously available in the grocery store. It is so corrosive that if even a drop falls on a woman's face, she would agonise, her entire face would distort. I think this is a very heinous crime for the entire human kind. We are ashamed due to this act. We should come together to stop such crimes. This House can pass a Bill, enact a legislation. Sometimes when such attacks happen on women, people with one-sided love attack them. Many women who live separately from their husbands can be attacked by them. A person blinded by love can also attack her, potentially ruining her life and leaving her

helpless. That woman curses herself every moment. No one comes forward to help her. We should be sensitive towards such women. This is what the culture and heritage of our country has taught us. When this country stands with such women, I want to salute the leaders of all parties and the people of the entire country for supporting this Acid Attack Bill. I request them, I pray to everyone that for such women, the entire country will stand unitedly against the oppression of such women, I am fully confident of this. Atrocities against women happen, many a time, people who attack them are not even identified, due to which there is no question of punishing them in any way. They are unknown people. They throw acid and then disappear. They vanish into anonymity, while the woman continues to shed tears throughout her life, enduring hardship at every step. She has to feel ashamed in front of everyone. I have come before you with such a topic, and I understand that this House will fully share its sentiments towards it.

As far as the question of punishment regarding acid attacks is concerned, the existing legal provisions related to women do not contain any major changes. However, in recent years, the Law Commission of India recommended amendments in some sections of the Indian Penal Code in 2009. Due to this section, [English] it was exclusively for acid attack. [Translation] I welcome that. I believe that this House can take even more concrete steps. Whatever

errors there are in it, this House can bridge them up. The recommendation made in the IPC section, was made in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 2013. Under Section 326 (A), provisions were made for punishment ranging from ten years to life imprisonment.

I remember that a horrific incident happened with a woman in Madhya Pradesh. The woman was sleeping in her house at night when her alleged lover poured acid on her face. The acid thrown on that woman was so severe that it resulted in her death, she was murdered. The High Court of Madhya Pradesh had pronounced judgement in that very case. In that judgment, the person who committed the acid attack was sentenced to death. At that time, the court had made an observation that this person should be publicly hanged, and they should keep him hanging until he dies in agony. That was the stance of the court at that time, and I fully agree with it. Crimes like these are often even more heinous than murder. I understand that this crime is not in any way less than rape on women. The people committing such crime should be dealt with the strictest punishment.

18.00 hrs.

At that time, the amendment which was made, a provision of punishment ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment under Section 231 was made. The provision that was made in it under

section 326B which was earlier Section 326A, pertains to those who commit such acts of misconduct and throw acid on others. For those who make such an attempt, a provision of imprisonment ranging from five to seven years was made. As far as her treatment and medicine are concerned....

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can continue next time.

We shall now take up 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. This is a very important issue. There is an area named Mankachar in my constituency which is right on the border with Bangladesh. On one side is the Meghalaya border and on the other is the Brahmaputra river. The people of Mankachar have to pass through the Meghalaya border to commute there and that is a distance of more than 100 kilometres. In the past two-three years, kidnappings have increased a lot in this area, a lot of murders are taking place and those who go, be they are men or women, they do not return back. More than 250 people are reported missing in about two and a half to three years. Till date their bodies have not been found and no news has been received about them. Therefore, through this House, and through you, I want the Government to pay attention to this, take it seriously and stop this murder and killing. Whatever arrangement the Government has to make there, it should make, so that these people get safety. These poor people also have to go to that side every day to shop. It is a matter of great concern that one who goes does not come back. I hope you will pay attention to it.

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SIKAR): Hon. Chairperson, through you, I want to bring a matter to the notice of the Government. There is a town named Shrimadhapur in my

Parliamentary Constituency on the railway line from Ajmer to Delhi via Rewari. About 150 villages are connected to this area. In the army, Jhunjhunu and Sikar have the highest number of youths. Due to the closure of the other line from Sikar to Delhi, this is the only line through which the soldiers go. The biggest problem for the soldiers is that the warrant given to them is only for the railways and not for the buses. I request that there are farmers there and also an A category market. If train number 22451/52 Chandigarh-Bandra Express train stops at Shrimadhapur railway station, it will benefit farmers, soldiers and many people. I would request the Hon. Railway Minister, through you, to stop this train at Shrimadhapur railway station so that the soldiers can get special benefits.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Chairperson Sir, when the name of Punjab comes up, it evokes images of lush green fields and lively, dancing people. During the fight for independence, Punjab contributed more than 90 percent of the soldiers, and through the Green Revolution, it filled the nation's granaries. However, sadly, it must be said that Punjab is currently gripped by the scourge of drugs. There are many villages where smack worth Rs. 15 to 20 lacs is sold in a day. Civil curfew is imposed there, it is difficult to go out after 4 p.m. Someone's mobile is snatched, women's earrings are snatched. This is a huge problem. The youth of Punjab is being destroyed. The big smugglers who have been caught, the names they

have taken, are of big leaders in which the names of ...* have appeared. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is not appropriate and will not remain on record. You are accusing those who are not Members of this House by taking their names. Neither is this appropriate, nor has it been the tradition here. This will not be recorded in the proceedings.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: I say that the Finance Ministry should allow the ED to investigate the big smugglers who are making revelations. After investigation, the truth will be revealed. I can at least demand an investigation into the allegations and the names that have been mentioned, so that the ED can be authorised for an investigation. This way, those who are ruining Punjab's youth can be exposed, the truth can come out, and Punjab can contribute to the progress of the country once again.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHAJAHANPUR): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a matter of public importance.

Sir, for the prosperity of any country, ease of transportation is very important. I would like to tell you that there is only one road connecting Delhi, the capital of India and Lucknow, the capital of

* Not recorded.

Uttar Pradesh, which is the National Highway-24. It is under construction and its pace is very slow. I want to tell you that there is a reason behind why many farmers still haven't received compensation, and they are creating conflict over it. Due to the incomplete state of this road, within a distance of about 500 metres, approximately a hundred people die on average each day, as people fall victim to accidents. Therefore, I urge you to direct the Government of India and promptly draw their attention towards completing this road without delay.

Secondly, I would like to talk about some routes in my Lok Sabha constituency. My Parliamentary Constituency is Shahjahanpur.

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to my words calmly. A notice typically addresses only one subject. You have about four and a half years left. Learn this, that only one topic will be discussed at a time, another topic will not be discussed. You sit down.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Chairperson, the condition of sugarcane farmers in Western Uttar Pradesh is very bad. You yourself come from Western Uttar Pradesh. You have information about everything. The sugarcane farmers there have not yet been paid for the last year. On 19th November, the concerned Minister of the State said that till now there is arrears of payment of

Rs. 1445 billion to the farmers. The effect of this is that farmers are committing suicide. There have been suicides in Baghpat, Bijnor and Saharanpur. One example of Tikri, Baghpat is very heartbreaking. He had taken a loan of Rs. 80,000 to buy a buffalo and his outstanding dues for sugarcane were Rs 1,53,000. He was under pressure to pay school fees for his children. He could not do it and the farmer who fed the entire country lost courage and committed suicide. Such incidents are happening there.

They are not getting the price of sugarcane. Last time the Government decided that out of Rs. 280, Rs 20 would be given to them later. This time it was Rs 240. There is no trace of that twenty rupees till date. As I said earlier, the Government itself is accepting that their payments are yet to be made. The cost for farmers ranges between Rs. 272 to Rs. 290, but they are not getting the right price for their sugarcane there. At the same time, the mills are not running. Currently, out of the sixteen mills in Tawa West Uttar Pradesh, three are not yet operational. As per the news I have, half of the 119 mills in the entire Uttar Pradesh are yet to operate. As a result, farmers are forced to sell their sugarcane to the distress cell, and the impact of this will also affect the wheat crop as the fields are not empty.

Sir, the situation is such that due to non-payment of sugarcane, he is not able to pay for electricity. If more than 30 percent of the people have not paid their electricity bills, then the electricity supply

to the entire village is disconnected. It is very unfortunate, and the Government there always appears to be against the farmers and in favour of sugar mills. It has given a two percent discount on entry fees at the state market yard. It has waived off their development fee of Rs. 6.70 per quintal and abolished the levy. The Government also appears aligned with the sugar mills and does not seem to stand with the farmers.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I request the Union Government to intervene in this matter. Every year, the sugarcane that farmers lose there, they should receive some relief, someone should lend them a helping hand. This is my request to you.

Hon. Chairperson, I am again very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. I stand before the Government of this country and the 120 billion people of this nation with the most sensitive and serious issues of the country. The Supreme Court and the Government of India have consistently mandated that private institutions, including private schools and colleges, reserve twenty percent enrollment for children of poor farmers, economically disadvantaged students, and students from marginalised communities. Despite repeated orders from the

Supreme Court and directives from the Government of India, the enrollment of twenty percent of the economically disadvantaged students has not been implemented in private institutions to date. Even if they are taken forcibly, they are shown only on paper and their enrollment is not done. There is no investigation. An even more serious question arises from the fact that the fee structure of private institutions and private schools is such that 92 percent of the common people in this country, who are children of poor farmers and labourers, can never afford to study in good private schools.

Hon. Chairperson, I urge this Government, through you, to say that we have to create a better India, we have to create an educated India and we have to strengthen the democracy of this country. I would like to urge that all technical institutions and private schools in this country, especially those that excessively charge fees from the poor, should have their fees controlled. Due to this, poor and meritorious students are not able to study in these schools. The system of education in government schools is not adequate. How will our Human Resources Ministry prevent this? How will the orders of the Supreme Court and the Government of India be implemented to enroll twenty percent economically disadvantaged students, children of poor farmers and labourers? To address these issues, the Government could consider enacting stringent laws that mandate educational institutions to reduce the fees of meritorious

students and the fees of the poor. Along with this, I will urge the Government, through you, to enroll twenty percent of the children and bring a new strict law on this.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 1st December 2014 at 11 a.m.

18.12 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 1, 2014/Agrahayana 10,1936 (Saka).

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