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EDITOR: Anoop Mishra

The Journal of Parliamentary Information, a quarterly publication brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, aims at the dissemination of authoritative information about the practices and procedures in Indian and foreign Legislatures. The Journal serves as an authentic recorder of important parliamentary events and activities. It provides a useful forum to members of Parliament and State Legislatures and other experts for the expression of their views and opinions, thereby contributing to the development and strengthening of parliamentary democracy in the country.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Article 87(1) of the Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year. The President's Address is a statement of policy of the Government; it contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. As such, the scope of its discussions is wide as it includes a comprehensive account of national and international issues. During the discussions, several amendments are moved, highlighting different issues and making suggestions for government action. The Discussion of the "Motion of Thanks" is one of the most important discussions in the House. This year, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament, at the commencement of the first session of the year, on 23 February 2016. The text of the Address is reproduced in this issue of the *Journal*.

The first ever National Conference of Women Legislators on the theme "Women Legislators: Building Resurgent India" was organised, on 5 and 6 March 2016 in New Delhi, at the initiative of the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group. The Conference brought together the women members of Parliament and women Legislators from the States to deliberate on matters related to good governance and the inclusive socio-economic development of the nation on a single platform. The Conference was inaugurated by the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the inaugural function was also addressed by the Vice-President of India, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari and the Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi who graced the inaugural event also delivered the Valedictory Address. The former President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil also addressed the distinguished gathering at the Valedictory Session. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, also attended the Conference. The deliberations held in the Conference were on the themes '*Contributing to Social*

Development; *Contributing to Economic Development*; and *Contributing to better Governance and Legislation*. We reproduce the texts of the Addresses by the dignitaries at the Conference and also of the Resolution that was adopted in this issue of the *Journal*.

The 78th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 22 and 23 January 2016. Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairperson of the Conference, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, inaugurated the Conference at the premises of the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha in Gandhinagar on 22 January 2016. Addressing the delegates, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan said that the key functions of a Legislature, amongst other's are—ensuring Executive accountability, enacting laws and providing finance to the Government by passing the Budget. If forced disruptions happen frequently, it is but natural that public perception towards the Legislature would change. She stressed that the conduct of the legislators must be such as to strengthen public faith in the efficacy of our deliberative institutions. She also emphasized that Members of Parliament and Legislatures have to, on the one hand, address local needs and grievances of their constituents and, on the other, deliberate and speak on various national and international topical issues. She also stated that she has constituted the Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI) to provide adequate support base to members. The Hon'ble Speaker stressed the need for meaningful and structured debates in Parliament and Legislatures. For this, it is imperative that regular attendance of members is secured and also that adequate numbers of sittings are held in all State Legislatures, she added. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the inaugural Address by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan.

The 23rd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) was held at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, from 9 to 14 January, 2016. The Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, led the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the event and presented a paper on the topic "*Orientation and Development for Parliamentarians*" as Lead Speaker. The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 19 to 23 March, 2016. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, led the Indian Parliamentary Delegation and participating in the Debate on '*Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*' said that Youth are the harbingers of change. Greater participation of youth will infuse new vigour and energy into the system. She stated that there are four levels of space that dominate the thinking of the youth, *i.e.*, family, career, lifestyle and friends. There is a need to

create a fifth space from 'self to society' to rejuvenate the democratic system, she emphasised. The South Asian Speakers' Summit on 'Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' was organized by the IPU in partnership with the 'Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids' in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 30 and 31 January, 2016, where Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, participated and urged the international community to redouble their commitment for ending poverty and hunger and to set the world on a path to sustainable and inclusive development.

We have included brief accounts of the above mentioned Conferences and some other Conferences/Seminars under the feature 'Parliamentary Events and Activities'. We also carry in this issue the other regular features, viz. Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always look forward to suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome informative, practice and problem oriented, non-partisan and original articles pertaining to parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field.

Anoop Mishra
—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. Under article 86(1) of the Constitution, the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The president of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 23 February 2016.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Members,

In this *Basant* season of renewal and growth, I welcome you all to the Joint Sitting of the Two Houses of the Parliament. I am confident that your deliberations will live up to the trust reposed in us by our fellow citizens, and going forth, we will all be partners in the progress and development of our great country.

During my address to the Joint Sitting last year, I had outlined the visionary initiatives undertaken by my Government towards building an India that strides into the future with confidence. A strong and forward-looking India that places within the reach of its people the opportunities and development promised by our Constitution. This development philosophy is captured in *Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas*, the fundamental tenet, which guides my Government.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya spoke of *Ekatma Manavata Darshan* which envisages *Antyodaya*, where the empowering rays of opportunity reach

the last person. This principle guides all the programmes of my Government. My Government, in particular is focused on “*Garibon ki Unnati*” (Poverty Eradication), “*Kisaano ki Samridhi*” (Farmers’ Prosperity) and “*Yuvaon ko Rojgaar*” (Massive Employment Generation).

Honourable Members,

The overriding goal for my Government is poverty eradication. Gandhiji said and I quote “*Poverty is the worst form of violence*” (unquote). The essence of progress lies in bringing a sense of fulfillment to the poor and the deprived, the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society. The poorest of the poor are entitled to the first charge on the nation’s resources. Removing the scourge of poverty and destitution is our most sacred moral responsibility.

My Government is pledged to making this goal possible through financial inclusion and social security, the two wings on which human aspiration takes flight. To this end, my Government has placed great emphasis on food security, Housing for All and subsidies that reach those who need them the most, when they need them the most. Last year, I had spoken of the ambitious *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna*. Today, I am proud to say that it is the world’s most successful financial inclusion programme. Under the programme, out of over twenty one crore accounts opened, fifteen crore accounts are operational with an aggregate deposit of over Rupees thirty two thousand crore. The programme has gone beyond mere opening of bank accounts, to becoming a platform for poverty eradication, by offering basic financial services and security to the poor.

To universalise social security, my Government has launched three new insurance and pension schemes; namely, the *Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana*, the *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana* and the *Atal Pension Yojana*, which afford insurance, cover to hitherto uncovered sections of society.

Government is committed to provide Housing for All by 2022. The *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana*, launched on June 25, 2015, envisages construction of about 2 crore houses to benefit primarily slum dwellers, urban poor and people from economically weaker sections and lower income groups of society. The Mission intends to cover all 4041 statutory towns in coming 5 years. In its first year alone, 2011 towns/cities in 27 states have been included under this Mission. A total of over four lakh twenty five thousand houses have been sanctioned with a project cost of over rupees twenty four thousand six hundred crore.

Targeted subsidies ensure that benefits reach the deserving. Direct

Benefit Transfer has so far been extended to 42 schemes funded by my Government. PAHAL has become the largest direct cash transfer program of its kind in the world, with nearly 15 crore beneficiaries. Since June 2014, the food security coverage has more than doubled to cover over 68 crore persons.

The Give-It-Up campaign in tandem with the Give Back programme has released subsidized fresh connections to 50 lakh BPL families. More than 62 lakh LPG consumers have voluntarily surrendered their LPG subsidy under the campaign. The highest number of new cooking gas connections to the rural poor were distributed in 2015.

Dr. Ambedkar had said and I quote “Political Democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it a social democracy” (unquote). Social justice with inclusion is the first promise of our Constitution and the poor and the backward are the focus of my Government. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been further strengthened by suitable amendments. The 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is being celebrated across the country to foster the spirit of social inclusion. Twenty Sixth of November, the day on which the Constitution was adopted, is now celebrated as *Constitution Day* to deepen Constitutional values amongst the citizens of the country. My government is working to preserve the Panchatirthas, the five sites of Dr. Ambedkar’s legacy.

Education empowers people and to serve this end, my Government has allocated more than 50 per cent of the Ministry of Minority Affairs budget to scholarship funds. Two new schemes; *Nai Manzil* and *Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTAAD)* aimed to empower the minorities, have been launched. Currently about 20,000 *madarasa* children are undergoing skill training under the *Nai Manzil scheme*. *Everlasting Flame*, an exhibition to showcase the life, history and the culture of the Parsi community is being organized next month.

Honourable Members,

“*Kisaano ki Samridhi*”, the well-being of farmers is vital to the nation’s prosperity. Acknowledging this fundamental reality, my Government has renamed the ‘Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation’ as the ‘Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare’ and taken several measures for the same. My Government has recently launched the farmer-friendly *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*, with the biggest-ever Government’s contribution to crop insurance and with lowest-ever premium rates for farmers. It has many firsts to its credit like national

coverage of post-harvest losses due to inundation and unseasonal rains, no capping on Government subsidy, and use of technology for early and accurate settlement of claims. Assistance to farmers afflicted by natural calamity has been increased by 50 per cent and eligibility norms have been relaxed.

Soil Health Cards will be distributed to all 14 crore farm-holdings by March, 2017 and will result in judicious application of fertilizers, lowering input costs and bettering soil health. To promote organic farming, *Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana* is being implemented under which 8,000 clusters have been developed so far.

The *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana* promises assured irrigation, expanding cultivated areas by improving water use efficiency and enabling drought proofing. My Government is committed to the philosophy of “*Per Drop More Crop*” and “*Jal Sanchay for Jal Sinchar*”.

To provide the best market price to farmers, the unified National Agriculture Market is working towards setting up a common e-market platform to connect 585 regulated wholesale markets, thereby making India *One food zone, One Country, One Market*. This will immensely benefit our farmers in getting fair and remunerative prices. Targeted policy interventions in the last year have brought down sugarcane arrears from over ₹ 21,000 crore to ₹ 720 crore.

My Government notified the New Urea Policy-2015 with the objective of maximizing indigenous production and improving energy efficiency. The policy will lead to additional production of 17 Lakh metric tonnes annually in the next three years. Providing 100 per cent neem-coated urea has not only improved efficiency but has also helped in plugging subsidy leakages by preventing illegal diversion of subsidized urea to non-agricultural use. The highest ever urea fertilizer production was achieved in 2015.

My Government recognizes the important role of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries sectors in the socio-economic development of the country. India continues to be the biggest milk producing country with an impressive growth rate of 6.3 per cent. Implementation of Poultry Venture Capital Fund and Rural Backyard Poultry Development has led to highest ever egg production. A Blue Revolution is underway to ensure the integrated development and management of fisheries, with a central outlay of Rupees three thousand crore.

To fully harness the agricultural potential of eastern States, the government is taking several steps to usher in *Second Green Revolution*

in the region. My Government has taken steps for strengthening agricultural higher education, setting up 109 new KVKs and three new Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes. A 24x7 Kisan Channel has been launched to provide information on policy initiatives, prices and other agriculture related subjects for the benefit of farmers.

The food processing sector helps increase farmers' income. The Food Processing Fund has been operationalized last year to provide affordable credit to designated Food Parks. In the last 19 months, five new Mega Food Parks have been operationalized. Under the Cold Chain Scheme, 33 projects have been made operational during the last 18 months.

Rural development is one of our top priorities. The grant of over Rupees two lakh crores by the 14th Finance Commission over a five year period from 2015-16, exclusively for *Gram Panchayats* has been received with great enthusiasm by the States. This will move development activity closer to the people and enable them to decide how they want to improve their villages and wards. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission has also been launched for 300 rural growth clusters for developing skills & local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities.

Honourable Members,

Youth are the future of our country and ensuring Yuvaon ko Rojgaar through massive employment generation is a top goal for my Government. We are driving job creation through an integrated set of initiatives including '*Make in India*', '*Start up India*', '*Mudra*', '*Skill India*', etc.

My Government's innovative initiatives have helped India jump up 12 places in the latest rankings by the World Bank on Ease of Doing Business. Notably, the Make in India initiative has achieved a 39 per cent increase in FDI inflow despite an adverse global investment climate.

My Government has fostered competitive cooperation among various States to enhance Ease of Doing Business. State Governments are being encouraged and supported to simplify procedures, introduce e-enabled processes and invest in infrastructure to improve investment climate. Procedures have been simplified to enhance ease of approvals/clearances. Dedicated Commercial Courts and Commercial Division in High Courts have been established. For speedy resolution of commercial disputes, the long overdue amendments to the Arbitration Act have been made.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises provide large-scale employment.

Banks have cumulatively disbursed over Rupees one lakh crore to more than 2.6 crore borrowers under the *PM's Mudra Yojana*, of which 2.07 crore are women entrepreneurs. *Udyog Aadhar Portal* has been set up to facilitate online registration of *Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)*. My Government has decided to set up rural livelihood and technology business incubators to boost entrepreneurship in the agriculture and rural sector. The Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme is a new vertical to strengthen the livelihoods of artisans and weavers. In its first phase, about 1.82 lakh village enterprises will be created and strengthened in 125 Blocks across 24 States creating employment for about 3.78 lakh persons.

To strengthen the employment intensive segments of textile industry, my Government has launched an Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme with an allocation of about Rupees eighteen thousand crore over a 7 year period.

A series of reforms have been initiated to help convert job seekers into job creators. My Government has launched the Start-Up India campaign which would deepen, expand and support the innovation eco system in the country.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been revamped to ensure the efficient disbursements of wages, increased transparency and creation of productive assets. Mission *Antyodaya*—an intensive Participatory Planning Exercise has reached 2569 most backward blocks, to identify the kind of assets to be created.

My Government's mission of skilling India has gained momentum and during the last year about 76 lakh people have been trained.

Honourable Members,

My Government aims to create a *Shikshit Swasth Swachh Bharat*, an educated, healthy and clean India. In a reflection of how the spirit of *Swachh Bharat* has manifested in our primary schools, over four lakh seventeen thousand functional toilets for girls and boys have been constructed.

New Institutes of excellence in higher education have been set up. Two Indian Institutes of Technology, six Indian Institutes of Management, one Indian Institute of Science Education and Research and one National Institute of Technology have started functioning. My government has given impetus to research through the launch of *Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT)* India whereby scientific goalposts have been identified in 10 fields of research ranging from Defence to

Sustainable Living. To enable increased interaction between foreign faculty and our students, under the *aegis* of *Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN)*, my government has in the first cycle invited 400 foreign academicians to 'Teach in India'. National Institutional Ranking Framework has been launched for higher educational institutions. The National Scholarship Portal provides a one-stop platform for applications of all scholarships.

Sports is the best way to *Swasth* India. My Government successfully hosted the 12th South Asian Games from 5-16 February, 2016 at Guwahati and Shillong, in which more than 3500 sports persons from all the SAARC countries participated. The games were the biggest ever sporting event in North East India.

I am happy to inform that we have successfully eliminated Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus well before the global targeted timeline of December, 2015. The largest number of children ever fully immunized in a single year was in 2015.

My Government is leveraging KAYAKALP, an inter-institution ranking system to bring about extensive improvement in cleanliness in our health institutions, reduction of hospital-acquired infections and better service delivery.

My Government has placed strong focus on holistic healthcare, strengthening *Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa* and Homoeopathy systems of medicine. The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21st June, 2015 world over with immense enthusiasm.

To address the problems of malnutrition in a holistic manner, my Government is ensuring convergence of the actions of various Ministries and programmes with a clear focus on measurable outcomes. Infrastructure required for effective implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme is being strengthened in convergence with other programmes. Two lakh *Anganwadi* buildings are being constructed in 2,534 most backward Blocks under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme over a period of four years.

My Government has launched the *Sugama Bharat Abhiyanas* a nation-wide campaign for achieving universal accessibility for ensuring that persons with disabilities (*divyang*) participate in all areas of community life. During the last year, 342 camps were conducted, aids and assistive devices have been distributed to over 1.7 lakh persons with disabilities (*divyangs*).

The *Swachh Bharat Mission*, with its focus on behavioral change is becoming a community movement to herald an overall change in the quality of life and well-being of the people, particularly the poor. Focusing on generating wealth from waste, my Government has formulated policies on mandatory procurement of power from waste to energy plants, co-marketing of compost by chemicals and fertilizer companies, and use of construction and demolition waste.

My Government firmly believes that economic development and environmental protection can co-exist. At the crucial Climate Summit in Paris, India's position for climate justice, sustainable lifestyles and clean development was widely supported. Real time online monitoring of 1487 industries and industrial units in seventeen highly polluting categories and of Ganga Water Quality has started. To reduce air pollution, target for emission standards for motor vehicles have been drastically brought forward to achieve Bharat Stage-VI norm by 2021. The *Project Tiger* coverage has been expanded and the latest estimation shows an increase of 30 per cent over the last count.

My Government has launched *Jal Kranti Abhiyan*, a people-centric program to spread awareness on water conservation and management involving all stakeholders including *Gram Panchayats*. As part of the *Namami Gange Programme*, my Government is implementing several projects in all 118 cities and complete sanitation solutions for 1,649 *gram panchayats*, on the banks of the holy Ganga.

Honourable Members,

My Government has taken several measures to improve the quality of governance. Significant steps have been taken to reform institutions, simplify procedures and repeal obsolete laws. Close to 1800 obsolete legislations are at various stages of repeal. NITI Aayog is actively engaging with States in policy formulation in the true spirit of cooperative federalism. People's participation in policy making through initiatives like My Government has now taken firm roots. My Government has taken up an initiative for providing 500 e-governance services through Public Private-Partnership in 12 states of the country. My Government has dispensed with interviews for posts at junior levels in Government of India to ensure absolute transparency in recruitment to Government jobs.

While on the one hand, my Government has taken measures to eliminate the scope for corruption, on the other hand, it has been unsparing in punishing those who are found guilty of corruption. Stringent amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act are also on the anvil to address the perceived gaps in anti-corruption law.

Honourable Members,

Robust infrastructure development unlocks opportunities for all. My Government has initiated the Smart Cities programme, envisaging city development in a challenge mode. In the first phase of the Smart City program, twenty cities have been selected after intense competition among ninety eight cities. Second and third phases of the programme are on the anvil.

To enhance the availability of clean energy, my Government has envisaged increasing the renewable energy capacity manifold to 175 GW by 2022 by encouraging various initiatives, including offshore wind energy policy, bundling of thermal power with solar power, setting up solar parks in States, etc. Installed solar capacity has almost doubled in the last 20 months and crossed 5000 MW. Today under my Government, solar power is affordable and accessible to thousands of people.

Since the Government assumed office, energy shortages have been reduced from 4 to 2.3 per cent. My Government is committed to providing electricity to all the census villages by May 2018. My Government has launched the Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) for financial turnaround of Power Distribution Companies of States/ UTs. Eighty-three per cent of the capacity addition target of 88,537 MW for 12th Plan period has already been achieved.

My Government has focused on commissioning major transmission projects for reducing congestion in transmission. I am happy to share that Available Transfer Capacity for South India has increased by 71 per cent from May, 2014 to December, 2015. This has resulted in cheaper and abundant power in South India, finally moving towards the goal of '*One Nation, One Grid, One Price*'. To revive gas based power generation capacity, my Government implemented a new initiative of supply of Refined LNG. This has ensured revival of stranded gas plants with installed capacity of 11,717 MW. In the year 2015 India witnessed the highest ever generation of electricity.

My Government has introduced critical amendments in the Tariff Policy for ensuring availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable and competitive rates. Two ambitious National LED Programmes have been launched for cities for Street Lighting and LED bulbs for Domestic Lighting. Over 6 crore LED bulbs have already been distributed. Through a bulk procurement strategy, the cost of LED bulb has been brought down from ₹310 in January 2014 to ₹64 in January 2015.

My Government has introduced dynamic and comprehensive reforms

in the Coal sector and conducted transparent auction/ allocation of over 70 coal blocks. These will immensely benefit the eastern States in the years to come. Strong emphasis on increasing coal production has resulted in a record 9.8 per cent growth in CIL's coal production and highest ever output of coal. This has also led to reduced imports of coal.

Honourable Members,

To give a boost to the mining sector and to bring in transparency in the allocation of mineral resources, the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957 was amended and auction of mines has commenced. For systematic exploration in potential mineral bearing areas using state-of-the-art techniques, National Mineral Exploration Trust has been established. *Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana* will implement developmental and welfare projects in mining affected areas for minimizing adverse impacts and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the affected people.

My Government has recently dedicated to the nation the Assam Gas Cracker Project with an estimated cost of more than Rupees nine thousand nine hundred crore. The project is expected to generate employment for about one lakh persons, both direct and indirect.

Honourable Members,

My Government has initiated several ambitious measures for improving sanitation standards at Railway Stations and Trains. "*Samman*" guides us in our endeavor to phase out the open discharge of sewage from trains and combat manual scavenging. All new coaches are now being fitted with bio-toilets. Focus has also been on Doubling, Gauge Conversion and capacity enhancement works in Railways. Commissioning of Broad Gauge and electrification have been at all-time record levels. The highest ever increase in railway capital expenditure was achieved in 2015.

A landmark agreement with Government of Japan will make the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor a reality. My Government also awarded two mega projects for setting up diesel and electric locomotive factories at Marhaura and Madhepura, respectively.

Honourable Members,

By March 2019, under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, one lakh seventy eight thousand rural habitations will be connected with all weather roads. My Government has revived a majority of the 73 stalled road projects, completed construction of 7,200 km of highways and awarded 12,900 km of highway projects which is the highest ever number of new highway kilometers awarded.

My Government has formulated an umbrella scheme, *Bharatmala* at an estimated cost of over Rupees two lakh sixty seven thousand crore for development of national highways. To ensure connectivity to *Chardham* during all seasons, a project of over rupees twelve thousand crore has been taken up. A special Green Highways Policy 2015 has been launched for making highways green and a pilot policy for conversion of diesel buses into electrical buses has been taken up. The country recorded the highest ever production of motor vehicles in 2015. Guidelines have been issued for protection of Good Samaritans from harassment in road accident cases.

Honourable Members,

To rejuvenate the Shipping sector with focus on *Make in India*, my Government has launched a scheme for financial assistance to domestic shipyards. Several steps for improving the operational efficiency of major ports and for simplifying rules and processes have been initiated. In 2015, India achieved the fastest average turnaround time in ports and the highest ever quantity of cargo handled by major ports. My Government is keen on promoting extensive use of inland waterways and coastal shipping as an alternative mode of transport.

My Government is also working on a new Civil Aviation Policy with thrust on connectivity to small cities. Domestic Air Passenger traffic has registered a substantial growth during the year.

Honourable Members,

Setting up world-class infrastructure for Electronics manufacturing across the country remains a priority for my Government. Twenty nine Electronic Manufacturing Clusters are under development. The recent interventions and subsequent rationalization of duty structure in mobile handset manufacturing industry has led to near doubling of mobile handset production in the current year. Transparent and efficient auction of spectrum has fetched highest ever price of about Rupees one lakh ten thousand crore. Policies like Spectrum trading and sharing have been finalized for optimum utilization of resources.

The country recorded the highest ever software exports during 2015. Under BharatNet, the architecture and design of the National Optical Fiber Network is being revamped to rapidly take broadband connectivity to our villages. By spreading the network of Common Service Centers and setting up BPOs in small towns and linking land record modernization with the use of space technology, my Government is taking the benefits of Digital India to common citizens. The Digital India Programme will give a big boost to citizen empowerment and knowledge economy.

The IT Modernization Project involving computerization and networking of 1,55,000 Post Offices in the country, will be completed by 2017. The proposed Postal Payment Bank of India will further boost financial inclusion.

Honourable Members,

My Government has embarked on several significant projects such as National Supercomputing Mission, Improving Fuel Efficiency and Controlling Emissions. My Government has launched Science & Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) initiative to explore the modern scientific roots of our traditional wisdom.

Building upon the success over the past year, my Government's endeavour is to scale new heights in Space. Focus will be on completing the constellation of the Indian navigational satellites in 2016 to cater to indigenous navigation and location-based services.

Honourable Members,

Varanasi and Jaipur have been declared as the first two Indian cities to be part of the UNESCO Creative Cities network. Thirteen Circuits and thirteen pilgrimage sites have been identified for development under *Swadesh Darshan Scheme* and *PRASAD Scheme* respectively.

Radio has once again emerged as the people's medium. Establishment of new radio stations has received a fresh impetus. The good response to the successful and transparent bidding for the first batch of private FM Radio for phase III comprising 135 channels in 69 cities augurs well for the medium.

Honourable members,

India is a haven of stability in an increasingly turbulent global economy. GDP growth has increased making India the world's fastest growing economy among large economies. Inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit have all decreased. India recorded the highest ever foreign exchange reserves in 2015.

The *Indradhanush programme* has been launched to revitalize public sector banks and ensure credit flow in the economy, with committed minimum recapitalization of Rupees seventy thousand crore. In addition, we have undertaken major governance reforms, brought in private sector talent and moved to a fully transparent and meritocratic recruiting process. We have also issued 23 banking licenses after a long hiatus of ten years.

The Government's concerted efforts to tackle the menace of black

money have started yielding results. With the enactment of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, a stringent legislative framework has been put in place to combat the menace.

The Government has launched the Gold Monetization Scheme and Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme in November 2015 to ensure productive utilization of idle assets.

The Government has taken a number of measures to put in place a simplified, progressive and non-adversarial tax regime by incorporating internationally prevalent best practices in tax administration. A gamut of taxpayer facilities, viz., e-filing of returns and various forms, electronic processing and retrieval of documents and online grievance redressal are now available to the citizen.

Honourable Members,

My Government is fully committed to firmly deal with all challenges concerning the security of the country. Terrorism is a global threat and strong counter-terrorism measures are necessary worldwide to eradicate it completely. Let me congratulate the security forces in successfully foiling the recent attack at the Pathankot air base by terrorists. Firm and effective steps will be taken to deal with any situation arising out of cross-border terrorism.

There has been significant improvement in the overall security situation in the North-Eastern States and Left Wing Extremism affected States. This has been made possible through sustained efforts and measures taken by the intelligence agencies and security forces in collaboration with the State Governments.

The country had to face severe drought and floods in some States. The unprecedented floods that submerged Chennai in December last year brought untold human suffering and economic loss. My Government stands with the people who have faced natural calamities and has immediately forwarded physical and financial resources to the States to handle such disasters. An amount of more than Rupees thirteen thousand crore has been released under State and National Disaster Response Fund.

Honourable Members,

Defence procurement procedure has been streamlined with a focus on indigenously designed, developed and manufactured weapon systems. We are working to ensure that our Armed Forces will be equipped with the most capable and sophisticated armaments in the world.

In our country “*Shakti*”, which means power, is the manifestation of female energy. This Shakti defines our strength. My Government has approved the induction of women as Short Service Commission officers and as fighter pilots in the IAF. In the future, my Government will induct women in all the fighter streams of our Armed Forces. My Government has initiated several measures to ensure safety and security of women which include nationwide Emergency Response Systems, a Central Victim Compensation Fund, Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children, and Organized Crime Investigative Agency and an Integrated Emergency Response Management System for women’s safety on the railways.

We are indebted to those who inspire by their selfless service and their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Acknowledgement must not hinge on ceremony or noble gestures of gratitude alone. In spite of huge financial implication of more than Rupees seven thousand crore per annum, my Government has fulfilled its commitment to implement four decades old demand of One Rank One Pension.

Honourable Members,

My Government has continued to pursue a bold and proactive foreign policy. The primary objective has been to accelerate national development with emphasis on improving India’s access to capital, technology, resources, energy and skills. States have been made partners in our diplomatic efforts.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The world is one family. My Government is committed to this principle and its expression is most resonant in the steps we have taken in reaching out to our neighbours. Last year, my Government adopted the historic Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh, leading to the peaceful exchange of disputed territories between our two countries. The signing of the Motor Vehicles Agreement between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, will provide seamless connectivity and further strengthen ties. We have been a friend in need to Nepal during the devastating earthquake of April 2015. We opened our skies, became a key transit hub and essential enabler so that assistance from other countries could reach Nepal in its hour of need. My Government is committed to forging a mutually respectful relationship with Pakistan and in creating an environment of co-operation in combating cross border terrorism. My Government believes in a secure and prosperous future for our neighbourhood. India remains committed to providing support to the people of Afghanistan in realising their dream of building a stable, inclusive and democratic nation. Dedication of the Afghanistan

Parliament to its people by Prime Minister Modi was our contribution to Afghanistan's pursuit of peace and prosperity.

We reached out to the world, both on land and sea. Of 54 participating nations, the India-Africa Summit, attended by Heads of States and Governments from 41 countries, has rejuvenated India's relations with the continent, ushering in a new era of engagement and fraternity. My Government will not let oceans separate us, and has activated engagement with the 14 Pacific Island countries and revitalized civilizational links with our vibrant Act East Policy. India's second International Fleet Review, attended by 50 foreign navies, reinforced our cultural, commercial and strategic connect with our immediate and extended maritime neighbourhood.

My Government has played a proactive role in addressing climate change by launching an International Solar Alliance that has been universally acknowledged. We remain at the forefront of the global fight against terrorism. Sustained Indian efforts have led to concrete action for reforming the UN Security Council. India has also provided strong leadership and new vision to regional and international groupings like BRICS, G-20, WTO, East Asia Summit, ASEAN and the SCO.

My Government has enhanced NRI and PIO engagement by making it easier for them to get passports and offered Visa on Arrival by extending Electronic Travel Authorization facility to a large number of countries. Today, our citizens living and working abroad know that the Government is committed to protecting their interests and helping them in distress. This was manifested in Operation Rahat, in which we successfully evacuated 4,748 Indians from Yemen. We also extended our assistance to other nationalities. We evacuated 1,962 Foreigners belonging to 48 countries.

Honourable Members,

My Government is focused on *Sabka Vikas*, beyond just the economic advancements that dominate headlines. To realise *Sabka Vikas*, we must ensure that the poor and deprived are truly empowered to take advantage of opportunities to improve their lives. *Sabka Vikas* means that backward sections of society are equally valued and are genuine stakeholders in the country's progress. *Sabka Vikas* implies that we tackle the pollution, traffic, and garbage problems that plague our cities. And, lastly, *Sabka Vikas* is Development for the entire world, which is why we have to be a responsible member of the global comity of nations helping all humanity solve major challenges such as terrorism, climate change, and financial instability.

Honourable Members

Our Parliament reflects the supreme will of the people. Democratic temper calls for debate and discussion, and not disruption or obstruction. *Aa No Bhadra Kratvo Yantu Viswataha*—let noble thoughts come from all directions, should be the spirit behind debate in this temple of democracy. Being a member of this great institution bestows great honour as well as important responsibilities. My Government will constantly strive for smooth and constructive conduct of Parliamentary business. I urge all Members of the Parliament to discharge their solemn responsibilities in a spirit of cooperation and mutual accommodation. Let us all collectively endeavour to build a flourishing and prosperous India.

We owe a great debt to our freedom fighters. It is time to repay that debt, by building the country that they envisioned and fought for. In the words of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, “Nationalism is inspired by the highest ideals of the human race, *Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram*”, let us embrace those ideals as we stake our claim on the future.

Jai Hind

ADDRESSES AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS HELD IN NEW DELHI

A National Conference of Women Legislators on the theme “Women Legislators: Building Resurgent India”, was organised under the initiative of Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan on 5th and 6th March 2016, in New Delhi. This was first ever National Conference of Women Legislators which brought together the women members of Parliament and women State Legislators in power to deliberate on matters related to the development of the nation. The Hon’ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Hon’ble Vice President of India and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Hamid Ansari; the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi; and the Hon’ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan addressed in the conference.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN

Respected Rashtrapati Ji, Respected Uprashtrapati Ji, Respected Pradhanmantri Ji, Hon’ble Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Hon’ble Ministers, Hon’ble. Members of Parliament, Members of the State Legislatures, Distinguished Invitees, members from the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome all of you to this first ever National Conference of Women Legislators in India.

We are beholden to the Esteemed Rashtrapati, for accepting our request to inaugurate this national Conference. The President of India is an integral part of our Parliament and Shri Pranab Mukherjee represents in himself the finest qualities of a virtuous Head of State, an able and experienced administrator and an outstanding parliamentarian. As such, his words of wisdom, based on many years of intimate association with the highest institution of governance, will indeed set the tone for the discussions to follow in the Conference. It is worth mentioning in this context that the Hon’ble Rashtrapati, in his Address to the Members of Parliament on 23rd February, has said that in future the Government would induct women in all the fighter streams of our Armed Forces. This is a matter of pride and source of encouragement to all of us.

I am grateful to the respected Uprashtrapati ji for his benign presence in this Conference. He too, has rich and varied experience in the working of the administrative and legislative institutions. I extend a hearty welcome to Shri Hamid Ansariji.

The august presence of the respected Prime Minister has enhanced the profile and prestige of this Conference. We look forward to hearing his enlightened views at the Valedictory Session of the Conference tomorrow.

I am particularly delighted to welcome my sister, the Hon'ble Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, who also happens to be the Chairperson of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and who has very gladly acceded to my request to grace this Conference. We are thankful to her and eagerly await her learned exposition at the Plenary Session which she will be chairing.

With great pleasure, I welcome the women legislators who have gathered here today, especially those sisters who have come from the State and Union Territory Legislatures and my colleagues in both the Houses. I am delighted that large number of women legislators from Legislative Councils and Assemblies of most States of the country are attending this Conference. We are sure that they will participate in the sessions with utmost involvement and give invaluable insights into the different dimensions of the Agenda Items.

I also extend a warm welcome to Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament, distinguished panelists, domain experts, invitees and members of the media.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I have said at the outset, this is the first occasion when Women Legislators and Members of Parliament of States and union territories of our country have assembled together. This feature makes this conference unique and imparts special importance to it. It is, therefore important that we should have a profound understanding of the thought and purpose behind it. The basic thought and purpose is to find out how and what specific contribution the Women Legislators can give in not only one but in various fields of nation building. How this empowered group of women enjoying special rights can play a leading new and effective role in building a strong, dignified India? How women Legislators can contribute towards building Resurgent India?

In the main session after this session and then in three special sessions, serious discussions will be carried out in this conference that how the women legislators while re-inventing their role can gain a new

insight, inspiration and resolution in the four important discussions of social development, economic development, governance and legislation in the country. To make this discussion intensive, creative and productive, the themes of every session has been divided into sub-themes. However, the basic theme is one—a Better, more clear and effective role of Women Legislators in building a resurgent India.

We may ask that why the conference of Women Legislators only. The answer is that women are natural managers. Whether it is a family or society or public life, as a mother, daughter, wife, daughter in law, citizen and a working person, a women can efficiently establish harmony in different circumstances, fields, roles and among members of a family. There is a chaupai of Goswami Tulsidas ji in Ramacharit Manas:

MUKHIYA MUKHU SO CHAHIYE, KHAN-PAN KAHUN EK
PALAI-POSHAI SAKAL AUNG, TULSI SAHIT BIBEK

Women of today come true to this definition of Head in her various roles who like the mouth, sustains organs according to their requirement, according to her discretion. This definition is particularly true for women legislators. Being the members of fully empowered, regulatory institutions of the country or the states they are virtually the Head of the country. Whether in this position they are using that discretion which the nature has simply given to them and which is particularly expected from their powerful role? Apart from being Women Legislators, they have to fulfil the domestic responsibilities also.

Passing through all ups and downs, turnings, social–political changes, all the possible circles of economic development/recession coming in the life journey of a great and vibrant democracy, India has well established herself at the world fora as a matured and dynamic democracy and a strong and fast emerging economy. The democratic institutions of India after passing through the tests of time and change has proved their usefulness. The whole world is praising the strong democratic system of India. India is forwarding very fast on the path of a powerful, valuable and a country of fastest growing economy and youngest and dynamic country in the world.

However, for an overall and balanced progress of a nation, only the high level of rate of economic development, per capita income or investment is not enough. Social development and good governance is also needed alongwith the economic progress. You all will agree with me that development of a country depends upon the development of states.

Therefore, women legislators, members of Parliament, all have their important roles and responsibility.

During the last decades, women in India have made big achievements in every field. The 73rd amendment of the constitution has given an unprecedented opportunity to 12 lakh rural women to lead at local level in *Gram Sabhas*. Women have proved its justification by taking part enthusiastically. Participation of women have increased in legislative assemblies and legislative council also. In the 16th Lok Sabha, maximum number of women so far have been elected. However after these detailed discussions, schemes about women empowerment and coming of women on large scale in the leading role, their capability should also reflect in the prominent fields of polities, governance, economic development, etc.

A study by the International Monetary Fund in 2015 says that if the number of women in the total work force of India becomes equal to that of men, the G.D.P. of the country will increase by 27 per cent. It is only an example of the jump in the economic field which can be achieved by economic/employment parity of women. If they accept the challenge of effective participation by leading in various fields, the picture of the country will change.

I am of the opinion that if some substance is to be taken out of the discussion on empowerment, it is not possible till the information mechanism is rectified. I think that it applies to a large extent on women parliamentarians and legislators also the assessment of their work efficiency cannot be done on inadequate information. In my parliamentary life, I have seen the depth of subjects has increased day by day. Adequate information is needed not only about different subjects, but also about related institutes, government programmes and financial provisions. In the absence of which not only the efficiency of women parliamentarians and women legislators will be affected but the cooperation that they would have given in the policy making of executive of the nation and their state will also not be received. Thus, it is utmost necessary that all those changes may be done in the system which can make aware the women parliamentarians and legislators about the complicity of subjects in real sense on general level also. By this, the qualitative changes that may happen with the presence of women, may take place. The presence of women representatives have also increased in panchayats, but their work has also been affected by aforesaid shortcomings. At this level also we can bring changes by fresh efforts.

With this thought when I got various types of suggestions for the

coming Women's Day, I thought of organising a symposium instead of any formal programmes. In this regard we have taken up three important issues—*Social, Economic and Governance*. These three subjects are inter linked and affect each other as well. Along with this, when women parliamentarians and legislators will sit together, I am confident that by mutual experience and discussions, we can find many ways to face the various challenges. My experience is that at times women parliamentarians and legislators leaving the financial subjects, only want to speak in parliament or legislative Assembly on issues linked with women or it is expected from them, by which they may remain somewhere in the back in initiating their empowerment. They should speak about women and at the same time should show equal interest in finance and all the subjects present before the country. What is Mudra Bank? What work it is doing? How can we take it from national level to local level? What are Sustainable Development Goals? How economic progress is possible by them, etc. are many such questions with which our association is needed.

The importance of economic aspects has further increased in present time. Programme of direct payment in accounts under *MANREGA, Jan- Dhan Yojna* and the monitoring and vigilance issues associated with it are very important. All information sources linked with these aspects should not only be with us, but we should bring forward other women also for their rights and responsibilities. We can do this work in other fields as well. As we often have seen that work in the fields is done by women but when some information about crops has to be taken from *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* mostly men go for it. One should try to bring women along while snowing about various dimensions of Science and Technology (IT) Appropriate discussion has not taken place with regard to women friendly tools.

We should not forget that this association only can make strong the monitoring role of women parliamentarian and legislators in all committees and at other places. Doing the role of vigilance in the family for years, woman is certainly capable to carry out this role at national and local levels as well. I think that like Lord Krishna, Women Parliamentarians and legislators by becoming the 'charioteer' can give right direction to development in the Indian scenario. Women Legislators can draw inspiration from the examples set before us by many women like Kannagi, Rani Rudrama, Chand Bibi, Gargi, Maitrai, Mallinath, Padmini, Jeeja Bai, Rani Gaidinliu, Ahilya Bai, Rani Jhansi and Indira Gandhi with their work, administrative capability, effective leadership and national thinking. This inspiration can help them in their various roles. It will not

be a role of public representative alone, but will contribute in taking strong steps by the country towards intensive, long term and comprehensive social changes.

I am fully confident that discussions in this conference will be very useful, purposive and solution based. The picture, future directions, strategy and resolutions that emerge out of this effort will start a glorious chapter of contribution by our women legislators in building a Resurgent India. I would like to thank the lyricist, Shri Prasun Joshi, Musician, Shri Shankar Mahadevan and the singer Ms. Rasika Shekhar and Shrinidhi Ghatate for the theme song “umeedam” presented in this conference here today. In this song they have imagined woman power like a flowing river. It is true also—river gives life, woman also gives life. Life resides by the bank of river. Traditional river hamlets, villages on the banks of river- there is life in the lap of a woman—it flourishes besides the river, but gradually we stopped the flow of river-broke-polluted-the same is the story of woman life also. Today, after learning the importance of water, we talk about again making Ganga clean, linking the rivers and cleaning them. The same thing is about woman. It is not because they are half population of the country, but because she is life giver-producer mother power. But woman will also have to realize and experience her power. I would like to conclude my speech with this shloka of Srimadbhagwat Gita in which Shri Krishna says while mentioning his qualities

“KIRTIH SHRIRVAKCHA NARINAM SMRITIRMEDHA DHRITI KSHAMA”

In women, I am the fame, prosperity, speech, memory, intelligence, firmness and forgiveness.

With these words, I once again welcome the Hon'ble President, Respected Vice-President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Madam Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, distinguished guests and all distinguished persons participating in this function.

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE RAJYA SABHA, SHRI HAMID ANSARI**

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Hon'ble Pradhan Mantri ji, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Hon'ble Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Hon'ble Speaker, Bangladesh Parliament, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen—I thank the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha for inviting me to address this Conference whose stated purpose is to highlight the role of women legislators as catalysts for national development.

The theme—*Role of Women Legislators in Nation Building* is appropriate

and timely. Just after two days we will commemorate the International Women's Day to recall and re-affirm that women are entitled to their rights and freedoms without discrimination. This is an appropriate occasion to share some thoughts on two matters of high priority on the national agenda.

The first relates to women's political representation and the second to the performance of women legislators in Legislatures. The two need to be considered together sequentially so that assessment and correctives are based on ground realities. Women's vital role was unequivocally recognised in our freedom movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The women of our country were drawn out not only to participate in large numbers, but also to play an important role in the non-violent struggle against colonial rule. In 1929, championing the cause of women's rights, Mahatma Gandhi said, "women must have votes and equal legal status. But the problem does not end there. It only commences at the point where women begin to effect the political deliberations of the nation".

The framers of our Constitution had the wisdom and foresight to realise that without political equality between men and women, we cannot rightfully claim ourselves to be a true representative democracy. This is why equality before law was granted to both genders in the Constitution. Giving women Constitutional right to suffrage is one thing but its tangible impact in raising women's power and influence in polity and society is an altogether different matter. Notwithstanding the fact that almost 47 per cent of the total voters were women during the last Lok Sabha elections in 2014, patriarchy and social norms have hindered its full reflection in positions of power.

More than two decades earlier, in the 1993, the need was felt to give greater representation in elected bodies. This took shape in the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act regarding membership and Chairpersonship in Panchayats and Municipalities. This initiative redefined gender representation in decision-making process at the grass root level. At present, there are 1.27 million elected women representatives in Panchayats which constitute 43.56 per cent of the total elected representatives. This is perhaps the largest ever representation of women in elected bodies anywhere in the world.

Despite the challenges of proxism, women representatives have performed exceptionally well in local bodies. In recognition of good performance of women in local bodies, as many as 16 States have introduced 50 per cent reservation for women in panchayats. Other

States may follow suit. However, the introduction of statutory requirement of meeting new eligibility conditions such as certain levels of education, number of children or other criteria to fight panchayat elections in many States is loaded against women. This calls for serious reflection.

Here is a paradox confronting us. The increase in women's representation at local bodies has not led to commensurate increase in women Members in Legislatures, both at the Centre and States. Today, our Parliament's gender profile is woefully unbalanced with women constituting only 12 per cent of the total membership. As such, the average number of women Members in Parliament has never been more than 12 per cent since the first Lok Sabha. In the States too, the average share of women Legislators is only 9 per cent in the Legislative Assemblies and only 6 per cent in Legislative Councils. This does not compare favourably with global trends. Apart from the Nordic pattern of around 40 per cent women representation, a recent survey by the Inter Parliamentary Union shows a world average of 22.7 per cent in National Parliaments.

A closer look at the participation of women Parliamentarians lends way to the notion that most, though not all, only cover issues relating to women. This also seems to be sustained by data of their membership of Parliamentary Committees though the responsibility for this state of affairs is to be shared by party leaderships who in the final analysis do the nomination.

Allow me to mention a few instances to sustain this impression.

Firstly, there are just two women Members in the three Financial Committees out of their total strength of 74 Members. While the Committee on Estimates has two women Members in the Lok Sabha, there is none in the Committee on Public Accounts and Committee on Public Undertakings for both the Houses.

Secondly, the Departmentally-Related Standing Committee on Finance does not have a single woman Member, while the Committee on Railways has only one. The Committee on Home Affairs has got two women Members whereas the Committee on Defence has four of them. In all, there are seven women Members in these four Committees out of their total strength of 124 Members thus constituting approximately six per cent.

Thirdly, the 30-Member Joint Committee on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 has only one woman Member.

Fourthly, even the Committee on Security in Parliament Complex

does not have any woman Member other than the Speaker as its Chairperson.

Fifthly, in contrast, however, the Joint Committee on Empowerment of Women has 28 Members out of the total strength of 30 Members constituting a whopping 93 per cent. These facts call for some correction.

The first corrective has to be made by the political parties. To shore up women representation, all political parties need to extend their support to ensure that the Constitution Amendment Bill to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies is not delayed further. Until then, at least they need to expand their pool of women candidates.

If we see the track record of the six national parties in fielding women candidates during the last general elections, 2014, we find that out of a total of 1591 candidates fielded by them, only 146 constituting 9.17 per cent were women. This is certainly not very encouraging.

Besides, the representative political parties must broad base their nomination while nominating their women Members to be in the Committees, statutory bodies as also while selecting speakers to participate in the debates in the House on other areas of public concern.

The Leaders and Whips of parties in the Houses need to overcome their own gender bias in engaging their women Members in different parliamentary roles. Above all, the women Members themselves need to show their interest and contribute meaningfully to debates. The fact that women Members within the limited opportunity available to them have demonstrated their concern over other issues of national interest must tilt the balance in their favour.

Ladies and gentlemen, the task of nation-building is an arduous exercise and a complex process. It involves men as much as women. Several studies have shown that women political participation results in tangible gains for democratic governance including greater responsiveness to citizen needs.

Women are also often the strongest voices for peace and non-violence. Women leadership and conflict resolution styles embody democratic ideals and they tend to work in a less hierarchal, more participatory and more collaborated manner than their male colleagues. Thus women's contribution is crucial to building a strong and vibrant nation. We can ignore it at our own peril.

I compliment the Hon'ble Speaker, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, for

taking the initiative in organising this Conference. I am confident that its deliberations will bring forth insights that would sharpen the focus on the role of women Legislators in nation-building activities.

I wish the Conference all success.

Jai Hind.

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE**

Mohd. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Council of States, India; Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi; Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; Hon'ble Speaker, Bangladesh Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, I welcome all the distinguished women participants, invited guests, particularly Hon'ble Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Cabinet Ministers who are present here and the representatives of the various Parliaments who are assembled here to discuss a very important and significant issue just a few days before the International Women's Day.

Both the Hon'ble Speaker and the distinguished Chairman of the Council of States has stated the state of affairs in the Indian Parliament in respect of the women which constitute 50 per cent of Indian population that never, since the first general elections in 1952 till date, we have not been able to ensure representation of women not more than 12 per cent—it is a sad commentary on us—though from day one with the adoption of Constitution of India on 26th January, 1950 we declared in the text of the Constitution that all citizens will have equality before law and equal rights in every sphere and activity of life. The subject for your deliberations for the next few days would be 'empowerment'. How can there be empowerment without representation? How can there be empowerment of women not merely by gratis but as a right, as a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of not only India but also of other countries, including Chapter VII of United Nations declaration and a series of Resolutions and Conventions in the International Human Rights Organisation.

I thank Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for immediately after assuming the office, picked up the slogan, in the Indian language, '*beti bachao beti padhao*' and his firm commitment to the true empowerment of the Indian women is exemplified by his presence here. He is not participating. He is not speaking. He is not giving us advice. But the Prime Minister of India is spending more than an hour without participation speaks of his total commitment to what he preaches and what he believes.

I remember what tremendous changes took place. Dr. Hamid Ansari referred to the Nordic countries representation. It is true. But the process began from the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. Thereafter, in the subsequent several years, series of changes took place. It is surprising to note that even in the Mother of Parliament, England, from the days of signing of Magna Carta, in June 1215 the birth of parliamentary system, voting rights for women was not granted before 1924. Through a Chartered Act it was legislated and the women got their rights. It happened because there was a Revolution all over Europe. Here we have seen it with our own eyes. Both Hon'ble Speaker and the Vice President have referred to how the women can improve not only themselves but also the lot of the society when opportunities are being given. Through 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution of India, it was agreed upon to have one-third reservations for the women in the local bodies, *panchayats* and municipalities. By inserting articles 243 (a) to 243 (q) today we have more than 1.27 million women representatives and they are doing an excellent job so far. The actual representation today is more than 33 per cent. It is around 43 per cent. Seeing the very good impact of it, many States have increased the reservation from 33 per cent to 50 per cent and many more States are trying to following this. I am particularly referring to this because during my days in Parliament and, one of the living eye witnesses is present here, our Minister of External Affairs, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, how much efforts we made to have one-third reservation for women in the State legislatures and in the Indian Parliament. We have not been able to do it. It is unfortunate for us. That legislation was passed and approved with two-thirds majority in one of the Houses of Parliament of India, as per the requirement of the Constitution, the other House has not yet approved it. The Hon'ble Chairman and Hon'ble Vice President has rightly pointed out that here lies the commitment of the political parties in actual action not in words, not in resolutions. Unless there is reservation, in a developing society like ours, we cannot expect the political parties will give one-third representation of the candidates to women. Expecting that every political party will fall in a particular line is too much and it normally does not happen. Even when there are choices it would not happen unless you have reservation.

Hon'ble Vice President has specifically mentioned about the Parliamentary Standing Committees. Here the options are for the Members and the political parties who have to choose their representatives. As per the parliamentary system, it is being distributed as per the strength of the political parties and they ought to nominate them to these Standing Committees.

Therefore, this attitudinal change is necessary. I do feel we would do a great job if we try to revive the Women's Representation Bill, one-third reservation in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas by making necessary amendments to the Constitution. Surely, I am confident that it would come within the discussions of your two-day deliberations.

The United Nations had suggested, after making some studies, and reported that representation of women is quite inadequate all over the world, even in the Group of United Nations. The percentage of women in the National Legislatures across the world is about 19 per cent. We have already mentioned that India has about 12 per cent representation of women in Parliament, and ranks 109th, among the 190 countries which have been enumerated in that list.

The United Nations has declared the theme of the International Women's Day of 2016 as "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality." The observance of The International Women's Day on 8th March will reflect the collective will of the nations to accelerate the 2030 agenda. The global community has to rededicate themselves to gender equality and women empowerment; and the organization of the National Conference of Women Legislators is a step, to my mind, in the right direction. This agenda should be carried forward; it cannot be confined to be deliberations in a couple of days; and there should be sustained efforts to take the necessary follow up action.

Hon'ble Speaker of Bangladesh is present amongst us. Life of parliamentary politics in Bangladesh is not very long. But I compliment her, and through her, to the people of Bangladesh for making a firm commitment to parliamentary politics, as a result of which international community has recognized them by offering the leadership of both IPU and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to the representatives of Bangladesh. Madam Speaker of Bangladesh, Dr. Chaudhury herself is the Chairperson of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have taken a little more time than I intended to. When I look at—from a bit distance because I cannot participate—though constitutionally, Indian Parliament consists of the President, two Houses of Parliament yet there is a provision in the Constitution which states that the moment you are elected President, you cease to be a Member of any House, either State Legislature or Central Legislature. Your membership will cease to exist. Therefore, I had to take leave after a long 43 years from the floor of Parliament on 25th July, 2012 when I was elected President. But I

look at what they are doing; how they are doing. As an old colleague of yours, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, I feel that you should do this, you should do that, of course, in my own mind, watching at the television screen.

I wish the Conference all success. I compliment once again the Hon'ble Speaker. Many many years ago, we considered that women are to be empowered. Hon'ble Speaker has compared woman with a river, a flowing river on the bank of which civilization was born. We conceptualized 'stree shakti'. Women is the power of creation; equally destruction of evil forces—'stree shakti'. Let us create a conducive atmosphere, not merely by passing legislations, expressing our pious wishes through the resolution but by our action. I wish the Conference all success.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

Jai Hind.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRI NARENDRA MODI

I congratulate Sumitra ji from the core of my heart for conceptualizing this programme but I would also like to congratulate all of you because I have been informed about the manner in which sessions were held on different subjects wherein you have participated actively and most of you attended those sessions. Otherwise when you visit Delhi, you must have certain other engagements, but, perhaps, that was not the case this time, which means that in this conference, you have made efforts to find solutions to the problems being faced by you in discharging your duty.

You must have set certain goals while entering public life and in order to seek guidance and information to empower yourself to achieve such goals, you have actively participated in this one and half days' conference. But I would like to draw your attention towards another fact that information is provided in a structured way in such conference, but the opportunity to share experiences with known and unknown persons during interaction at tea or lunch break is more empowering than structured programme and you are lucky to have had such an opportunity here. The National Conference of Women legislators will definitely play a positive role and you will be successful in your endeavour when you visit your constituencies in days to come.

A quote from Sushmaji's speech was referred to here. I do not want

to talk in terms of gender, but I deem it necessary to change the concept of empowerment of women. Empowerment is required for those who are not empowered, but I am unable to comprehend as to who will empower the persons who are already capable and how are the men authorised to empower women. It is important for you to recognize your strength.

We are unable to recognize our strength until we get an opportunity to face challenges. All social and life related surveys reach the same conclusion that after the demise of wife, the male can neither (look after) the family nor survive for long but in case of demise of husband, women not only survive for long but also manage to look after the family properly.

All these examples tend to prove that God has endowed women with inherent strength and it is important to identify this inner strength. Nowadays the term of multi-task activity is very popular in management world. The growth of personality in various countries of the world has been single tunnel activity. Under such system, a person contributes a lot in a particular field, but in case there is a hurdle, that person is unable to perform. For example, if a person is habitual of using lift and there is outage and he gets stuck on 10th floor, then it takes him one hour to get down stairs. There are such persons in the world.

Multi-tasking is considered as a specialized strength in managerial world but look at the women of our country. Perhaps, no one can beat them in multi-tasking. They listen to songs on FM, talk on mobile phone and also cook food and instruct children simultaneously. When we evaluate all these things, then we understand the inherent strength of women. Do we feel proud of such inherent strength or recognize such strength?

It is pertinent to mention that women have carved out a niche for themselves in every field. Can you recollect the names of the previous Ministers of External Affairs? You may not even recollect the names of the countries but today you quickly recollect the name of Sushma ji. It is her inherent strength.

There have been many Speakers in the Parliament but every one remembers the women Speakers, Meira Kumar ji, Sumitra ji. There are women Speakers in a number of states also wherever they got an opportunity. There has been no survey in this regard but I can say with confidence that if such a survey is conducted, it would be confirmed that the success ratio of women in comparison to the men would be found to be higher against the opportunities given to both. This means

the women have got potential. This is the first government in the country which has such a large representation of women amongst its cabinet. It is my conviction that women can give much better results if they get an opportunity and our experience confirms this assertion.

Perhaps you may have heard of the incident that occurred in Rwanda, a small country in Africa, in the latter half of the last century. A genocide was carried out in which lakhs of people, mostly men, were killed. Later-on the women took over the reins of the country. Today, their Lower House consists of 65 per cent women. Women led the country and pulled it out of a terrible situation. Today Rwanda is back on its feet. This is a significant example of how despite having gone through hardship, the women managed to turn the situation around and bring major changes on being given the opportunity. So, as public representatives, we should think if we could put in any extra efforts to strengthen our nation. No budget, or any number of roads, ports, airports, buildings can strengthen a nation as much as its people can. The citizens are the strength of a nation. The citizens are made strong and virtuous by their mothers. The contribution being made by the women of our country towards building, strengthening and empowering the nation can not be surpassed. The foundation stone of life is laid by women. But if you do not take pride in your achievements; if you remain gripped by inferiority complex, if you do not consider yourselves better than the others, then, I do not think you would be able to fulfil your dream of achieving your goals. You have to feel strong from within and it is not because I say so, but you are powerful.

Sometimes, we come across two aspects of woman's personality at home. When she is cooking at home and while making *chapati*, steam comes out of the *chapati* and burns her finger, she blows hard and loses interest in cooking. She waits for her husband's return. She peeks through the window again and again just to show her burnt finger to her husband as soon as he comes back. She expects her husband to say and do something for her finger even if her finger was burnt two hours ago. The same woman reveals another aspect of her personality as a mother. If she goes to market to buy vegetables and comes across big discount of 10 per cent or 20 per cent on sale of sarees. She starts looking at *sarees*. Suddenly, she comes to know that a fire has broken out in her mohalla. She drops everything and rushes to her home.

The neighbours are busy in various activities like putting soil or dust or water for dousing the fire in the house. She comes and shouts that her son is inside the house. Several men are standing there but none would dare to go inside the house. But that mother does not care for her

life and rushes into the fire and come out with her child. A woman cries in pain and expects sympathy when her finger is burnt by steam coming out of the *chapati* but the same woman behaves differently in the time of crisis when her power of love for the child overcomes her pain. You have that power and this power makes the country stronger. Thus, as a public representative, you have to play various roles. You are supposed to legislate in the legislature. While legislating, you have to go through the draft legislation minutely and ensure that the said draft fits in well with the agenda of empowerment of women. You have to see whether the draft lacks any words or things and if so, as a well-aware public representative, you have to try your best to include those things in the draft. This would be a very big contribution from your end.

It may be that one or two important legislations are passed in your tenure and if you include any such word in the legislation which can change the lives of next generations, it would be a very big contribution. You have to ensure whether you are giving your best as a public representative. As a public representative, you have to discharge your constitutional obligation. When a house is constructed for a family, whatever design may be approved by the architect, the mother gives final approval that the kitchen should be here, toilet should be there, temple should be here and the shoe-rack should be there. That lady may not be an architect or an engineer but she has a greater understanding on account of her experiences. Similarly, when a legislation is enacted in a legislature, you have to see the strong and weak points of that legislation. You have to see what kind of impact that legislation is likely to have on the coming generations. You can make a big contribution because you have the power to see hear and understand. You have the power to sense things well before time which perhaps the men don't have.

You can understand the ramification of the legislation earlier than your male counterparts. You have got this unique gift from the God. Can this God given gift be used in the legislature or wherever we are working? You should try your best to use that divine power and make your mark as a public representative. I would request you to make efforts carefully; cultivate your image and identity as a sincere public representative in your area and for this, you have to work hard continuously. Suppose a public representative meets the public on Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 A.M. you have to ensure your presence on those two days no matter if it rains or sun shines brightly. It would help you forge an identity. Your voters would rest assured that they would be able to meet their representative on those days. You give a

telephone number for leaving message when you are unable to meet people and you have to ensure that telephone number works as powerfully as you.

We have to see whether we can register our presence in our constituency. If you create a particular image of your functioning, your speech, your views and your conduct, this image would serve you for long time. You should try this. As a public representative, sometimes politics becomes a competitive sport but when jealousy overpowers all other emotions in a competition, we can no longer go forward. If two or four more women are brilliant and powerful in our constituency, then we start feeling low. We are afraid that we may lose ticket and other lady may get the ticket in next election.

We should move forward constantly making ourselves able and if you try to keep yourself in the forefront and don't let others advance further, then be sure that the force of the approaching current will be so strong that it will overpower you and you will never be able to come upward. But if you let others join you, you will move upward and your base at the bottom will keep on expanding and your power will continue to rise like a pyramid.

As a public representation leading a public life, One must strive to enhance one's strength and personality. One-third women are leading in all our constituencies. Someone is leading the village, some other is leading the town and someone else leading the small and big cities and it is one-third because one-third seats are reserved for women. Leave others, but these one-third women represent your views, your ideas and work under you in your constituencies. If you are an MLA and there are 100 villages in your constituency, there must be 30-35 women Pradhans from these villages. Have you empowered them and have you spent even a single day with them?

I would urge upon you to do what Sumitraji has done for you. Can the women who are elected from Lok Sabha Constituencies or *Vidhan Sabha* constituencies go to their respective constituencies and hold a one day programme to convey this message? Because if this thing percolates down to the lower level, it will lead to a major change in the field of empowerment and party affiliation does not matter. In fact, there should be no party politics in this regard. You have seen that the women from all the parties are present here and I would like to congratulate Sumitraji for forming a committee to chalk out this programme which included women from all the parties and almost all of them were Junior Members of Parliament but they planned it with great enthusiasm. What

I mean to say is how do we empower this unit, how do we make them strong and how do we make them capable. Can we lead the way to make them capable, if we lead, we can bring about a great transformation.

Another issue I would like to touch upon is technology. We should accept this fact that technology is going to play a major role in the life of a person and society. We have to cope with it. I am of the opinion that the women tend to adopt the technology more than men. You visit any kitchen and you will find the women using the most modern gadgets available in the kitchen with great ease. Not only this, even an uneducated woman helping her in the kitchen also knows how to use these gadgets. It means that the women possess a special power to adopt technology.

You must have seen that those manufacturing consumer products also target the women centric products because they know that their products will be marketed readily as the women accept them with ease. Technology is not new for women and they accept it but we have to see as to how we can make best use of technology in this changed era as a public representative? How can we make use of technology for communication? How should we use technology in our field of work and for establishing communication with the people, how should we make use of technology for learning about the general problems being faced by the people and communicating our ideas to the people? We should make utmost efforts in this regard. Today, there is not a single voter who is not connected with mobile phone, not even 2 per cent of such people will be there but if you are not connected with them, it means something is missing. If you share your two days experience in this conference through technology, the country as well as the whole world will be able to know about the developments taking place here and this is the best source of getting information.

I have experienced it myself. I have Narendra Modi app and a large number of people are connected with me and provide so much information to me through this app. I come to know everything or every incident immediately. I remain well informed while doing my work. I connect myself with the general public through another platform namely mygov.in being run by PMO. You may also make such arrangements. I would like to request the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to prepare an e-platform for the women representatives so that they may share their experiences officially on these websites. An opportunity must be given to women representatives all over the country. See, the technology has its own power and I would like to share an experience in this regard. When I was the Chief Minister of Gujarat I came to know about Kaprada, a Tehsil

inhabited by the tribals and located in a very interior location. No Chief Minister had visited that area. But I always tried my best to visit all the places in my state. I could not get an opportunity to visit that place and two to three years passed. Then I decided that I would go there anyway and plant a tree and come back.

Then my officers realized that visiting Kaprada was urgent. So, finally they organised a programme of inauguration of Chilling centre. Chilling centre is used for keeping the milk in a cool condition for a limited period. It costs about 50 to 60 lakh rupees. Now the officers were hesitating as to how a Chief Minister would go for inaugurating such a small project of 50 lakh rupees. I told them that I had not visited that area so far, so I had to go there anyway. When I went there, I found it was a forest area and there was no place for holding public meeting. But a public meeting was organized at 3 kilometres from the chilling centre in a school ground. When I visited the chilling centre, 30 to 35 tribal women were standing near the security fencing. I was surprised to see that every one of them had a mobile phone in her hand and they were clicking photos.

I am talking of the area which is not visited by the Chief Ministers. It is a forest and inhabited only by tribals. I am telling you about an incident that occurred ten years ago. Everyone was clicking photos. I was surprised. I went to them and asked them what they intended to do with those photos. I can never forget the reply. They said they would download the photos. They were not educated but they understood the term 'download'. They knew that they could get downloads from a mobile phone from a shop. What I mean to say is that we should look at the reach of technology. Have we tried to connect ourselves with technology? You all should make efforts to enhance your powers.

Another area is communication. I don't say you should become a great orator. If you can, well and good, but there is no need to have an inferiority complex if you can't. But if you try, you can learn to put across your point in an effective manner.

You are public representatives. If you are techno savvy, then you use your mobile, or keep a small i-pad or even write in a diary. Maintain a diary. Make categories such as education, irrigation, urban development, rural development and write down whatever you read in newspapers, and the incidents you observe. In a year's time, you will find that you have developed a knowledge bank. Whenever you come across a topic of discussion, if you consult your diary, you would be able to present facts and figures to support your views. I urge upon you to make

yourself efficient and if you do not make the efforts required to make yourself efficient, then simply making changes in the system would not work. The structures would change and it is a regular occurrence but the question is how to add our energies to the projects to infuse them with dynamism.

You should try to learn how to put across your point in the shortest time possible and concisely. If you succeed in this, you will find that people agree with you and associate with you. You do not need an excellent personality to establish your leadership, you just need to have knowledge of the subjects you are dealing with. You speak in the House. Everyone does not have knowledge about all the issues. Even a Prime Minister does not have knowledge about all the issues. But you should have mastery over one or two issues of your interest. When you find information relating to such issues, you should collect it. If you think you have knowledge about water and there is a problem of water shortage in your area, you should become proficient about this topic. Some other person may want to master technology and another may master the issue of education.

You should have specialized knowledge about the topic of your interest which you can relate to and deal with easily. Maybe your party members do not let you speak in the House normally but if you have mastery over some issue then people will come looking for you for your expertise. They will insist that you must be present in the Parliament or Assembly on the date when the said issue is likely to be discussed as you would be able to put across their point most effectively being knowledgeable about the topic. You will not need to take any obligation. So, you have to make efforts to improve yourself and these efforts yield the best results. I have taken a lot of time.

You have to take lunch and you all have come prepared for a photo session also and I once again congratulate Sumitra ji and all of you present there. Here I would like to say one more thing that whenever you get an opportunity to visit states as a Member of Committee of the Parliament or the Assembly, make sure to have a meeting with women representatives for half an hour or an hour besides the committee programme. In this way, you will receive various information.

Secondly, I request the MPs that you must have MLAs of various states as friends. We discuss a number of issues related to states in the House. Now you can ask your MLA friend on telephone about the issue likely to be raised in the House. In response to your call, she will provide you such information within an hour. This exercise will be beneficial for both of you since she will study and gather information

about the incident and report to you and on the other hand, you will get first hand information about the incident which you can produce in the House.

You should be aware that source of information is very important. It is upto you to carry whatever knowledge is provided here but make sure to expand your friend circle irrespective of the party they belong to. As a result, your source of information will be increased. In committee meetings, raise your point that a meeting with women representatives should be organized during visit of the committee to different states. You should make efforts in this regard. Gradually this will form a powerhouse which will play an important role in nation building and the day is not far when the country will witness women led development besides women empowerment. With this hope, I convey my best wishes to all of you.

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN AT THE 78TH
CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN INDIA**

The 78th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 22 to 23 January 2016. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson of the Conference, Smt Sumitra Mahajan delivered the Inaugural Address on 22 January 2016.

We reproduce below the text of the Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha at the Conference.

—Editor

I am extremely delighted to be here with you all at the 78th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India. It has been a year since we last met at Lucknow, and now, we are again together in this green city of Gandhinagar. The idea of rotating the venues of this Conference each year fosters the feeling of being one and serving the same larger cause.

I am particularly happy that the Conference is being organized in this great beautiful and well planned city of Gandhinagar. As you all know, the Legislative Assembly of Gujarat had hosted this Conference in Gandhinagar in 1973 and again in 1992. Prior to this, the conference was also held in Rajkot in 1955. I extend heartiest gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker of Legislative Assembly of Gujarat for offering to host this conference and giving us the opportunity of visiting this beautiful city.

Whenever I visit Gujarat, I feel at home here. The saying of 'Atithi Devobhav' is very true in case of Gujarat because the people of Gujarat are very affectionate and impeccable hosts. The cultural heritage, handicrafts, arts, food and colourful festivals of Gujarat make this state an attractive destination for the tourists.

The State of Gujarat, popularly known as The Land of Legends, was one of the major centres of our Independence movement. It has been associated with outstanding leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Former Prime Ministers Shri Morarji Desai

and present Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi too hail from Gujarat.

Before I proceed further, I bow my head in reverence to the memory of Shri Vithalbai Patel, the first Indian to have been the President of the Central Legislative Assembly and Dadasaheb G.V. Mavalankar, the Speaker of the First Lok Sabha, both of whom were illustrious sons of Gujarat, who bequeathed to us a rich legacy.

I consider it my bounden duty to make a reference to some of the Fellow Presiding Officers and towering personalities who are no more with us. First and foremost, I may pay my respects to former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam who passed away on 27 July 2015. As the President of the Republic, he was an integral part of the Parliament. Let us pay our respectful homage to this illustrious son of the country. I also take this opportunity to pay our tributes to some of our distinguished colleagues who have passed away. They are: Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Former Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly; Shri G. Karthikeyan, Former Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly; Shri Ramkrishna Suryabhanji Gavai, Former Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council; Shri Pramod Bhaoraoji Shende, Former Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Smt Nafeesath Beevi, Former Deputy Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly; and Shri Paty Ripple Kyndiah; Former Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

I would in particular like to refer to the outstanding career of Shri Hashim Abdul Halim as Presiding Officer who earned the distinction of having been the longest serving Speaker of a Legislature, that is from June 1982 to May 2011. He held the office of President of West Bengal branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for 25 years and participated actively in all the Commonwealth Parliamentary programmes and conferences. He was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in September 2005 and the President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations in 1995 and again in the year 2000. His lasting contribution to the parliamentary system will always continue to inspire us.

I extend a hearty welcome, on behalf of all of you and on my own behalf, to those Presiding Officers who have joined our fraternity after the Lucknow Conference. I am sure, they would strengthen this Forum by their insights and experience.

Fellow Presiding Officers, you will certainly agree with me that since our Legislatures are ever growing and dynamic institutions, they must keep pace with the changing times. In this regard, the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India has proved to be very

effective in helping Legislatures adapt, evolve and face the challenges of the times. In the last ninety-five years, the Conference has undergone significant changes and has now transformed itself into a purposive platform for interaction, meeting of minds and blending of ideas. Accordingly, the aims, objects and scope of the Conference have expanded to include matters relating not only to parliamentary practices and procedures but also some current topics of general interest with special reference to the working of democracy.

Let me now recapitulate some of the important parliamentary developments and events that have taken place since our previous meeting. During this period, the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha were held. The House transacted important legislative, financial and other Business and passed several Bills of far reaching significance.

As you may recall, the first two days of the Winter Session of Lok Sabha held on 26th and 27th November 2015 discussed India's Commitment to the Constitution as part of the Constitution Day Celebrations and the 125th Birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. A Resolution solemnly affirming our commitment to the principles and ideals of the Constitution was adopted on the occasion.

To coincide with this, an Exhibition titled "Making of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly" was put up (organised) by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

In an important development, the Committee on Ethics, hitherto an *ad hoc* Committee, has now been made a Standing Committee in Lok Sabha. Incorporation of new Rules in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha lays down the constitution, functions, procedure, etc., of the Committee and provides for the procedure for ethics complaints and the powers of the Speaker to refer a question of ethical and other misconduct to the Committee on Ethics.

Since we met in Lucknow last year, there have been four major Conferences of Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and their counterparts in State Legislatures. The Committee on Public Undertakings of Parliament hosted a two-day All India Conference of Chairpersons of the Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State/UT Legislatures on 14 and 15 March 2015 on completion of fifty years of its formation. The Conference was attended by the Chairpersons of Committees on Public Undertakings of thirteen State Legislatures. A broad consensus emerged among the participants of the Conference on the issue of

bringing about a degree of uniformity in the sets of Rules in respect of functions, practice and procedure of Committees of Public Undertakings in State Legislatures on the lines of the Parliament's Committee on Public Undertaking and increasing the term of the Committee from one year to two years for ensuring engagement of members of the Committee for a meaningful time. Emphasis was also laid on the need to hold talks at regular intervals among Committees on Public Undertakings of the Parliament and State Legislatures.

The second Conference—the All India Conference of Chairpersons of Public Account Committees of Parliament and State/UT Legislatures was held in New Delhi on 8 and 9 September 2015 which discussed the issues of making the functioning of Public Accounts Committees more effective with the objective of enhancing public financial accountability in the country. It was emphasized that parliamentary control over public expenditure is not limited only to voting of moneys required for carrying on the administration of the country, but also extends to ensuring that the expenditure is incurred in a prudent manner and achieving the objectives laid down in the policies adopted by Parliament. It was unanimously agreed that the three 'Es'—economy, efficiency and effectiveness—along with transparency and accountability, in public spending should be strictly adhered to.

Coming to the Themes of the Conference, the issues to be deliberated here certainly have a crucial bearing on our parliamentary democratic system, calling for discussion at great length. The first topic on the agenda is Changing Public Perception of Legislatures: The Role of Legislators in strengthening public faith in democratic institutions and the relevance of the Speakers Research Initiative in supporting the Legislators. We all recognize that the Legislature is the most important institution in a representative democracy and it acts as a connecting link between the governments and citizens. It legislates, ventilates public grievances, articulates public aspirations and keeps a check on the functioning of the Executive. Over the years, the responsibilities on a Legislature and its functioning have increased manifold and correspondingly the demands on legislators have also increased many times over.

The awareness and interest of the common man in the proceedings of our Legislatures has increased because of modern media. It is commendable but disruptions in Legislatures and non completion of legislative work in stipulated time raises apprehensions among the people and many times, there is negative feedback in media about the legislatures. Therefore, it is our collective responsibility to strengthen public faith in our democratic institutions.

The effectiveness of the Legislatures rests on public trust. Trust, both in its social and political forms, is the sine qua non of good governance. While democratic governance breeds trust, trust is a prerequisite for democratic governance in the first place. In order for public administration to function smoothly and effectively, it must rely on public support, *i.e.*, public trust. Democratic governance cannot come to fruition in a society where there is a dearth of social trust. A harmonious and cooperative relationship between the Parliament and the Executive is therefore necessary for the building of trust.

In this context, it needs reiteration that maintaining of discipline and decorum in the House is very important for maintaining the credibility and dignity of House. Incidents of forced adjournments and loss of valuable parliamentary time due to interruptions are indeed a cause of concern for all of us. Legislatures are hard pressed for time and the interruptions in the parliamentary proceedings have emerged as a major challenge for all of us. Although, it is always the Speaker's task to ensure that parliamentary decorum is maintained under all circumstances, and for this, she/he is invested with wide-ranging disciplinary powers under the rules, but the House cannot be run without the cooperation of members. During the current Lok Sabha, I have tried to set a benchmark of high standards so that the productivity ratio can be the maximum, and in fact we have shown this achievement (achieved this) during the Fourth Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha. But at the same time, I do admit that we have lost valuable time due to interruptions, even though we have sat late to make up for the time lost and transact the business of the day.

While on one hand, there have been rapid changes in the global scenario in this age of Information and technological revolution, on the other hand, the pace of economic growth has also increased tremendously. In order to keep pace with the growth, it is expected of the Legislatures to discharge their legislative responsibilities in a timely manner and usher the country on the path to progress. As we are the youngest country in the world, our youth has several concerns and aspirations and good governance and development is the only way to meet their expectations. Legislatures play an important role in ensuring good governance and development. The working days of Legislatures are decreasing and if legislative work is not taken up due to disruptions during those days as well, it is natural for the common man to have negative image of Legislatures. It is a matter of concern for the people of our country that discussion and debate is not taking place in Legislatures, there has been a decline in discipline and decorum and

disturbance and disruptions are increasing. This is affecting the image of our legislatures. The Members of Legislatures have the right to express their views and dissent in a dynamic democracy. However, this disagreement should be expressed within the accepted norms in a democracy and also, it should be ensured that the legislative work is not disrupted. Opposition should have its say and Government should have its way in any vibrant and dynamic democracy.

As Lok Sabha Speaker, I get several opportunities to interact with the school children, representatives of media and foreign dignitaries. All of them raised questions about the parliamentary proceedings which made me realise that people have certain apprehensions about the Legislatures and representatives of the people. We should address it and improve the image and productivity of legislatures.

In order to increase the public trust, we, legislators, will have more accessible to the citizens, evolve new areas of interactions and ventilate public grievances in a more effective manner. We will have to associate the public at various levels of policy formulation and legislation. Educating people by raising their awareness on various issues of public importance will also increase their trust in the democratic institutions. But this can only be done when we ourselves are well informed.

In the current era of knowledge explosion, where information overload is a bigger problem than the lack of it. It is imperative that the legislators are equipped with impartial, objective and accurate information on contemporary issues like climate change, Sustainable Development Goals, poverty alleviation, peace building, women's empowerment, terrorism, etc. Orientation and intellectual development of members are of critical importance to ensure their effectiveness as people's representatives which, in turn, also impacts the functioning of the Legislatures. This calls for a member to have a sound knowledge and awareness of rules, adequate understanding of the constitutional provisions and the Parliament's position in the constitutional scheme, and a good grounding in parliamentary customs, conventions and traditions. Information acts as a background to members to develop a balanced opinion on issues of vital importance. As such, capacity building is an ongoing exercise and legislators need to be exposed to the views of the domain experts also in various areas so that they can effectively take part in discussions in the House and in the Committees on important issues and provide valuable inputs.

It is in this context that a new initiative called Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI) was conceptualised and set up to further address the demands of our members for high-quality research inputs on important matters of diverse nature to create greater awareness and deeper

understanding of the issues. The Speaker's Research Initiative, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was constituted on 23 July 2015 and it consists of a specialist Core Group which arranges for specialized lectures and workshops, and provides balanced inputs for the members. It facilitates interaction between parliamentarians and domain experts who provide support to them as per request and current work agenda of SRI. It is planned as a two-way interactive process wherein the MPs give their feedback as well as their valuable suggestions to maximize the benefit of this initiative.

From the very beginning, SRI started working on the issues considered complex and of technical nature by Parliamentarians normally as they are not well-versed in that subject. These subjects include financial and fiscal matters, international trade, investment and technological issues and health and food security in social field.

The second subject chosen for discussion during this Conference is measures to be taken for ensuring attendance of the members during the sittings of the House, and for improving the quality of the debate and the need to ensure minimum 60 days sittings of the House in a year in State Legislatures. This theme has a bearing on the first theme as well where we are discussing public faith in democratic Legislatures. As we acknowledge, it is necessary that the House transacts business smoothly without disruptions and forced adjournments. But when this does not happen, how will it be possible to facilitate good governance and secure Executive accountability to the Legislature? The situation becomes all the more serious when the Legislatures do not meet for minimum number of sittings in a year. The effectiveness of the parliamentary system depends on the cooperation and participation of its members in the Business of the House and also on the quality of the debates we have on the issues of national and international importance. Our responsibilities and duties as legislators require that we participate in parliamentary functioning with right earnest and also keep ourselves well informed about vital issues and possess objective, factual and latest information.

We have deliberated upon this subject time and again and reached a consensus also. Way back in 1998, the 62nd Conference of the Presiding Officers held in-depth deliberations on the issue of procedural uniformity and better management of the time of the House. In pursuance of the decision taken at the Conference, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Narayan S. Pharande was constituted, which gave a detailed report in 44th Conference held at Chandigarh in June, 2001 wherein the Committee inter-alia had recommended that there should be some

constitutional provisions regarding minimum number of sittings and suggested, it should be 100 sittings for the bigger States and 60 sittings for the smaller ones. Yet, it is disheartening to note that in spite of concerted efforts, we are unable to get satisfactory results. The time has come to ensure attendance of members during debates in the House and also to fix minimum number of sittings in our Legislatures.

I look forward to meaningful and productive discussions on the two themes, and I am sure that your pragmatic insights and inputs will help the Presiding Officers to address these challenges in a more effective manner.

Before I conclude, I would draw your attention to the proposed National Conference of Women Legislators' scheduled for 5 and 6 March 2016, in New Delhi to highlight the role of our Women Legislators in building a Resurgent India. I have already invited all of you personally to this important Conference. Our objective is to discuss how to further channelize the inherent potential and authority of the women legislators and to give an avenue for opinion making towards contributing substantially in building an empowered nation and establishing good governance. I have requested you to kindly discuss the various themes of main agenda of this conference with the Women Legislators of your state so that they may highlight the achievements and challenges in respect of agenda items from the point of view of the concerned state. I do hope and trust that we will have a very productive Conference of our Women Legislators and I seek your support in making the event a grand success.

I once again thank the Hon'ble Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and all others associated with this event for the excellent arrangements that they have made for the Conference.

On this occasion, I would like to recapitulate the views of Gandhiji on democracy and I quote, "Whenever you are in doubt or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melt away."

With these words, I have immense pleasure in inaugurating the 78th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India.

Thank you.

**RESOLUTION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
WOMEN LEGISLATORS ON THE THEME “WOMEN
LEGISLATORS: BUILDING RESURGENT INDIA”, HELD
IN NEW DELHI ON 5TH AND 6TH OF MARCH 2016**

We, the women legislators, who have assembled at the National Conference of Women Legislators on the theme Women Legislators: Building Resurgent India, held in New Delhi on 5th and 6th of March 2016,

recalling with profound gratitude the stellar contributions of the founding fathers of our Constitution to building a strong, united, egalitarian and democratic republic,

recognizing the vital role of legislators especially women legislators in strengthening the process of governance towards building a resurgent India,

emphasising that India has made notable progress in social and economic development, and that we have to ensure that the pattern of development remains equitable within and between the States and all sections,

acknowledging the imperative to facilitate equal access to education, healthcare, safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities, promote social and financial inclusion, and promote women’s greater participation in work force,

do hereby resolve to work for transparent, accountable and inclusive governance and to contribute for the task of building a resurgent India,

strive for social and financial inclusion with a view to ensuring equal opportunities to all,

inform, communicate and educate citizens about the development programmes, proactively monitor implementation of schemes, effective utilization of allocations and efficient service delivery mechanisms,

work to ensure accessible, inclusive and quality education with focus on outcomes,

undertake to strengthen accessible, affordable and equitable public healthcare infrastructure with effective delivery at its core,

emphasize the need for greater synergy between the people and the administrative, law enforcement agencies to ensure their welfare, safety and security especially safety and security of women and the girl child,

promote grassroots entrepreneurship and improve the skill levels of the workforce, engage with elected women representatives at municipal and panchayat levels regularly as bridges of constructive dialogue between and among the people, the States and the Union,

promote increased role of women in financial decision-making and fostering financial literacy among the masses,

proactively engage in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development schemes and in particular in meeting specific targets,

engender all legislative and development plans for integrating gender concerns into the processes and procedures,

contribute to better legislation and policy making through study and research and to coordinate with the administration at all levels for their effective implementation,

and engage with young people who are harbingers of change and innovation,

encourage women to be a part of the developmental processes and procedures,

motivate communities and citizens to engage with governance issues, and to ensure follow up action towards inclusive and citizen centric governance unitedly and

building a truly empowered and resurgent nation.”

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

23rd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia from 9 to 14 January, 2016: The 23rd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) was held at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia from 9 to 14 January, 2016 which was hosted by the Parliament of Malaysia. The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, led a Parliamentary Delegation to the event. The Members of the Delegation were: Prof. P.J. Kurien, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, and Shri Anoop Mishra, and Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively. The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, attended the meeting of the Standing Committee of CSPOC as the Standing Committee Member from the India Region, and the Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha attended the Conference as Observers.

Four topics were discussed in the Workshops of the Conference, viz. (i) 'The Challenges facing the Independence of Speakers'; (ii) 'The Role of Speakers in the Security of Parliaments and their Precincts'; (iii) 'Parliamentary Privilege-Protecting the Effective Functioning of Democracies'; and (iv) 'Orientation and Development for Parliamentarians'. There was also one Special Plenary session on 'The Low Citizen Confidence in Parliamentary Institutions: How Can Commonwealth Parliaments Build Trust in Legislatures?'.

The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, presented a paper on the topic "*Orientation and Development for Parliamentarians*" as Lead Speaker, on 12 January, 2016. She also participated in the discussions on the other topics and the Special Plenary.

CPA Asian Regional Workshop on 'Sustainability, Energy and Development' from 18 to 21 January, 2016 in New Delhi: The CPA UK, in partnership with UNDP, and with the support of the British High Commission in New Delhi, organized the Asian Regional Workshop in New Delhi from 18 to 21 January, 2016.

Discussions were held on the following topics in the workshop:
(i) From MDGs Towards SDGs—Energy, Sustainability and Development;

(ii) Energy Sustainability, Resilience and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific; (iii) Delivering Sustainable Energy Targets: From National Action Plans to Implementation; (iv) Renewable Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Ensuring Energy Access and Security; Regional Cooperation for Energy Security; Energy Access for All: Off-Grid Solutions for Sustainable Energy; (v) Fostering Inclusiveness and Community Ownership; (vi) Financing Sustainable Energy for All—(a) International Climate Finance, (b) Domestic Financial Mechanisms: Taxation and Financial Incentives; (vii) Briefing Session on the Field Visit Activity and Mock Committee Hearing; (viii) Mock Committee Hearing; and (ix) Mock Committee Hearing and Role of Scrutiny.

Dr. Kirit Somaiya and Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Members of Lok Sabha, and Smt. Kanak Lata Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha, attended the workshop from the India Union Branch.

Dr. Kirit Somaiya, MP delivered the Keynote Address in the opening Session wherein he focused on the need to approach energy and sustainability issues together with national responses to climate change challenges. The delegates visited the 'Green Action' project on Biogas in Neemrana (Rajasthan).

CPA Asia, India and South-East Asia Regional Seminar on Human Rights, Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 1 to 3 February, 2016: The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), in collaboration with the CPA Sri Lanka Branch, jointly organized a three-day Regional Seminar for Asia, India and South-East Asia Region Legislatures on "Strengthening the Role of Parliamentarians in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights". Shri Harish Chandra Meena and Shri Ramen Deka, Members of Lok Sabha, attended the Seminar. The various sessions in which parliamentarians shared their experiences and perspective are:—(i) Freedoms of Expression, Peaceful Assembly, and Association; (ii) Parliamentarians and their Role in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; (iii) National Human Rights Institutions; (iv) Freedom of Religion or Belief; and (v) Child, Early and Forced Marriage. Shri Ramen Deka, MP, was the Lead Speaker on the topic "Child, Early and Forced Marriage".

CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in Guernsey from 12 to 14 February, 2016: The CPA British Islands & Mediterranean Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (BIMR CWP) Steering Committee and the CPA Guernsey hosted the 3rd BIMR CWP Conference from 12 to 14 February, 2016 in Guernsey on the theme "*Influencing Policies and*

Legislation for the Empowerment of Women". Smt, Meenakashi Lekhi, MP, Lok Sabha, attended the Conference from the India Union Branch as an Observer.

The Conference held discussion on the topics, viz. (i) Gender Budgeting; (ii) Women and Health and Social Care Policy; (iii) Women in the Economy–Employment Policies; and (iv) Women in the Economy–Education Policies.

Post-Election Seminar for the Mauritius National Assembly from 16 to 18 February, 2016: A three-day Post-Election Seminar for the Mauritius National Assembly was organized by the CPA Secretariat on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure from 16 to 18 February, 2016 in Port Louis. The experts shared good practices from other Commonwealth Parliaments and related these experiences in discussion, to the local scene. The Seminar aimed at the capacity building of newly elected Members of Parliament of Mauritius to enable them to function efficiently and effectively in the performance of their duties. Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, MP, Lok Sabha, attended the Seminar from the India Union Branch as a Resource Person.

During the Seminar, discussions were held on the topics, viz. (i) The Evolution of Parliamentary Democracy and the Constitution of Mauritius; (ii) Institutional aspects of the Parliamentary System including the relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary; (iii) Parliament, Democracy and Civil Society and the Role of an MP; (iv) Practice and Procedure in the House; (v) Parliamentary Committees; (vi) Women in Parliament; (vii)–(a) Parliament and Human Rights, (b) Parliament and the Media, (c) Live Broadcasting of Proceedings; (viii) Principles of Public Life; and Privilege and Members' Interests; (ix) Party Organisation within Parliament; and (x) Administration and Financing of Parliament.

134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Lusaka, Zambia from 19 to 23 March, 2016: The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 19 to 23 March, 2016. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, attended the Assembly. The Delegation comprised Shri Nagendra Singh, Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Smt. Anju Bala, Smt. K. Maragathan, Dr.(Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Members of Lok Sabha; Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, Shri P.L. Punia, Shri Anil Yeshwant Desai, Members of Rajya Sabha; Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha (ASGP Member), and Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha (ASGP Executive Member). Shri Cyril John, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; Shri Nagendra Singh, Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Smt. Anju Bala, and Smt. K. Margatham, and Shri Anil Yeshwant Desai, participated in the meetings of the Governing Council. The Hon'ble Speaker also participated in the General Debate on the overall theme of '*Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*'. The Assembly adopted a declaration on the same.

The Four Standing Committees of IPU held their meetings during the Assembly and Members of the Delegation participated in the deliberations. All members of the delegation (except Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, MP) attended the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Geo Political Group (APG) of IPU. Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, MP, participated in the meeting of the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. Smt. Anju Bala and Smt. K. Maragatham, Members of Lok Sabha attended the meeting of the Women Parliamentarians.

Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, and Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, attended the Meetings of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments.

South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 30 and 31 January 2016: The South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 30 and 31 January, 2016. The event was organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in partnership with the 'Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids'. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, participated in the Summit. Shri Anoop Mishra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha attended the event. Shri Cyril John, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Meeting of the 35th Session of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on the WTO held in Brussels on 16 and 17 February, 2016: Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Member, Lok Sabha, and the Member of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on the WTO participated in this event. Where discussions were focused on the themes (i) Update on Recent Developments at the WTO; and (ii) Benefits of Trade Investment for the Least Developed Countries.

Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians: A Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians was held in Lusaka, Zambia on 16 and 17 March, 2016. Smt. Anju Bala, and Smt. K. Maragatham, Members of Lok Sabha participated in the Conference.

Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India

The 78th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 22 and 23 January 2016. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, and Chairperson of the Conference, inaugurated the Conference at the premises of the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha, in Gandhinagar, on 22 January 2016. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Smt. Anandiben Patel, also addressed the distinguished gathering at the inaugural function. The Conference deliberated on two agenda items of parliamentary interest, viz. (i) Changing Public Perception of Legislatures: The Role of Legislators in strengthening public faith in democratic institutions and the relevance of the Speaker's Research Initiative in supporting the Legislators; and (ii) Measures to be taken for ensuring attendance of the Members during the sittings of the House, and for improving the quality of the debates and the need to ensure minimum 60 days sittings of the House in a year in State Legislatures.

Shri Om Prakash Kohli, Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, addressed the Concluding Session of the Conference on 23 January 2016.

The Parliamentary Museum and Archives of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, with the support of the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha Secretariat and the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), put up an Exhibition on "Making of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly" at the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha on 22 January 2016. The Exhibition was inaugurated on 22 January 2016 by the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan.

56th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India

The Conference of Presiding Officers was preceded by the 56th Conference of the Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India on 21 January 2016. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Anoop Mishra, inaugurated the Conference. The Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, also addressed the Conference. The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of most of the State/Union Territory Legislatures attended the Conference.

The Conference discussed and deliberated upon various issues relating to practices and procedures of conduct of business in the Legislative Bodies. These included Communicating Legislatures to People: Initiatives and Challenges, How to make the Members Information Service more effective, including providing Research Support to the Committees of the Legislatures for the Efficacy of their Investigatory Role, Changing

Dimensions of Legislative Libraries: Imperative of Digitization of Legislative Debates and other Relevant Documents, Audio and Video recording of the Debates of the House and their legal validity, Right of the Governor to address the House (i) Prioritization of notices to be done by ballots/ lots or should be left to the discretion of the Speaker, (ii) Procedure followed for determination of inter-se priority when a number of notices of No-Confidence Motion are received for the same sitting; (a) How to reckon the period of six weeks in case of an Ordinance laid before the bicameral State Legislatures?, (b) If an Ordinance is not laid before both the Houses on the same day of re-assembly of the bicameral State Legislature and an Ordinance is laid before one House and the Ordinance conversion Bill is introduced and passed by that House before laying such Ordinance in the other House, what will be the consequences?; Whether the Government can seek Supplementary or Additional Demands for Grants before passing of the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year; Need to simplify and redefine the Rules of Procedure after the experience of sixty-five years of Parliamentary Democracy in India; Committee System: Key Instrument of ensuring Executive Accountability to the Legislature.

National Conference of Women Legislators

The first ever National Conference of Women Legislators was held in New Delhi on 5 and 6 March 2016 as part of the Speakers Research Initiative, under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group on the "Women Legislators: Building Resurgent India". The Inaugural Ceremony, the Plenary Session and the first and second Sessions were held on 5 March 2016 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, the Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, and the Speaker Lok Sabha Smt. Sumitra Mahajan addressed the distinguished gathering in the Inaugural Ceremony. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, also attended the Conference. The themes of the Conference were (i) *Contributing to Social Development*; (ii) *Contributing to Economic Development*; and (iii) *Contributing to better Governance and Legislation*. Women Members of Parliament and State Legislators attended the Conference.

The third Session and the Valedictory Session of the Conference were held on 6 March 2016 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, former President of India, addressed the distinguished gathering. Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, delivered the concluding remarks.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, and also on the birth anniversaries of former Speakers of Lok Sabha, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing the profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are distributed on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 January to 30 March 2016:

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, former Prime Minister of India, a function was held on 29 February 2016 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi; Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker, Dr. M. Thambidurai and former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee, Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; Several Union Ministers; Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; and the Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Shri Anoop Mishra and Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, respectively, paid floral tributes to Shri Morarji Desai.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2016 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The then Union Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu (presently Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Urban Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation); Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad; the then Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy (presently Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship); former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; and Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament paid floral tributes at the portrait of Netaji. Family members of Netaji were also present on the occasion.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2016 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Raj Nath Singh; the then Union Minister of Urban Development, Housing and

Urban Poverty Alleviation, and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu (presently Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Urban Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation); Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad; Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, Prof. P.J. Kurien; former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha Shri L.K. Advani; Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; and the Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Shri Anoop Mishra, and Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, paid floral tributes.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, a function was held on 4 February 2016 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Raj Nath Singh; the then Union Minister of Urban Development Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu (presently Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Urban Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation); Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad; Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. M. Thambi Durai; former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson, Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; several Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; the Secretary-General Rajya Sabha, Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff; and senior Officers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats paid floral tributes at the portrait of Shri Ayyangar.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2016 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; the Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Shri Anoop Mishra and Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff, respectively, and senior Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat paid floral tributes at the portrait of Smt. Sarojini Naidu.

Dr. Rammanohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2016 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The then Union Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu (presently Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Urban Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation); several Members of Parliament; former Members of Parliament; and Secretary, Lok Sabha, Dr. D. Bhalla, paid floral tributes to Dr. Lohia.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS**Call-on meetings with the Hon'ble Speaker/Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha**

Bangladesh: Hon'ble Speaker, Jatiyo Sangshad of Bangladesh, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, in Parliament House on 4 March 2016.

Mongolia: H.E. Mr. Gonching Ganbold, Ambassador of Mongolia called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan on 9 March 2016.

Republic of Korea: H.E. Mr. Jeong Kab Yoon, Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, called on Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. M. Thambi Durai in Parliament House on 14 January 2016.

Austria: H.E. Mr. Karlheinz Kopf, Second President of the National Council of Austria, called on the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Dr. M. Thambi Durai, in Parliament House on 16 February 2016 .

PARLIAMENT MUSEUM

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2016, a total of 9861 visitors visited the Parliament Museum. Apart from the general visitors, students from 72 schools and colleges from all over the country visited the Museum. A number of sitting and former members of Parliament, members of State Legislatures and foreign dignitaries/delegations also visited the museum. Delegations from the BRICS International Forum, Namibia, and Kenya too visited. As many as 300158 visitors have visited the Museum between 5 September 2006 (*i.e.* the date of opening of the Museum for the general public) and 31 March 2016.

Exhibition on 'Making of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly': The Parliamentary Museum and Archives set up an Exhibition on '*Making of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly*' at the Vithalbhai Patel Bhavan in the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha premises during the Conferences of Presiding Officers and Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India from 21 to 23 January 2016. The Exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, on 22 January 2016 in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Smt. Anandiben Patel.

While the primary focus of the Exhibition was on the process of drafting of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly of India, the Exhibition also provided a glimpse into the rich democratic heritage that

existed in our country during the ancient and medieval times, leading up to the Freedom Struggle. The Exhibition showcased a treasure trove of facts about the genesis of the Constituent Assembly, its State-wise Membership and functioning. Valuable information about the Constituent Assembly, viz. the Sessions held, particularly the first day in the Assembly, its Committees, including the Drafting Committee, were also displayed with the help of informative write-ups, photographs, Press clippings, statistical charts and audio-visual presentations. Rare photographs and media coverage of the time about the final adoption and signing of the Constitution, culminating in the birth of the Indian Republic formed a special segment of the Exhibition.

Relevant quotations of eminent leaders and personalities underlining the importance of the Constitution were depicted, along with their photographs. Speeches of eminent leaders in the Constituent Assembly and films on Making of the Constitution, Features of the Indian Constitution and Working of the Constituent Assembly were also played at the venue.

An innovative component of the Exhibition was the display of two backlit dioramas, one depicting a group photograph of the Members of the Constituent Assembly, and the other, the meeting of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly.

The legislative set-up existing in different States and Union territories of India, with particular emphasis on the legislative activities in the host State of Gujarat, formed a separate segment of the Exhibition. The Exhibition also highlighted the origin, evolution and importance of the Presiding Officers and Secretaries Conferences and the role played by them in furthering parliamentary democracy in the country.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period from 1 January to 31 March 2016, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training organized the following Courses/ Programmes for Members/Delegates/ Probationers/Journalists/Students:

Sensitization Programme in Forestry Sector: Sensitization Programme in Forestry Sector was jointly organized by the BPST and the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, for Hon'ble Members of Parliament on 14 and 15 March 2016 which was attended by 25 Members.

Familiarization Programme for Media Persons: 22 Media Persons accredited to the Haryana, Punjab and Uttarakhand Legislative Assemblies attended the Familiarization Programme on Parliamentary Practices and Procedures, from 2 to 4 March 2016.

31st International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting: The 31st International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting was organized from 11 February to 11 March 2016 which was attended by 44 Officials from 26 countries.

Appreciation Courses: Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for the following: (i) 42 Probationers of the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineering from 18 to 20 January 2016; (ii) 13 Officer Trainees of the Indian Economic Service from 18 to 20 January 2016; (iii) 45 Probationers of the Indian Statistical Service from 27 to 29 January 2016; (iv) 31 Probationers of the Indian Railway Traffic Service from 17 to 19 February 2016; (v) 181 Probationers of the Indian Administrative Service, 2015 Batch and the Royal Bhutan Civil Service from 22 to 26 February 2016 ; (vi) 12 Officer Trainees of Indian Audit & Accounts Service and Royal Audit Authority, Bhutan, from 22 to 24 February 2016; (vii) 167 Probationers of the 69th Batch of the Indian Revenue Service, from 7 to 10 March 2016; and (viii) 39 Probationers of Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Defence Accounts Service and Indian P&T Finance and Accounts Service, from 8 to 10 March 2016.

Professional Development Programmes for/by Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat: The following Professional Development Programmes for Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were organised : (i) 24 Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat participated in the Management Development Programme organized by the National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT), Nagpur from 18 to 22 January 2016; and (ii) Two Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the 4th Hindi Conference and Workshop organized by the Jagdambi Prasad Yadav Smriti Pratishthan and Antar Rashtriya Hindi Parishad at Goa, on 18 and 19 February 2016.

Training Courses for Officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat: (i) 53 Officials attended a Training Programme in Noting, Drafting and Office Procedures from 15 to 17 February 2016; and (ii) 8 Officials attended a Training Programme on Neuro Linguistic Programming organized by NOVA Bengaluru at BPST from 15 to 17 February 2016.

*Study Visits: (A) International—*The following Study Visits were organised for foreign Parliamentary Delegates/Institutes: (i) 15–Member Parliamentary Delegation from Sri Lankan Parliament, from 28 March to 1 April 2016; (ii) 40 Participants of Sri Ram College of Commerce International Programme (SRCC, Penn State University and UK Students), on 13 January 2016; (iii) 6 Officials from the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management, Namibia, on 2 February 2016; (iv) 30

Participants of International Training Programme on 'Planning and Management of Urban Services', organized by Human Settlement Institute, New Delhi, on 16 February 2016; (v) 30 Foreign participants attending Capacity Building Programme at Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries, New Delhi, on 25 February 2016; and (vi) 10 Kenyan Guests from the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies of India (IHUDES), on 3 March 2016. In all, 131 participants attended these Study Visits.

(B) *National*: The following Study Visits for participants of Schools/Colleges/Institutes were organised: (i) 117 Trainee Assistant Section Officers (ASO) of the Government of India undergoing a Training Programme at ISTM, New Delhi, on 14 January 2016; (ii) 55 Students of Institute of Design, Environment and Architecture, (IDEA) Nashik, on 19 January 2016; (iii) 56 Trainee Assistant Section Officers (Direct Recruits) of the Central Secretariat Services undergoing Foundation Training Programme at ISTM, New Delhi, on 19 January 2016; (iv) 80 Trainee Assistant Section Officers (Direct Recruits) of the Central Secretariat Services undergoing Foundation Training Programme at ISTM, New Delhi, on 20 January 2016; (v) 54 Girl students from Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, on 20 January 2016; (vi) 65 Officials undergoing Training at Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) Gurgaon, on 21 January 2016; (vii) 79 Trainee Assistant Section Officers (Direct Recruits) of the Central Secretariat Services undergoing Foundation Training Programme at ISTM, New Delhi, on 21 January 2016; (viii) 40 Students from North-East India, attending Students' Experience in Inter-State Living Programme sponsored by Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parisad, on 21 January 2016; (ix) 88 Tribal Representatives and Guests from different parts of the country through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, on 25 January 2016; (x) 67 Students of Sona Modern Public School, Khanpur, New Delhi, on 28 January 2016; (xi) 63 Students of Matoshri Secondary & High Secondary School, D.G. Tukum, Chandrapur, Maharashtra, on 1 February 2016; (xii) 38 Students of Kanohar Lal Postgraduate Girls College, Meerut, on 1 February 2016; (xiii) 37 Students of Department of Political Science, Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur, Kerala, on 1 February 2016; (xiv) 31 Students of School of Communication Studies, Punjab University, Chandigarh, on 2 February 2016; (xv) 75 Students of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar College of Law, Nagpur, on 2 February 2016; (xvi) 37 Students of Indian Institute of Legal Studies, Siliguri, West Bengal, on 3 February 2016; (xvii) 12 Students of Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi, on 4 February 2016; (xviii) 34 Students of Lala Lajpatrai College of Law, Mumbai, on 8 February 2016; (xix) 41 Trainee Assistant Section Officers (Direct Recruits) of the Central

Secretariat Services undergoing Foundation Training Programme at ISTM, New Delhi, on 10 February 2016; (xx) 47 Students of Nirmal Sewa, Guru Nanak Garib Niwaj Education Society, New Delhi, on 16 February 2016; (xxi) 40 Students of Nirmal Sewa, Guru Nanak Garib Niwaj Education Society, New Delhi, on 17 February 2016; (xxii) 37 Students of Nirmal Sewa, Guru Nanak Garib Niwaj Education Society, New Delhi, on 18 February 2016; (xxiii) 26 Students of Lokmanya Tilak Law College, Navi Mumbai, on 24 February 2016; (xxiv) 40 Students of Jai Bharti Public Junior High School, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, on 26 February 2016; (xxv) 20 Students of MIT School of Government, Pune, on 29 February 2016; (xxvi) 109 Students of Maples Academy Khatauli, Muzaffarnagar and Maples Academy Shamli, Uttar Pradesh, on 1 March 2016; (xxvii) 55 Students of Fr. Agnel School, Greater NOIDA, on 2 March 2016; (xxviii) 31 Students of Department of Political Science, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, on 2 March 2016; (xxix) 110 Trainee Assistant Section Officers (Direct Recruits) of the Central Secretariat Services, 257th Batch, undergoing Foundation Training Programme at ISTM, New Delhi, on 3 March 2016; (xxx) 77 Students of J.R. Media Institute, Delhi, on 9 March 2016; (xxxi) 75 Students of M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara, on 9 March 2016; (xxxii) 6 Officers and Cadets (Trainee Officers) of Air Force Academy, Dundigal, Hyderabad, on 11 March 2016; (xxxiii) 60 Students of St. Stephens College, Delhi, on 11 March 2016; (xxxiv) 25 Students of Department of Mass Communication, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, on 14 March 2016; (xxxv) 35 Students of P.G.D.A.V. College, University of Delhi, on 14 March 2016; (xxxvi) 57 Students of School of Law, Ansal University, Delhi NCR, on 16 March 2016; (xxxvii) 40 Students of Bodhi International School, Jodhpur, on 16 March 2016; (xxxviii) 66 Students of Department of Political Science, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, on 18 March 2016; (xxxix) 9 Innovation Scholars attending In-Residence Programme at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, on 18 March 2016; (xl) 34 Students of Kanoharlal Post Graduate College, Meerut, on 21 March 2016; (xli) 26 Students of BLS Institute of Technology Management, Bahadurgarh, Haryana, on 22 March 2016; (xlii) 52 Students of Bengal Law College, Kolkata, West Bengal, 28 March 2016; and (xliii) 44 Students and Faculties of Surendranath Law College, Kolkata, West Bengal, on 29 March 2016.

In all, 2190 participants attended these 43 Study Visits (National).

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

During the period 1 January to 31 March 2016, the Committee on Violation of Protocol Norms and Contemptuous Behaviour of Government Officers with Members of Lok Sabha held 2 sittings on 2 and 10 March 2016, while no sitting of the Committee on Ethics was held. No reports were presented by the above mentioned Committees.

The Committee of Privileges held 3 sittings on 8 and 19 January and 16 February 2016. The Committee presented two reports during the period.

Committee of Privileges

I

The First Report of the Committee of Privileges was presented to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan on 11 March 2016 and laid on the Table of the House on 15 March 2016. The Report pertained to the Notice of question of Privilege dated 17 and 20 April 2015 given by Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar, MP against the District/Police Administration of Allahabad for allegedly misbehaving with him while he wanted to raise a matter of public interest; and the Notice of question of Privilege dated 27 April 2015 given by Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, MP against the District/Police Administration of Allahabad for allegedly issuing a notice to him in connection with setting up of a Magisterial Inquiry *inter alia* on the incident of demonstration/dharna led by him and Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar, MP at the DM Residence Gate, Allahabad.

The Committee of Privileges in the Report *vide* recommendation paragraph numbers 51 to 53 urged that the Government should ensure strict compliance of its guidelines regarding 'Official dealings between the Administration and Members of the Parliament and the State Legislatures' issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) by all the officials, particularly the police officials who have the occasion to interact directly with the members of Parliament during dharna/protests. The Committee further recommended that the Government should circulate these guidelines in vernacular languages so that the same will reach

and be understood even by the lowest functionary in police in letter and spirit. The Committee, while accepting the apology tendered by the DM, SSP, Addl. SP (City), Allahabad also recommended that copies of Report drawing particular attention to paragraphs reflecting apologies tendered and observations/ recommendations made by the Committee, may be forwarded to Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar and Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, MPs and to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, after presentation of the report to the House.

II

The Second Report of the Committee of Privileges was presented to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan on 11 March 2016 and laid on the Table of the House on 15 March 2016. The Report pertained to the Notice of question of Privilege dated 12 March 2015 given by Shri R.K. Singh, MP against Shri Sudhir Kumar, Member, Public Private Partnership (PPP), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for allegedly misleading the members in a meeting by making false statements and insulting remarks.

The Committee in view of the discussions, findings and conclusions, and keeping in view the unconditional and unqualified apology tendered by Shri Sudhir Kumar, the then Member (PPP), NHAI for the hurt caused to Shri R.K. Singh, MP recommended that the matter be treated as closed.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 26 February 2016, during discussion on the Motion for Thanks on the President's Address, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 14 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

On 2 March 2016, during discussion on the Motion for Thanks on the President's Address, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 51 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

Later, on the same day, during further discussion on the Motion for Thanks on the President's Address, the Chair permitted 26 members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 3 March 2016, during discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2016-17, and the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) 2016-17, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 22 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

On 8 March 2016, during discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2016-17, the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) 2016-17 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways)-2015-16, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 42 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

On 9 March 2016, during discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2016-17, the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) 2016-17 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways)-2015-16, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 36 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

On 10 March 2016, during discussion on the Budget (General) 2016-17 and the Demands for Grants on the Account (General) 2016-17, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of

the House. Accordingly, 10 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

On 14 March 2016, during discussion on the Budget (General) 2016-17 and the Demands for Grants on the Account (General) 2016-17, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 95 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2016)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and internet sources; as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Budget Session of Parliament: The Seventh Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Thirty Eighth Session of the Rajya Sabha (the Budget Session of Parliament) commenced on 23 February 2016 with the Address by the President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned on 16 March 2016. The President prorogued the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 29 and 30 March 2016, respectively.

Death of Lok Sabha Member and former Speaker: On 4 March 2016, the former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, who was also a sitting member of the National People's Party from Tura (Meghalaya) Lok Sabha Constituency passed away.

Death of former Speaker: On 3 February 2016, the former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Dr. Balram Jakhur, passed away.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Member: On 7 March 2016, Shri Anand Sharma, Indian National Congress (INC) member from Rajasthan, resigned from the membership of the House.

AROUND THE STATES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

President's Rule Imposed: On 25 January 2016, the President,

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, on the advice of the Union Cabinet, approved the imposition of President's Rule in the State.

New Chief Minister: On 19 February 2016, the President's Rule was revoked in the State. Later, Shri Kalikho Pul was sworn in as the new Chief Minister.

BIHAR

Two JD(U) MLCs Disqualified: On 6 January 2016, the Chairman of the State Legislative Council, Shri Awadesh Narayan Singh, disqualified two Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] members of the State Legislative Council—Shri Narendra Singh and Shri Samrat Chaudhary—under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

Suspension of Party MLA: On 14 February 2016, the Rashtriya Janata Dal suspended its party MLA Shri Rajballabh Yadav for anti-party activities.

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2016, Shri Sudhanshu Shekhar of the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party was declared elected from Harlakhi Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2016.

Suspension of two JD(U) Legislators from Party: On 22 March 2016, the ruling JD(U) suspended two legislators from the party for anti-party activities. They are: Shri Neeraj Kumar Mandal *alias* Gopal Mandal, MLA from Gopalpur and Shri Rana Gangeshwar Singh, MLC from Samastipur.

GUJARAT

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 24 January 2016, Smt. Zankhana Hiteshkumar Patel (Rajabhai) of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was declared elected from Choryasi Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 21 January 2016.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Death of Chief Minister: On 7 January 2016, the Chief Minister, Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, passed away in New Delhi.

Governor's Rule: On 9 January 2016, the Governor, Shri N.N. Vohra, imposed the Governor's Rule in the State.

KARNATAKA

Assembly Bye-elections Results: On 16 February 2016, Shri Rahim Khan of the INC; and Shri K. Shivana Gouda Nayaka and Shri Y.A. Narayana Swamy (both of the BJP), were declared elected from Bidar,

Devadurga and Hebbal Assembly Constituencies, respectively, bye-elections to which were held on 13 February 2016.

KERALA

Resignation of Minister: On 23 January 2016, the Minister for Excise and Ports, Shri K. Babu, resigned from the Council of Ministers.

MADHYA PRADESH

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2016, Shri Narayan Tripathi of the BJP was declared elected from Maihar Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2016.

MAHARASHTRA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2016, Shri Ghoda Amit Krishna of the Shiv Sena was declared elected from Palghar Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2016.

PUNJAB

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2016, Shri Ravinder Singh Brahmampura of the Shiromani Akali Dal was declared elected from Khadoor Sahib Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2016.

TELANGANA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2016, Shri Mahareddy Bhupal Reddy of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi was declared elected from Narayankhed Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2016.

TRIPURA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 16 February 2016, Shri Parimal Debnath of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) was declared elected from Amarapur Assembly Constituency, bye-election to which was held on 13 February 2016.

UTTAR PRADESH

Suspension of Party MLA: On 4 January 2016, the Samajwadi Party (SP) suspended Shri Rampal Yadav, party MLA from Sitapur Assembly Constituency for anti-party activities.

Death of Minister: On 9 February 2016, the Panchayati Raj Minister, Shri Kailash Yadav passed away.

Assembly Bye-elections Results: On 16 February 2016, Shri Kapil Dev Agrawal of the BJP; Shri Mavia Ali of the INC; and Shri Anand Sen of the SP, were declared elected from Muzaffarnagar, Deoband and Bikapur Assembly Constituencies, respectively, where bye-elections were held on 13 February 2016.

Legislative Council Elections Results: Elections to 36 seats of the 100-member State Legislative Council were held on 6 March 2016. The ruling Samajwadi Party secured 31 seats while the Bahujan Samaj Party and the INC won two and one seat, respectively. The remaining two seats were won by Independents.

UTTARAKHAND

Disqualification of Nine INC MLAs: On 26 March 2016, the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly, Shri Govind Singh Kunjwal, disqualified nine INC MLAs who had joined the BJP, from the membership of the House under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. They are: Sarvashri Vijay Bahuguna (Sitarganj), Harak Singh Rawat (Rudraprayag), Smt. Amrita Rawat (Ramnagar), Smt. Shaila Rani Rawat (Kedarnath), Sarvashri Pradip Batra (Roorkee), Kunwar Pranav Singh Champion (Khanpur), Subodh Uniyal (Narendranagar), Shailendra Mohan Singhal (Jaspur) and Umesh Sharma Cow (Raipur).

Imposition of President's Rule: On 27 March 2016, the President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, imposed President's Rule and placed the State Legislative Assembly under suspended animation.

EVENTS ABROAD

BURKINA FASO

New Prime Minister: On 6 January 2016, the President, Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, appointed Mr. Paul Kaba Thiéba as the new Prime Minister of Burkina Faso. Mr. Thiéba was sworn in on 13 January 2016

IRAN

Parliamentary Election Results: Elections to the 290-seat Islamic Consultative Assembly were held on 26 February and 29 April 2016. The party position following the elections was as follows: List of Hope: 119; Principlists Grand Coalition: 84; People's Voice Coalition: 10; Independents Minor lists (Front of Prudence and Development): 65; Endorsed by both

Principlists Grand Coalition and List of Hope: 3; and Religious minorities: 5. (Four seats are vacant).

MYANMAR

New President: On 15 March 2016, Mr. Htin Kyaw was sworn in as the President of Myanmar.

PORTUGAL

President Sworn in: On 9 March 2016, Mr. Marcelo Nuno Duarte Rebelo de Sousa was sworn in as the President of Portugal.

SPAIN

Nomination of Prime Minister: On 2 February 2016, the King, Felipe VI, nominated Socialist Party leader, Mr. Pedro Sanchez Castejon, as the new Prime Minister of Spain.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016: The enactment of the Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Act, 2015 resulted in exchange of fifty-one Bangladeshi enclaves in the Indian territory and one hundred and eleven Indian enclaves in the Bangladeshi territory with effect from 31 July 2015.

Consequently, the State Government of West Bengal issued a notification on 26 August 2015 for amalgamation of the area of the fifty-one erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves some in existing *mouzas* and some by creating new *mouzas*. During a joint field visit conducted by India and Bangladesh, it was ascertained that all the fourteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-four persons living in the erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves now amalgamated to the Indian territory, opted to acquire Indian citizenship. Similarly, nine hundred and eighty-seven persons out of thirty-nine thousand one hundred and seventy-six persons, living in the Indian enclaves and transferred to Bangladesh, opted to retain Indian citizenship and settle in India in Cooch Behar District of State of the West Bengal.

As per clause (2) of article 170 of the Constitution, which provides that each State shall be divided into territorial constituencies, the new areas falling within the said District had to be incorporated into the extent of the relevant Parliamentary and the Assembly Constituencies. Similarly, the areas transferred to Bangladesh were to be excluded from such territorial constituencies. Further, the persons who had opted to acquire or to retain Indian Citizenships were required to be given voting rights in India.

With a view of carrying out the consequential procedural requirements referred to above and in view of the impending elections in the State of West Bengal in the month of May 2016, amendments in the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Delimitation Act, 2002 were required to be made empowering the Election Commission to undertake limited delimitation in the areas amalgamated in the Cooch Behar District of the State of West Bengal.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 25 and 26 February 2016, respectively. The President assented to it on 3 March 2016.

The High Court and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2016: The proposed Bill sought to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958. With the passage of time, certain provisions in the aforesaid Acts had become

spent and outdated. A review had been undertaken and it had been decided to remove the same for clarity and provide for the added years of service in view of the judgement given by the Supreme Court. Some of the provisions relating to determination of leave allowances of judges in both the Acts needed to be simplified.

In this regard, in a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 521/2002 filed in the Supreme Court, prayer was made for addition of ten years practice as an advocate to the service as a Judge of High Court for the purpose of computing pension admissible under Part I of the First Schedule to the Act, 1954 on the analogy of added years of service *i.e.* ten years practice at Bar, provided to Supreme Court Judges. As per provision under section 13A of the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, a Judge of Supreme Court, appointed under article 124(3)(b) of the Constitution, was entitled to addition of ten years practice at the Bar to their actual qualifying service for pension. The Supreme Court had, *inter-alia*, allowed the prayer *vide* judgement dated 31 March 2014 directing that “for pensionary benefit, ten years practice as an Advocate be added as qualifying service for Judges elevated from the Bar with effect from 1 April 2004, the date on which section 13A was inserted by the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2005.”

The High Court and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2016 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 7 December 2015 and 2 March 2016, respectively. The amendments made by the Rajya Sabha were agreed to by the Lok Sabha on 11 March 2016. The President assented to it on 21 March 2016.

The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016: The correct identification of targeted beneficiaries for delivery of various subsidies, benefits, services, grants, wages and other social benefits schemes which were funded from the Consolidated Fund of India had become a challenge for the Government. The failure to establish identity of an individual had proved to be a major hindrance for successful implementation of these programmes. This had been a grave concern for certain categories of persons, such as women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, migrants, unskilled and unorganised workers, and nomadic tribes. In the absence of a credible system to authenticate identity of beneficiaries, it was difficult to ensure that the subsidies, benefits and services reached to intended beneficiaries.

The Unique Identification Authority of India was established by a resolution of the Government of India, Planning Commission *vide* notification number A-43011/02/2009-Admin.I, dated 28 January 2009. The Object of the establishment of the said Authority was primarily to lay down policies and to implement the Unique Identification Scheme of the Government, by which residents of India were to be provided unique identity number. This number, when authenticated successfully, would serve as proof of identity and could be used to identification of beneficiaries for transfer of benefits, subsidies, services and other purposes.

Over the period of time, the use of *Aadhaar* number has been increased manifold. As a result, commensurate measures relating to ensuring security of such information needed to be taken and offences pertaining to certain unlawful actions, created.

In view of this, and to provide for the effective, secure and accurate delivery of benefits, subsidies and services from the Consolidated Fund of India to targeted beneficiaries, and authenticating their identity through *Aadhaar* numbers, it was felt that the processes of enrolment, authentication, security, confidentiality and use of *Aadhaar* related information be made statutory and to facilitate the use of *Aadhaar* number for delivery of various benefits, subsidies and services the expenditure of which was incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India.

The *Aadhaar* (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016, *inter alia*, sought to provide for—

- (a) issue of *Aadhaar* numbers to individuals on providing his demographic and biometric information to the Unique Identification Authority of India;
- (b) requiring *Aadhaar* numbers for identifying an individual for delivery of benefits, subsidies, and services the expenditure was incurred from or the receipt therefrom forms part of the Consolidated Fund of India;
- (c) authentication of the *Aadhaar* number of an *Aadhaar* number holder in relation to his demographic and biometric information;
- (d) establishment of the Unique Identification Authority of India consisting of a Chairperson, two Members and a Member-Secretary to perform functions in pursuance of the objectives above;
- (e) maintenance and updating the information of individuals in the Central Identities Data Repository in such manner as may be specified by regulations;
- (f) measures pertaining to security, privacy and confidentiality of information in possession or control of the Authority including information stored in the Central Identities Data Repository; and
- (g) offences and penalties for contravention of relevant statutory provisions.

The *Aadhaar* (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016 was introduced as a Money Bill which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 11 March 2016 and sent to the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha returned the Bill with recommendations on 16 March 2016. The recommendations were not accepted by the Lok Sabha on the day of return *i.e.*, 16 March 2016. The President assented to it on 25 March 2016.

The text of above Acts are reproduced below.

—Editor

THE ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2016

An Act further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Delimitation Act, 2002.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENT TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1950

2. Amendment of section 9. In section 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, in sub-section (1), after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(c) make such amendments in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for bringing the Order up-to-date by including therein and excluding therefrom the relevant areas, consequent upon the exchange of one hundred and eleven enclaves of India and fifty-one enclaves of Bangladesh with effect from 31st July, 2015, in pursuance of the Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Act, 2015.”.

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENT TO THE DELIMITATION ACT, 2002

3. Amendment of section 11. In section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, in sub-section (1), in clause (b), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided that the Election Commission may make such amendments, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient, for bringing the said orders up-to-date by including therein and excluding therefrom the relevant areas, consequent upon the exchange of one hundred and eleven enclaves of India and fifty-one enclaves of Bangladesh with effect from 31st July, 2015, in pursuance of the Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Act, 2015.”.

**THE HIGH COURT AND THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES
(SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
AMENDMENT ACT, 2016**

An Act further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title and commencement.* (1) This Act may be called the High Court and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2016.

(2) The provisions of section 8 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of April, 2004 and the remaining provisions shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENT OF THE HIGH COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT, 1954.

2. *Amendment of section 2.* In the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 (hereinafter referred to as the High Court Judges Act), in section 2,—

(a) in sub-section (1),—

(i) in clause (b), the words, brackets and figures “under sub-section (2) of section 222 of the Government of India Act, 1935 or” shall be omitted;

(ii) in clause (d), the words, brackets and figures “under sub-section (3) of section 222 of the Government of India Act, 1935 or” shall be omitted;

(iii) clause (e) shall be omitted;

(b) in sub-section (2), for the words “previous service for any period or periods as acting Judge or additional Judge or as a Judge of a former Indian High Court”, the words “service for any period or periods as acting Judge or additional Judge” shall be substituted;

(c) sub-sections (3) and (4) shall be omitted.

3. Amendment of section 3. In the High Court Judges Act, in section 3, after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(3) For the purposes of this Chapter, casual leave may be admissible to a Judge in a calendar year, for such number of days and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.”.

4. Amendment of section 4A. In the High Court Judges Act, in section 4A, for the words “in respect of the period of earned leave at his credit”, the words “in respect of the period of leave at his credit, calculated on full allowances basis,” shall be substituted.

5. Substitution of new section for section 9. In the High Court Judges Act, for section 9, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“9. *Leave allowances.* The monthly rate of leave salary payable to a Judge shall be in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 3.”.

6. Omission of section 10. In the High Court Judges Act, section 10 shall be omitted.

7. Amendment of section 14. In the High Court Judges Act, in section 14, in the first proviso,—

(i) for clause (b), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(b) he has attained the age of sixty-two years; or”;

(ii) for the *Explanation*, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

‘*Explanation.*—In this section “Judge” means a Judge who has not held any other pensionable post under the Union or a State and includes a Judge who having held any other pensionable post under the Union or a State has elected to receive the pension payable under Part I of the First Schedule.’.

8. Insertion of new section 14A. In the High Court Judges Act, after section 14, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“14A. *Benefit of added years of service.* Subject to the provisions of this Act, a period of ten years shall be added and shall be deemed to have been added from the 1st day of April, 2004 for the purposes of pension, to the service of a Judge who is appointed as such Judge under sub-clause (b) of clause (2) of article 217 of the Constitution.”.

9. Amendment of section 15. In the High Court Judges Act, in section 15,—

(a) in sub-section (1),—

(i) clause (a) shall be omitted;

(ii) in clause (b), the words “is not a member of the Indian Civil Service but” shall be omitted;

(iii) in the proviso for the words and figures, “as the case may be Part II or” shall be omitted;

(b) in sub-section (2), the words and figures “Part II or, as the case may be” shall be omitted.

10. Amendment of section 16. In the High Court Judges Act, in section 16, in the proviso, the words and figures “Part II or” shall be omitted.

11. Amendment of section 17A. In the High Court Judges Act, in section 17A,—

(a) in sub-section (1), in the *Explanation*, in clause (ii), the words and figures “Part II or” shall be omitted;

(b) in sub-section (2), the words and figures “Part II or” shall be omitted.

12. Omission of section 18. In the High Court Judges Act, section 18 shall be omitted.

13. Amendment of section 20. In the High Court Judges Act, in section 20,—

(a) in the first proviso, the words “is a member of the Indian Civil Service or” shall be omitted;

(b) the second proviso, shall be omitted.

14. Omission of section 23B. In the High Court Judges Act, section 23B shall be omitted.

15. Amendment of section 24. In the High Court Judges Act, in section 24, in sub-section (2), after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(aa) the number of casual leaves and the conditions subject to which it may be allowed under sub-section (3) of section 3;”.

16. Omission of section 25. In the High Court Judges Act, section 25 shall be omitted.

17. Amendment to First Schedule. In the High Court Judges Act, in the First Schedule,—

- (a) in Part I,—
- (i) for paragraph 1, the following paragraph shall be substituted, namely:—
- “1. The provisions of this Part apply to a Judge who has not held any other pensionable post under the Union or a State or a Judge who having held any other pensionable post under the Union or a State has elected to receive the pension payable under this Part.”;
- (ii) in paragraph 2, for the words “and who has completed not less than seven years of service” shall be omitted
- (iii) paragraphs 8 and 9 shall be omitted.
- (b) Part II shall be omitted.

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES (SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT, 1958.

18. Amendment of section 2. In the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 (hereinafter referred to as the Supreme Court Judges Act), in section 2, in clause (g), for the words “either in the Federal Court or in the Supreme Court or in any such Court”, the words, “in the Supreme Court” shall be substituted.

19. Amendment of section 3. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, in section 3, after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(3) For the purposes of this Chapter, casual leave may be admissible to a Judge in a calendar year, for such number of days and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.”.

20. Amendment of section 4A. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, in section 4A, for the words “in respect of the period of earned leave at his credit”, the words “in respect of the period of leave at his credit, calculated on full allowances basis,” shall be substituted.

21. Substitution of new section for section 9. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, for section 9, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“9. *Leave allowances.* The monthly rate of leave salary payable to a Judge shall be in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 3.”.

22. Amendment of section 13. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, in section 13, for the *Explanation*, the following *Explanation* shall be substituted, namely:—

'Explanation.—In this section, “Judge” means a Judge who has not held any other pensionable post under the Union or a State and includes a person who was in service as a Judge on the 20th May, 1954, and also includes a Judge having held any other pensionable post under the Union or a State, who has elected to receive the pension payable under Part I of the Schedule.’

23. Amendment of section 14. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, in section 14,—

(a) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) Every Judge who has held any other pensionable post under the Union or a State shall, on his retirement, be paid a pension in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Schedule:

Provided that every such Judge shall elect to receive the pension payable to him either under Part I of the Schedule, or as the case may be, Part III of the Schedule, and the pension payable to him shall be calculated accordingly.”

(b) in sub-section (2), the words and figures “Part II or, as the case may be,” shall be omitted.

24. Amendment of section 16A. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, in section 16A, in sub-section (1), the *Explanation*, in clause (ii), the words and figures “Part II or” shall be omitted.

25. Omission of section 18. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, section 18 shall be omitted.

26. Amendment of section 20. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, in section 20, in the first proviso, the words “is a member of the Indian Civil Service or” shall be omitted.

27. Amendment of section 24. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, in section 24, in sub-section (2), after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(aa) the number of casual leaves and the conditions subject to which it may be allowed under sub-section (3) of section 3.”

28. Amendment of Schedule. In the Supreme Court Judges Act, in the Schedule,—

(a) in Part I, for paragraph 1, the following paragraph shall be substituted, namely:—

“1. The provisions of this Part apply to a Judge who has not held any other pensionable post under the Union or a State and also apply to a person who was in service as a Judge on the 20th May, 1954, and to a Judge who, having held any other pensionable posts under the Union or a State, has elected to receive the pension payable under this part.”;

(b) Part II shall be omitted.

THE AADHAAR (TARGETED DELIVERY OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUBSIDIES, BENEFITS AND SERVICES) ACT, 2016

An Act to provide for, as a good governance, efficient, transparent, and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services, the expenditure for which is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India, to individuals residing in India through assigning of unique identity numbers to such individuals and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.* (1) This Act may be called the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir and save as otherwise provided in this Act, it shall also apply to any offence or contravention thereunder committed outside India by any person.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may, be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the commencement of that provision.

2. *Definitions.* In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) “Aadhaar number” means an identification number issued to an individual under sub-section (3) of section 3;
- (b) “Aadhaar number holder” means an individual who has been issued an Aadhaar number under this Act;
- (c) “authentication” means the process by which the Aadhaar

number alongwith demographic information or biometric information of an individual is submitted to the Central Identities Data Repository for its verification and such Repository verifies the correctness, or the lack thereof, on the basis of information available with it;

- (d) “authentication record” means the record of the time of authentication and identity of the requesting entity and the response provided by the Authority thereto;
- (e) “Authority” means the Unique Identification Authority of India established under sub-section (1) of section 11;
- (f) “benefit” means any advantage, gift, reward, relief, or payment, in cash or kind, provided to an individual or a group of individuals and includes such other benefits as may be notified by the Central Government;
- (g) “biometric information” means photograph, finger print, Iris scan, or such other biological attributes of an individual as may be specified by regulations;
- (h) “Central Identities Data Repository” means a centralised database in one or more locations containing all Aadhaar numbers issued to Aadhaar number holders along with the corresponding demographic information and biometric information of such individuals and other information related thereto;
- (i) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Authority appointed under section 12;
- (j) “core biometric information” means finger print, Iris scan, or such other biological attribute of an individual as may be specified by regulations;
- (k) “demographic information” includes information relating to the name, date of birth, address and other relevant information of an individual, as may be specified by regulations for the purpose of issuing an Aadhaar number, but shall not include race, religion, caste, tribe, ethnicity, language, records of entitlement, income or medical history;
- (l) “enrolling agency” means an agency appointed by the Authority or a Registrar, as the case may be, for collecting demographic and biometric information of individuals under this Act;
- (m) “enrolment” means the process, as may be specified by regulations, to collect demographic and biometric information from individuals by the enrolling agencies for the purpose of issuing Aadhaar numbers to such individuals under this Act;

- (n) “identity information” in respect of an individual, includes his Aadhaar number, his biometric information and his demographic information;
- (o) “Member” includes the Chairperson and Member of the Authority appointed under section 12;
- (p) “notification” means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression “notified” with its cognate meanings and grammatical variations shall be construed accordingly;
- (q) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made by the Central Government under this Act;
- (r) “records of entitlement” means records of benefits, subsidies or services provided to, or availed by, any individual under any programme;
- (s) “Registrar” means any entity authorised or recognised by the Authority for the purpose of enrolling individuals under this Act;
- (t) “regulations” means the regulations made by the Authority under this Act;
- (u) “requesting entity” means an agency or person that submits the Aadhaar number, and demographic information or biometric information, of an individual to the Central Identities Data Repository for authentication;
- (v) “resident” means an individual who has resided in India for a period or periods amounting in all to one hundred and eighty-two days or more in the twelve months immediately preceding the date of application for enrolment;
- (w) “service” means any provision, facility, utility or any other assistance provided in any form to an individual or a group of individuals and includes such other services as may be notified by the Central Government;
- (x) “subsidy” means any form of aid, support, grant, subvention, or appropriation, in cash or kind, to an individual or a group of individuals and includes such other subsidies as may be notified by the Central Government.

CHAPTER II

ENROLMENT

3. Aadhaar number. (1) Every resident shall be entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number by submitting his demographic information and biometric information by undergoing the process of enrolment:

Provided that the Central Government may, from time to time, notify such other category of individuals who may be entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number.

(2) The enrolling agency shall, at the time of enrolment, inform the individual undergoing enrolment of the following details in such manner as may be specified by regulations, namely:—

- (a) the manner in which the information shall be used;
- (b) the nature of recipients with whom the information is intended to be shared during authentication; and
- (c) the existence of a right to access information, the procedure for making requests for such access, and details of the person or department in-charge to whom such requests can be made.

(3) On receipt of the demographic information and biometric information under sub-section (1), the Authority shall, after verifying the information, in such manner as may be specified by regulations, issue an Aadhaar number to such individual.

4. Properties of Aadhaar number. (1) An Aadhaar number, issued to an individual shall not be re-assigned to any other individual.

(2) An Aadhaar number shall be a random number and bear no relation to the attributes or identity of the Aadhaar number holder.

(3) An Aadhaar number, in physical or electronic form subject to authentication and other conditions, as may be specified by regulations, may be accepted as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder for any purpose.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression “electronic form” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (r) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

5. Special measures for issuance of Aadhaar number to certain category of persons. The Authority shall take special measures to issue Aadhaar number to women, children, senior citizens, persons with disability, unskilled and unorganised workers, nomadic tribes or to such other persons who do not have any permanent dwelling house and such other categories of individuals as may be specified by regulations.

6. Update of certain information. The Authority may require Aadhaar number holders to update their demographic information and biometric information, from time to time, in such manner as may be specified by regulations, so as to ensure continued accuracy of their information in the Central Identities Data Repository.

CHAPTER III

AUTHENTICATION

7. *Proof of Aadhaar number necessary for receipt of certain subsidies, benefits and services, etc.* The Central Government or, as the case may be, the State Government may, for the purpose of establishing identity of an individual as a condition for receipt of a subsidy, benefit or service for which the expenditure is incurred from, or the receipt therefrom forms part of, the Consolidated Fund of India, require that such individual undergo authentication, or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or in the case of an individual to whom no Aadhaar number has been assigned, such individual makes an application for enrolment:

Provided that if an Aadhaar number is not assigned to an individual, the individual shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit or service.

8. *Authentication of Aadhaar number.* (1) The Authority shall perform authentication of the Aadhaar number of an Aadhaar number holder submitted by any requesting entity, in relation to his biometric information or demographic information, subject to such conditions and on payment of such fees and in such manner as may be specified by regulations.

(2) A requesting entity shall—

- (a) unless otherwise provided in this Act, obtain the consent of an individual before collecting his identity information for the purposes of authentication in such manner as may be specified by regulations; and
- (b) ensure that the identity information of an individual is only used for submission to the Central Identities Data Repository for authentication.

(3) A requesting entity shall inform, in such manner as may be specified by regulations, the individual submitting his identity information for authentication, the following details with respect to authentication, namely:—

- (a) the nature of information that may be shared upon authentication;
- (b) the uses to which the information received during authentication may be put by the requesting entity; and
- (c) alternatives to submission of identity information to the requesting entity.

(4) The Authority shall respond to an authentication query with a

positive, negative or any other appropriate response sharing such identity information excluding any core biometric information.

9. Aadhaar number not evidence of citizenship or domicile, etc. The Aadhaar number or the authentication thereof shall not, by itself, confer any right of, or be proof of, citizenship or domicile in respect of an Aadhaar number holder.

10. Central Identities Data Repository. The Authority may engage one or more entities to establish and maintain the Central Identities Data Repository and to perform any other functions as may be specified by regulations.

CHAPTER IV

UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY OF INDIA

11. Establishment of Authority. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification, establish an Authority to be known as the Unique Identification Authority of India to be responsible for the processes of enrolment and authentication and perform such other functions assigned to it under this Act.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.

(3) The head office of the Authority shall be in New Delhi.

(4) The Authority may, with the prior approval of the Central Government, establish its offices at other places in India.

12. Composition of Authority. The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson, appointed on part-time or full-time basis, two part-time Members, and the chief executive officer who shall be Member-Secretary of the Authority, to be appointed by the Central Government.

13. Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson and Members of Authority. The Chairperson and Members of the Authority shall be persons of ability and integrity having experience and knowledge of at least ten years in matters relating to technology, governance, law, development, economics, finance, management, public affairs or administration.

14. Term of office and other conditions of service of Chairperson and Members. (1) The Chairperson and the Members appointed under this Act shall hold office for a term of three years from the date

on which they assume office and shall be eligible for re-appointment:

Provided that no person shall hold office as the Chairperson or Member after he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

(2) The Chairperson and every Member shall, before entering office, make and subscribe to, an oath of office and of secrecy, in such form and in such manner and before such Authority as may be prescribed.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Chairperson or Member may—

- (a) relinquish his office, by giving in writing to the Central Government, a notice of not less than thirty days; or
- (b) be removed from his office in accordance with the provisions of section 15.

(4) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and allowances or remuneration payable to part-time Members shall be such as may be prescribed.

15. Removal of Chairperson and Members. (1) The Central Government may remove from office, the Chairperson, or a Member, who—

- (a) is, or at any time has been adjudged as insolvent;
- (b) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as the Chairperson or, as the case may be, a Member;
- (c) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude;
- (d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as the Chairperson or, as the case may be, a Member; or
- (e) has, in the opinion of the Central Government, so abused his position as to render his continuance in office detrimental to the public interest.

(2) The Chairperson or a Member shall not be removed under clause (b), clause (d) or clause (e) of sub-section (1) unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

16. Restrictions on Chairperson or Members on employment after cessation of office. The Chairperson or a Member on ceasing to hold office for any reason, shall not, without previous approval of the Central Government,—

- (a) accept any employment in, or be connected with the management of any organisation, company or any other

entity which has been associated with any work done or contracted out by the Authority, whether directly or indirectly, during his tenure as Chairperson or Member, as the case may be, for a period of three years from the date on which he ceases to hold office:

Provided that nothing contained in this clause shall apply to any employment under the Central Government or a State Government or local authority or in any statutory authority or any corporation established by or under any Central, State or provincial Act or a Government Company, as defined in clause (45) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013;

- (b) act, for or on behalf of any person or organisation in connection with any specific proceeding or transaction or negotiation or a case to which the Authority is a party and with respect to which the Chairperson or such Member had, before cessation of office, acted for or provided advice to, the Authority;
- (c) give advice to any person using information which was obtained in his capacity as the Chairperson or a Member and being unavailable to or not being able to be made available to the public; or
- (d) enter, for a period of three years from his last day in office, into a contract of service with, accept an appointment to a board of directors of, or accept an offer of employment with, an entity with which he had direct and significant official dealings during his term of office.

17. Functions of Chairperson. The Chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the Authority, and without prejudice to any provision of this Act, exercise and discharge such other powers and functions of the Authority as may be prescribed.

18. Chief executive officer. (1) There shall be a chief executive officer of the Authority, not below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to be appointed by the Central Government.

(2) The chief executive officer shall be the legal representative of the Authority and shall be responsible for—

- (a) the day-to-day administration of the Authority;
- (b) implementing the work programmes and decisions adopted by the Authority;
- (c) drawing up of proposal for the Authority's decisions and work programmes;

- (d) the preparation of the statement of revenue and expenditure and the execution of the budget of the Authority; and
- (e) performing such other functions, or exercising such other powers, as may be specified by regulations.

(3) Every year, the chief executive officer shall submit to the Authority for approval—

- (a) a general report covering all the activities of the Authority in the previous year;
- (b) programmes of work;
- (c) the annual accounts for the previous year; and
- (d) the budget for the coming year.

(4) The chief executive officer shall have administrative control over the officers and other employees of the Authority.

19. Meetings of authority. (1) The Authority shall meet at such times and places and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings, including quorum at such meetings, as may be specified by regulations.

(2) The Chairperson, or, if for any reason, he is unable to attend a meeting of the Authority, the senior most Member shall preside over the meetings of the Authority.

(3) All questions which come up before any meeting of the Authority shall be decided by a majority of votes by the Members present and voting and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson or in his absence the presiding Member shall have a casting vote.

(4) All decisions of the Authority shall be signed by the Chairperson or any other Member or the Member-Secretary authorised by the Authority in this behalf.

(5) If any Member, who is a director of a company and who as such director, has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any manner coming up for consideration at a meeting of the Authority, he shall, as soon as possible after relevant circumstances have come to his knowledge, disclose the nature of his interest at such meeting and such disclosure shall be recorded in the proceedings of the Authority, and the Member shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Authority with respect to that matter.

20. Vacancies, etc., not to invalidate proceedings of Authority. No act or proceeding of the Authority shall be invalid merely by reason of—

- (a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Authority;

- (b) any defect in the appointment of a person as Chairperson or Member of the Authority; or
- (c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Authority not affecting the merits of the case.

21. Officers and other employees of Authority. (1) The Authority may, with the approval of the Central Government, determine the number, nature and categories of other officers and employees required by the Authority in the discharge of its functions.

(2) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the chief executive officer and other officers and other employees of the Authority shall be such as may be specified by regulations with the approval of the Central Government.

22. Transfer of assets, liabilities of Authority. On and from the establishment of the Authority—

- (a) all the assets and liabilities of the Unique Identification Authority of India, established *vide* notification of the Government of India in the Planning Commission number A-43011/02/2009-Admin. I, dated the 28th January, 2009, shall stand transferred to, and vested in, the Authority.

Explanation.—The assets of such Unique Identification Authority of India shall be deemed to include all rights and powers, and all properties, whether movable or immovable, including, in particular, cash balances, deposits and all other interests and rights in, or arising out of, such properties as may be in the possession of such Unique Identification Authority of India and all books of account and other documents relating to the same; and liabilities shall be deemed to include all debts, liabilities and obligations of whatever kind;

- (b) without prejudice to the provisions of clause (a), all data and information collected during enrolment, all details of authentication performed, debts, obligations and liabilities incurred, all contracts entered into and all matters and things engaged to be done by, with or for such Unique Identification Authority of India immediately before that day, for or in connection with the purpose of the said Unique Identification Authority of India, shall be deemed to have been incurred, entered into or engaged to be done by, with or for, the Authority;
- (c) all sums of money due to the said Unique Identification Authority of India immediately before that day shall be deemed to be due to the Authority; and

- (d) all suits and other legal proceedings instituted or which could have been instituted by or against such Unique Identification Authority of India immediately before that day may be continued or may be instituted by or against the Authority.

23. Powers and functions of Authority. (1) The Authority shall develop the policy, procedure and systems for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and perform authentication thereof under this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to sub-section (1), the powers and functions of the Authority, *inter alia*, include—

- (a) specifying, by regulations, demographic information and biometric information required for enrolment and the processes for collection and verification thereof;
- (b) collecting demographic information and biometric information from any individual seeking an Aadhaar number in such manner as may be specified by regulations;
- (c) appointing of one or more entities to operate the Central Identities Data Repository;
- (d) generating and assigning Aadhaar numbers to individuals;
- (e) performing authentication of Aadhaar numbers;
- (f) maintaining and updating the information of individuals in the Central Identities Data Repository in such manner as may be specified by regulations;
- (g) omitting and deactivating of an Aadhaar number and information relating thereto in such manner as may be specified by regulations;
- (h) specifying the manner of use of Aadhaar numbers for the purposes of providing or availing of various subsidies, benefits, services and other purposes for which Aadhaar numbers may be used;
- (i) specifying, by regulations, the terms and conditions for appointment of Registrars, enrolling agencies and service providers and revocation of appointments thereof;
- (j) establishing, operating and maintaining of the Central Identities Data Repository;
- (k) sharing, in such manner as may be specified by regulations, the information of Aadhaar number holders, subject to the provisions of this Act;
- (l) calling for information and records, conducting inspections, inquiries and audit of the operations for the purposes of

this Act of the Central Identities Data Repository, Registrars, enrolling agencies and other agencies appointed under this Act;

- (m) specifying, by regulations, various processes relating to data management, security protocols and other technology safeguards under this Act;
 - (n) specifying, by regulations, the conditions and procedures for issuance of new Aadhaar number to existing Aadhaar number holder;
 - (o) levying and collecting the fees or authorising the Registrars, enrolling agencies or other service providers to collect such fees for the services provided by them under this Act in such manner as may be specified by regulations;
 - (p) appointing such committees as may be necessary to assist the Authority in discharge of its functions for the purposes of this Act;
 - (q) promoting research and development for advancement in biometrics and related areas, including usage of Aadhaar numbers through appropriate mechanisms;
 - (r) evolving of, and specifying, by regulations, policies and practices for Registrars, enrolling agencies and other service providers;
 - (s) setting up facilitation centres and grievance redressal mechanism for redressal of grievances of individuals, Registrars, enrolling agencies and other service providers;
 - (t) such other powers and functions as may be prescribed.
- (3) The Authority may,—
- (a) enter into Memorandum of Understanding or agreement, as the case may be, with the Central Government or State Governments or Union territories or other agencies for the purpose of performing any of the functions in relation to collecting, storing, securing or processing of information or delivery of Aadhaar numbers to individuals or performing authentication;
 - (b) by notification, appoint such number of Registrars, engage and authorise such agencies to collect, store, secure, process information or do authentication or perform such other functions in relation thereto,

as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

- (4) The Authority may engage such consultants, advisors and other persons as may be required for efficient discharge of its functions under

this Act on such allowances or remuneration and terms and conditions as may be specified by contract.

CHAPTER V

GRANTS, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT AND ANNUAL REPORT

24. Grants by Central Government. The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, make to the Authority, grants of such sums of money as the Central Government may think fit for being utilised for the purposes of this Act.

25. Other fees and revenues. The fees or revenue collected by the Authority shall be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

26. Accounts and audit. (1) The Authority shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(2) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited annually by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Authority to the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit the accounts of the Authority under this Act shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General generally has in connection with the audit of Government accounts, and in particular, shall have the right to demand production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers, and to inspect any of the offices of the Authority.

(4) The accounts of the Authority, as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf, together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government by the Authority and the Central Government shall cause the audit report to be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament.

27. Returns and annual report, etc. (1) The Authority shall furnish to the Central Government at such time and in such form and manner as may be prescribed or as the Central Government may direct, such returns and statements and particulars in regard to any matter under the jurisdiction of the Authority, as the Central Government may from time to time require.

(2) The Authority shall prepare, once in every year, and in such form and manner and at such time as may be prescribed, an annual report giving—

- (a) a description of all the activities of the Authority for the previous years;
- (b) the annual accounts for the previous year; and
- (c) the programmes of work for coming year.

(3) A copy of the report received under sub-section (2) shall be laid by the Central Government, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament.

CHAPTER VI

PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

28. Security and confidentiality of information. (1) The Authority shall ensure the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Authority shall ensure confidentiality of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

(3) The Authority shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the information in the possession or control of the Authority, including information stored in the Central Identities Data Repository, is secured and protected against access, use or disclosure not permitted under this Act or regulations made thereunder, and against accidental or intentional destruction, loss or damage.

(4) Without prejudice to sub-sections (1) and (2), the Authority shall—

- (a) adopt and implement appropriate technical and organisational security measures;
- (b) ensure that the agencies, consultants, advisors or other persons appointed or engaged for performing any function of the Authority under this Act, have in place appropriate technical and organisational security measures for the information; and
- (c) ensure that the agreements or arrangements entered into with such agencies, consultants, advisors or other persons, impose obligations equivalent to those imposed on the Authority under this Act, and require such agencies, consultants, advisors and other persons to act only on instructions from the Authority.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, and save as otherwise provided in this Act, the Authority or any of its officers or other employees or any agency that maintains the Central Identities Data Repository shall not, whether during his service or thereafter, reveal any information stored in the Central Identities Data Repository or authentication record to anyone:

Provided that an Aadhaar number holder may request the Authority to provide access to his identity information excluding his core biometric information in such manner as may be specified by regulations.

29. Restriction on sharing information. (1) No core biometric information, collected or created under this Act, shall be—

- (a) shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever; or
- (b) used for any purpose other than generation of Aadhaar numbers and authentication under this Act.

(2) The identity information, other than core biometric information, collected or created under this Act may be shared only in accordance with the provisions of this Act and in such manner as may be specified by regulations.

(3) No identity information available with a requesting entity shall be—

- (a) used for any purpose, other than that specified to the individual at the time of submitting any identity information for authentication; or
- (b) disclosed further, except with the prior consent of the individual to whom such information relates.

(4) No Aadhaar number or core biometric information collected or created under this Act in respect of an Aadhaar number holder shall be published, displayed or posted publicly, except for the purposes as may be specified by regulations.

30. Biometric information deemed to be sensitive personal information. The biometric information collected and stored in electronic form, in accordance with this Act and regulations made thereunder, shall be deemed to be “electronic record” and “sensitive personal data or information”, and the provisions contained in the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the rules made thereunder shall apply to such information, in addition to, and to the extent not in derogation of the provisions of this Act.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this section, the expressions—

- (a) “electronic form” shall have the same meaning as assigned

to it in clause (r) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000;

- (b) “electronic record” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (t) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000;
- (c) “sensitive personal data or information” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (iii) of the *Explanation* to section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

31. Alteration of demographic information or biometric information.

(1) In case any demographic information of an Aadhaar number holder is found incorrect or changes subsequently, the Aadhaar number holder shall request the Authority to alter such demographic information in his record in the Central Identities Data Repository in such manner as may be specified by regulations.

(2) In case any biometric information of Aadhaar number holder is lost or changes subsequently for any reason, the Aadhaar number holder shall request the Authority to make necessary alteration in his record in the Central Identities Data Repository in such manner as may be specified by regulations.

(3) On receipt of any request under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), the Authority may, if it is satisfied, make such alteration as may be required in the record relating to such Aadhaar number holder and intimate such alteration to the concerned Aadhaar number holder.

(4) No identity information in the Central Identities Data Repository shall be altered except in the manner provided in this Act or regulations made in this behalf.

32. Access to own information and records of requests for authentication.

(1) The Authority shall maintain authentication records in such manner and for such period as may be specified by regulations.

(2) Every Aadhaar number holder shall be entitled to obtain his authentication record in such manner as may be specified by regulations.

(3) The Authority shall not, either by itself or through any entity under its control, collect, keep or maintain any information about the purpose of authentication.

33. Disclosure of information in certain cases. (1) Nothing contained in sub-section (2) or sub-section (5) of section 28 or sub-section (2) of section 29 shall apply in respect of any disclosure of information, including identity information or authentication records, made pursuant to an order of a court not inferior to that of a District Judge:

Provided that no order by the court under this sub-section shall be made without giving an opportunity of hearing to the Authority.

(2) Nothing contained in sub-section (2) or sub-section (5) of section 28 and clause (b) of sub-section (1), sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 29 shall apply in respect of any disclosure of information, including identity information or authentication records, made in the interest of national security in pursuance of a direction of an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India specially authorised in this behalf by an order of the Central Government:

Provided that every direction issued under this sub-section, shall be reviewed by an Oversight Committee consisting of the Cabinet Secretary and the Secretaries to the Government of India in the Department of Legal Affairs and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, before it takes effect:

Provided further that any direction issued under this sub-section shall be valid for a period of three months from the date of its issue, which may be extended for a further period of three months after the review by the Oversight Committee.

CHAPTER VII

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

34. *Penalty for impersonation at time of enrolment.* Whoever impersonates or attempts to impersonate another person, whether dead or alive, real or imaginary, by providing any false demographic information or biometric information, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

35. *Penalty for impersonation of Aadhaar number holder by changing demographic information or biometric information.* Whoever, with the intention of causing harm or mischief to an Aadhaar number holder, or with the intention of appropriating the identity of an Aadhaar number holder changes or attempts to change any demographic information or biometric information of an Aadhaar number holder by impersonating or attempting to impersonate another person, dead or alive, real or imaginary, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

36. *Penalty for impersonation.* Whoever, not being authorised to collect identity information under the provisions of this Act, by words, conduct or demeanour pretends that he is authorised to do so, shall be

punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both.

37. *Penalty for disclosing identity information.* Whoever, intentionally discloses, transmits, copies or otherwise disseminates any identity information collected in the course of enrolment or authentication to any person not authorised under this Act or regulations made thereunder or in contravention of any agreement or arrangement entered into pursuant to the provisions of this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both.

38. *Penalty for unauthorised access to the Central Identities Data Repository.* Whoever, not being authorised by the Authority, intentionally,—

- (a) accesses or secures access to the Central Identities Data Repository;
- (b) downloads, copies or extracts any data from the Central Identities Data Repository or stored in any removable storage medium;
- (c) introduces or causes to be introduced any virus or other computer contaminant in the Central Identities Data Repository;
- (d) damages or causes to be damaged the data in the Central Identities Data Repository;
- (e) disrupts or causes disruption of the access to the Central Identities Data Repository;
- (f) denies or causes a denial of access to any person who is authorised to access the Central Identities Data Repository;
- (g) reveals any information in contravention of sub-section (5) of section 28, or shares, uses or displays information in contravention of section 29 or assists any person in any of the aforementioned acts;
- (h) destroys, deletes or alters any information stored in any removable storage media or in the Central Identities Data Repository or diminishes its value or utility or affects it injuriously by any means; or
- (i) steals, conceals, destroys or alters or causes any person to steal, conceal, destroy or alter any computer source code used by the Authority with an intention to cause damage,

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to a fine which shall not be less than ten lakh rupees.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expressions “computer contaminant”, “computer virus” and “damage” shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the *Explanation* to section 43 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and the expression “computer source code” shall have the meaning assigned to it in the *Explanation* to section 65 of the said Act.

39. Penalty for tampering with data in Central Identities Data Repository. Whoever, not being authorised by the Authority, uses or tampers with the data in the Central Identities Data Repository or in any removable storage medium with the intent of modifying information relating to Aadhaar number holder or discovering any information thereof, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

40. Penalty for unauthorised use by requesting entity. Whoever, being a requesting entity, uses the identity information of an individual in contravention of sub-section (3) of section 8, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both.

41. Penalty for non-compliance with intimation requirements. Whoever, being an enrolling agency or a requesting entity, fails to comply with the requirements of sub-section (2) of section 3 or sub-section (3) of section 8, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both.

42. General penalty. Whoever commits an offence under this Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder for which no specific penalty is provided elsewhere than this section, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.

43. Offences by companies. (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the

company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where any offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section—

- (a) “company” means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and
- (b) “director”, in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

44. Act to apply for offence or contravention committed outside India. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), the provisions of this Act shall apply also to any offence or contravention committed outside India by any person, irrespective of his nationality.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the provisions of this Act shall apply to any offence or contravention committed outside India by any person, if the act or conduct constituting the offence or contravention involves any data in the Central Identities Data Repository.

45. Power to investigate offences. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, a police officer not below the rank of Inspector of Police shall investigate any offence under this Act.

46. Penalties not to interfere with other punishments. No penalty imposed under this Act shall prevent the imposition of any other penalty or punishment under any other law for the time being in force.

47. Cognizance of offences. (1) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act, save on a complaint made by the Authority or any officer or person authorised by it.

(2) No court inferior to that of a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or a Chief Judicial Magistrate shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

48. Power of Central Government to supersede Authority. (1) If, at any time, the Central Government is of the opinion,—

- (a) that, on account of circumstances beyond the control of the Authority, it is unable to discharge the functions or perform the duties imposed on it by or under the provisions of this Act; or
- (b) that the Authority has persistently defaulted in complying with any direction given by the Central Government under this Act or in the discharge of the functions or performance of the duties imposed on it by or under the provisions of this Act and as a result of such default the financial position of the Authority or the administration of the Authority has suffered; or
- (c) that a public emergency exists,

the Central Government may, by notification, supersede the Authority for such period, not exceeding six months, as may be specified in the notification and appoint a person or persons as the President may direct to exercise powers and discharge functions under this Act:

Provided that before issuing any such notification, the Central Government shall give a reasonable opportunity to the Authority to make representations against the proposed supersession and shall consider the representations, if any, of the Authority.

(2) Upon the publication of a notification under sub-section (1), superseding the Authority,—

- (a) the Chairperson and other Members shall, as from the date of supersession, vacate their offices as such;
- (b) all the powers, functions and duties which may, by or under the provisions of this Act, be exercised or discharged by or on behalf of the Authority shall, until the Authority is reconstituted under sub-section (3), be exercised and discharged by the person or persons referred to in sub-section (1); and
- (c) all properties owned or controlled by the Authority shall, until the Authority is reconstituted under sub-section (3), vest in the Central Government.

(3) On or before the expiration of the period of supersession specified in the notification issued under sub-section (1), the Central Government shall reconstitute the Authority by a fresh appointment of

its Chairperson and other Members and in such case any person who had vacated his office under clause (a) of sub-section (2) shall not be deemed to be disqualified for reappointment.

(4) The Central Government shall cause a copy of the notification issued under sub-section (1) and a full report of any action taken under this section and the circumstances leading to such action to be laid before each House of Parliament at the earliest.

49. *Members, officers, etc., to be public servants.* The Chairperson, Members, officers and other employees of the Authority shall be deemed, while acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

50. *Power of Central Government to issue directions.* (1) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Authority shall, in exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions under this Act be bound by such directions on questions of policy, as the Central Government may give, in writing to it, from time to time:

Provided that the Authority shall, as far as practicable, be given an opportunity to express its views before any direction is given under this sub-section:

Provided further that nothing in this section shall empower the Central Government to issue directions pertaining to technical or administrative matters undertaken by the Authority.

(2) The decision of the Central Government, whether a question is one of policy or not, shall be final.

51. *Delegation.* The Authority may, by general or special order in writing, delegate to any Member, officer of the Authority or any other person, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order, such of its powers and functions under this Act (except the power under section 54) as it may deem necessary.

52. *Protection of action taken in good faith.* No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government or the Authority or the Chairperson or any Member or any officer, or other employees of the Authority for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rule or regulation made thereunder.

53. *Power of Central Government to make rules.* (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the form and manner in which and the authority before whom the oath of office and of secrecy is to be subscribed by the Chairperson and Members under sub-section (2) of section 14;
- (b) the salary and allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and the allowances or remuneration payable to Members of the Authority under sub-section (4) of section 14;
- (c) the other powers and functions of the Chairperson of the Authority under section 17;
- (d) the other powers and functions of the Authority under clause (f) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (e) the form of annual statement of accounts to be prepared by Authority under sub-section (1) of section 26;
- (f) the form and the manner in which and the time within which returns and statements and particulars are to be furnished under sub-section (1) of section 27;
- (g) the form and the manner and the time at which the Authority shall furnish annual report under sub-section (2) of section 27;
- (h) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be or may be made by rules.

54. Power of Authority to make regulations. (1) The Authority may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder, for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the biometric information under clause (g) and the demographic information under clause (k), and the process of collecting demographic information and biometric information from the individuals by enrolling agencies under clause (m) of section 2;
- (b) the manner of verifying the demographic information and biometric information for issue of Aadhaar number under sub-section (3) of section 3;

- (c) the conditions for accepting an Aadhaar number as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder under sub-section (3) of section 4;
- (d) the other categories of individuals under section 5 for whom the Authority shall take special measures for allotment of Aadhaar number;
- (e) the manner of updating biometric information and demographic information under section 6;
- (f) the procedure for authentication of the Aadhaar number under section 8;
- (g) the other functions to be performed by the Central Identities Data Repository under section 10;
- (h) the time and places of meetings of the Authority and the procedure for transaction of business to be followed by it, including the quorum, under sub-section (1) of section 19;
- (i) the salary and allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of, the chief executive officer, officers and other employees of the Authority under sub-section (2) of section 21;
- (j) the demographic information and biometric information under clause (a) and the manner of their collection under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (k) the manner of maintaining and updating the information of individuals in the Central Identities Data Repository under clause (f) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (l) the manner of omitting and deactivating an Aadhaar number and information relating thereto under clause (g) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (m) the manner of use of Aadhaar numbers for the purposes of providing or availing of various subsidies, benefits, services and other purposes for which Aadhaar numbers may be used under clause (h) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (n) the terms and conditions for appointment of Registrars, enrolling agencies and other service providers and the revocation of appointments thereof under clause (i) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (o) the manner of sharing information of Aadhaar number holder under clause (k) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (p) various processes relating to data management, security protocol and other technology safeguards under clause (m) of sub-section (2) of section 23;

- (g) the procedure for issuance of new Aadhaar number to existing Aadhaar number holder under clause (n) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (h) manner of authorising Registrars, enrolling agencies or other service providers to collect such fees for services provided by them under clause (o) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (s) policies and practices to be followed by the Registrar, enrolling agencies and other service providers under clause (r) of sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (t) the manner of accessing the identity information by the Aadhaar number holder under the proviso to sub-section (5) of section 28;
- (u) the manner of sharing the identity information, other than core biometric information, collected or created under this Act under sub-section (2) of section 29;
- (v) the manner of alteration of demographic information under sub-section (1) and biometric information under sub-section (2) of section 31;
- (w) the manner of and the time for maintaining the request for authentication and the response thereon under sub-section (1), and the manner of obtaining, by the Aadhaar number holder, the authentication records under sub-section (2) of section 32;
- (x) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, specified, or in respect of which provision is to be or may be made by regulations.

55. *Laying of rules and regulations before Parliament.* Every rule and every regulation made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or regulation, or both the Houses agree that the rule or regulation should not be made, the rule or regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or regulation.

56. *Application of other laws not barred.* The provisions of this Act

shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force.

57. Act not to prevent use of Aadhaar number for other purposes under law. Nothing contained in this Act shall prevent the use of Aadhaar number for establishing the identity of an individual for any purpose, whether by the State or any body corporate or person, pursuant to any law, for the time being in force, or any contract to this effect:

Provided that the use of Aadhaar number under this section shall be subject to the procedure and obligations under section 8 and Chapter VI.

58. Power to remove difficulties. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of three years from the commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

59. Savings. Anything done or any action taken by the Central Government under the Resolution of the Government of India, Planning Commission bearing notification number A-43011/02/2009-Admin. I, dated the 28th January, 2009, or by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology under the Cabinet Secretariat Notification bearing notification number S.O. 2492(E), dated the 12th September, 2015, as the case may be, shall be deemed to have been validly done or taken under this Act.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

SEVENTH SESSION

The Seventh Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 23 February 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 16 March 2016. In all, there were 16 (sixteen) sittings during the Session. The House was prorogued by the President of India on 29 March 2016.

A brief account of the important discussions and other business transacted during the Seventh Session is given below.

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Members: On 23 February 2016, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed the Members of both the Houses in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was moved by Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi (BJP). The discussion took place on 24, 25, 26 February 2016 and 2 and 3 March 2016.

Moving the motion on 24 February 2016, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi said that the Government of India's centre piece programme for changing and transforming the country is 'Make in India'. She said that India became the largest recipient in FDI in the first half of 2015 and around US \$31 billion of FDI has come into India. With inflation figures much below five per cent and healthy domestic economic climate, India is fast emerging as a world leader in the economic sphere. As far as agriculture is concerned, the soil health card, fertilizers, especially urea coated with neem, and compensation for farmers of drought affected areas are some among the many initiatives undertaken by the Government. On foreign policy initiatives, she said that the Government has done an excellent job where India's viewpoints and concerns are articulated effectively in international events and that foreign direct investment has almost doubled. While elaborating the various development

programmes launched by the Government, Smt. Lekhi said that the *Swachh Bharat* Scheme has raised the collective consciousness towards clean and green environment. It is a big achievement of the Government that more than 95 per cent of the citizens are connected with Aadhaar Cards. She also emphasized on the recently launched *Start-up India* and *Stand-up India* Schemes which seek to focus on risk-free employment activity supported by the Administration through single window approval mechanism. The Government has also allocated more than ₹7,000 crore to develop Smart Cities. She said that many of the critical issues of the power sector, especially with respect to coal supply and power transmission, have been taken care of and major initiatives have been taken to root out corruption.

Seconding the Motion, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries, said that after ten long years of a stagnant economy, in 20 months, India has today overtaken economic super powers like China, US, UK, Germany and Japan and has become the fastest growing economy in the world. She said that inflation is under control, current account deficit is being brought under control and there is unprecedented growth of 32 per cent in national brand value. For the first time, in the true spirit of collective federalism, the Government had decided to transfer additional funds to the States from 32 per cent to 42 per cent. While stressing various achievements, she said that within a period of 20 months, 8000 km. of highways have been constructed which is 125 per cent more than the construction done during the previous government regime; Coal India has witnessed 9.1 per cent coal increase which is the highest in the coal sector till date; and 21 crore new families have been provided with bank accounts in the country and 32,000 crore rupees have been deposited in these accounts. Within a period of 20 months, the Government has provided new subsidized gas connections at zero cost to 50 lakh BPL families and during the last one year 4 lakh 18 thousand toilets have been constructed in more than two lakh schools which will benefit around 14 crore children. The Government has taken a Skill India initiative under which 76 lakh youths were provided training during the last year and the Mudra Bank Scheme was launched to provide loan to the tune of ₹10,000 to ₹10 lakh without any collateral security to any skilled youth. She also said that the Government has reduced the criterion for compensation in the event of damage of crops to the tune of 33 per cent from the earlier 50 per cent.

Participating in the discussion¹, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge (INC) said that this Address resembled the Address given last year. Same old programmes have been repacked with new names and only the language of the Address has been changed and presented to the House and to the people of India. Shri Kharge expressed his concern about the various schemes and programmes launched by the Government and said that we believe in democracy and Constitution and want to abide by it and the Government should also follow suit.

Joining the discussion, Shri P. Nagarajan (AIADMK) said that the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* is the world's most successful financial inclusion programme as it has gone beyond mere opening of bank accounts to becoming a platform for poverty eradication by offering basic financial services and security to the poor. The new insurance and pension schemes launched by the Union Government, namely, *the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana*, *the Pradhan Mantri*

¹ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Rajeev Shankarrao Satav, Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia, Shri Rangappa Barne, B.N. Chandrappa, Parayamparanbil Kuttappan Biju, Anandrao Adsul, Rabindra Kumar Jena, P.P. Chaudhary, Narasimham Thota, Prem Das Rai, Sunil Kumar Singh, Ram Tahal Chaudhary, Rangaswamy Dhruvanarayana, Doddaalahalli Kempegowda Suresh, Rodmal Nagar, Alok Sanjar, Rajeshbhai Naranbhai Chudasama, A.P. Jithender Reddy, Nalin Kumar Kateel, Jsvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Devusinh Jesingbhai Chauhan, Rakesh Singh, Jayadev Galla, Rajendra Agrawal, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, A.T. (Nana) Patil, Mohammad Salim, P. Kumar, Sharad Tripathi, P. Karunakaran, Rahul Gandhi, Kapil Moreswar Patil, Devji Mansingram Patel, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, Janardan Singh Sigrival, Mulayam Singh Yadav, B. Sreeramulu, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, S.P. Muddahanumegowda, Upendra Kushwaha, Devendra (alias) Bhole Singh, Ravinder Kumar Pandey, Bhagwant Mann, Sirajuddin Ajmal, Shivkumar Chanabasappa Udasi, Kaushalendra Kumar, Yogi Adityanath, Keshav Prasad Maurya, Parasuraman K., T.G. Venkatesh Babu, Sudheer Gupta, Dushyant Chautala, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, C.N. Jayadevan, Neiph iu Rio, Rahul Kaswan, Asaduddin Owaisi, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Ratan Lal Kataria, Prem Singh Chandumajra, Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi), Anurag Singh Thakur, R.K. Bharathimohan, Pashupati Nath Singh, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Vishnu Dayal Ram, C.R. Chaudhary, Virender Kashyap, Ajay Misra Teni, G. Hari, A. Arunmozhithevan, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Om Birla, C.P. Joshi, Rajesh Ranjan (Pappu Yadav), N.K. Premachandran, Arka Keshari Deo, Ajay Tamta, Jagdambika Pal, Prof. Saugata Roy, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Dr. Yashwant Singh, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Tapas Mandal, Dr.(Smt.) Ratna De (Nag), Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Dr. Anirudhan Sampath, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, Dr. Vara Prasadrao Velagapalli, Dr. Bharti Dhirubhai Shiyal, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Dr. Ponnusamy Venugopal, Dr. Kirit Somaiya, Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh, Adv. Joice George, Km. Shobha Karandlaje, Smt. Geetha Kothapalli, Smt. Ranjanben Bhatt, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. Kavitha Kalvakuntla, Smt. Jayshreeben Patel, Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, Smt. V. Sathya Bama, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Smt. Riti Pathak, Smt. Anupriya Patel, Smt. Kamla Paatle, Smt. Anju Bala, Smt. Poonam Maadam, Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule, Smt. Poonam Mahajan, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. R. Vanaraja and Smt. Aparupa Poddar

Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and *the Atal Pension Yojana* will be a boon for all sections of poor people. The recently launched farmer-friendly scheme—*the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*—is the biggest ever Government contribution to crop insurance with the lowest ever premium rates for farmers. He appreciated the increase of assistance by 50 per cent and relaxation of eligibility norms to farmers afflicted by natural calamity. He also highlighted the promise of the Government to form a separate Ministry to develop and conserve the fishery resources and to ameliorate the socio-economic status of the fishermen community to provide protection, ensure safety and security of the fishermen. He also suggested to the Government to create a separate Ministry for fisheries and development of fishermen community in the country.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri Sultan Ahmed (AITC) expressed his dissatisfaction at issues relating to the Government's implementation of the Food Security Act, employment, farmers, black money and skill development. He suggested that the Government should take everyone along and ensure that justice is done to Muslims, Christians and Dalits.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD) said that the Hon'ble President's Speech dwelt more on what the Government claims to have achieved revealing the Center's policy focus and priorities. He expressed concern at the progress about the Food Security Act, the major programmes that have been launched by the Government for the welfare of the people like, *the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*, role of manufacturing sector and employment generation, MGNREGA, etc.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, thanked the Hon'ble President of India for his delineation of the efforts being made to put India on the growth trajectory and fulfill the world's expectations from India. The Prime Minister quoted what the Hon'ble President said by stating that "the House is meant for discussion. When the House is stalled, the treasury benches stand to suffer less but the country suffers a lot". He invited all the parties to assist in the smooth passage of important Bills as these Bills are for the benefit of the people. Presenting new ideas before the House, Prime Minister further said that as the country celebrate 8th March as International Women's Day, we should decide whether only women Members will speak on the matters included in the agenda for the day; determine one or two sessions in a year during which only first timer MPs should be invited to speak for a week; whether the House could sit for a day on Saturday to work more?; will it be possible for a day when we can work only for the nation and the humanity cutting across the party lines?

Expressing concern at the delay in justice delivery, the Prime Minister suggested to hold a discussion on finding out a solution to this problem in the House. He said that the government has launched a mission to construct toilets in schools. The border dispute with Bangladesh was solved after decades. 18,000 villages of the country were in darkness but electricity was brought to these villages. It is the responsibility of the Government to improve the schemes which are going on. The Government is being criticized not for the reason that it is doing something better than the previous government. He invited the intellectuals to make a comparative study of two schemes, namely *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* which was launched during the tenure of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpeyee and the *MGNREGA*. Analysing the schemes, one can find that the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* has benefited the poor States of the country the most. The *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana* is being implemented on pilot basis in 45 districts and from 1st April of this year all the villages and farmers will be covered under this Scheme.

The Prime Minister said that the achievements of two years in Railways are greater than those of the ten years of the UPA Government. The States are being provided more financial resources from the Financial Year 2015-16 onwards as against the year 2014-15 following the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. It is incumbent upon the Government to increase the accountability of the Executive. Having faith in the 1.25 billion citizens of the country, the Government has done away with the provision of interview for recruitment of the lower staff and also done away with the requirement of getting photocopies of certificates attested. He also said that the Governments will come and go but this country will remain forever.

All the amendments moved were negatived. The motion was adopted.

The Budget (Railways)–2016-17: Presenting the Railway Budget for the year 2016-17 on 25 February 2016, the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu said that this is a Budget that has been fashioned by a creative partnership with ideas from colleagues in Parliament, industry associations, commuter associations, media and practically all sections of society, with the core objective of improving the quality of customer experience at the individual level, be an engine of employment generation and economic growth at the national level and convert India's largest institution into a template for transformation. For the year 2016-17, the Government expects an Operating Ratio of 92 per cent, after including the immediate impact of the 7th Pay Commission, as against 90 per cent likely to be achieved in the current year. He stated that it is pertinent

to note that the Ordinary Working Expenses grew by 32.5 per cent in 2008-09 due to the impact of the 6th Pay Commission while we are targeting to restrict the growth of Ordinary Working Expenses by 11.6 per cent for 2016-17. The Indian Railways would be at the forefront of infrastructure growth in the country, and every rupee of investment in Railways has the capacity to increase economy-wide output by ₹5.

Following the demands of the Prime Minister to convert vision into specific reality with speed, efficiency and total transparency, Shri Prabhu said that action has been initiated on 139 budget announcements made last year. The bankable railway projects are now assured of funding and should be completed within the next 3-4 years. The Railways is poised to commission Broad Gauge lines at the rate of over 7 km per day against an average of about 4.3 km per day in the last 6 years. This pace will increase to about 13 kms. per day in 2017-18 and 19 kms. per day in 2018-19 and will generate employment of about 9 crore man days in 2017-18 and 14 crore man days in 2018-19. The Dedicated Freight Corridor project is gaining momentum. To ensure better connectivity to the North Eastern States, the Railways have opened the long-awaited Broad Gauge Lumding-Silchar section in Assam, thus connecting Barak Valley with the rest of the country; Agartala was brought on to the Broad Gauge network; Mizoram and Manipur are also set to come on the Broad Gauge map of the country soon with the commissioning of the Kathakal-Bhairabi and Arunachal-Jiribam Gauge Conversion projects.

The Railway Minister said that with a view to bringing in efficiency the working practices the Indian Railways have revamped the internal audit systems. The Indian Railways' responsiveness to customer needs reached new heights when we turned social media into a feedback and complaint redressal mechanism. To improve the quality of train services, the Railways intend to commission Wi-Fi services at 100 stations this year and at 400 more stations in the next 2 years. He mentioned about the launching of an application of Track Management System (TMS) which would enable activities of track inspection, monitoring and maintenance being switched over to an IT platform. This Inventory Management module of TMS has resulted in inventory reduction by 27,000 MT, resulting in saving of ₹64 crore and scrap identification of 22,000 MT equivalent to ₹53 crore. He said that during 2016-17, this system will be implemented on the entire Indian Railways.

Announcing three select train services, *Humsafar*, *Tejas* and *UDAY*, the Railway Minister explained that *Humsafar* and *Tejas* will ensure cost recovery by way of tariff and non-tariff measures; *Humsafar* would be

fully airconditioned third AC service with an optional service for meals. *Tejas*, on the other hand, will showcase the future of train travel in India operating at speeds of 130 kmph and above, and will offer onboard services such as entertainment, local cuisine, Wi-Fi, etc. through one service provider for ensuring accountability and improved customer satisfaction. The Railways will introduce overnight double-decker, Utkrisht Double-decker Air-conditioned Yatri (UDAY) Express on the busiest routes, which has the potential to increase carrying capacity by almost 40 per cent. To improve the issue of consistently declining modal share of Indian Railways, Shri Prabhu said that there are three solutions such as expanding the freight basket of Indian Railways, rationalising the tariff structure and building terminal capacity. He said that although we enjoy the highest captive eyeballs in a railway system internationally, we earn less than 5 per cent of our revenues through non-tariff sources. Many of the world railway systems generate 10 to 20 per cent of their revenues from non-tariff sources. Shri Prabhu said that over a period of the next five years, Indian Railways will strive to reach this world average by monetizing assets and undertaking other revenue yielding activities.

In the context of India's commitment to reduce its carbon foot print, the Minister said that the Government have undertaken energy audits which have revealed the possibility of reducing energy consumption in non-traction area by 10 per cent to 15 per cent. In order to take forward the Prime Minister's vision of promoting Solar Power, the Indian Railway had targeted commissioning of installed capacity of 1000 MW in the next 5 years. Further, we have achieved significant progress in all aspects of this transformation, from scale to speed, from cleanliness to efficiency to resource mobilisation. "We still have a long way to go but the important thing is that we have a strong intent and the will to achieve our objectives", he added. Even as the journey continues, Shri Prabhu said that he is reminded of Gautama Buddha, who said, that whenever one contemplates a journey, there are two mistakes one can make: not starting, and not going all the way. He said that we have already started the journey and we intend to go all the way and we will not rest till we take Bhartiya Rail to a destination called *samridhi* or success.

Initiating the discussion on the combined discussion on the Budget (Railways), 2016-2017, General Discussion and Demands for Grants On Account (Railways), 2016-2017 and Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2015-16, Shri K.C. Venugopal (INC) expressed concern about the Railway Budget and fundamental issues related to infrastructure development, income accumulation and quality travelling, etc. He also

expressed his apprehension about the fiscal health and Operating Ratio of Railways in the last two years. He suggested that if the Railways have to become self sustainable and financially strong, it needs to leverage on internal revenue resources to meet its whopping capital expenditure requirement. He stated that no measures have been taken in the Budget to unleash the untapped revenue potential of Railways and non-clarity in the proposed PPP has led to a wide suspicion of a possible privatization in Railways. Shri Venugopal said that there are hundreds of projects which require sufficient funds for their completion and most of the railway projects run into time and cost overrun. He said that the Budget does not speak of any credible mechanism for a speed and cost effective implementation.

Participating in the discussion², Shri Rakesh Singh (BJP) congratulated

² Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri M.K. Raghavan, Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, Sukender Reddy Gutha, Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, P. Kumar, Parasuraman K, Rodmal Nagar, Balbhadra Majhi, M. Udhayakumar, Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar, Elumalai Vellaigounder, Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi), Sankar Prasad Datta, Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil, Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Jayadev Galla, Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy, Ashok Shankarrao Chavan, Yerram Venkata Subbareddy, Shrirang Appa Barne, Jagdambika Pal, R.K. Bharathi Mohan, Sunil Kumar Mondal, Rajan Baburao Vichare, Vijaya Kumar S.R., Smt. Jayshreeben Patel, Rajeev Shankarrao Satav, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Krupal Balaji Tumane, Banshilal Mahato, Jitendra Chaudhury, Kapil Moreswar Patil, Rangaswamy Dhruvanarayana, Nanabhau Falgunrao Patole, Tariq Anwar, Alok Sanjar, Ganesh Singh, A. Arunmozhithevan, Virender Kashyap, G. Hari, K. Ashok Kumar, T.G. Venkatesh Babu, C.N. Jayadevan, Parayamparnabil Kuttappan Biju, Chintaman Navasha Wanga, K.R.P. Prabakaran, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Abhijit Mukherjee, Arka Keshari Deo, Doddalahalli Kempegowda Suresh, Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, S.P. Muddahanumegowda, K.H. Muniyappa, Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, C. Mahendran, Satyapal Singh, B.N. Chandrappa, Hari Manjhi, Nalin Kumar Kateel, H.D. Devegowda, Harishchandra Deoram Chavan, P. Karunakaran, Vinod Kumar Boianapalli, Ram Kumar Sharma Kushwaha, Shivkumar Chanabasappa Udasi, Radheshyam Biswas, P.P. Chaudhary, Bhagwant Maan, Bharat Singh, Prem Das Rai, Prem Singh Chandumajra, V. Panneer Selvam, Vinod Khanna, Ramesh Bidhuri, Kinjarappu Ram Mohan Naidu, Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia, Jose K. Mani, Rajesh Ranjan (Paapu Yadav), P.R. Senthil Nathan, Rajveer Singh (Raju Bhaiya), N.K. Premachandran, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, Ram Tahal Choudhary, P.C. Mohan, Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Gopal Chinayya Shetty, Jhina Hikaka, Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera Naik, C.R. Chaudhary, Kanti Lal Bhuria, Chandra Prakash Joshi, Rameswar Teli, Dushyant Chautala, Lallu Singh, K. Maragatham, Bhagwanth Khuba, Sushil Kumar Singh, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Abhishek Singh, Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Lakhan Lal Sahu, Rabindra Kumar Jena, Ashwani Kumar Choubey, Ravinder Kumar Pandey, Sunil Kumar Singh, Ajay Misra Teni, Bhola Singh, Udai Pratap Singh, Murlu Mohan Maganti, Sudheer Gupta, Rahul Shewale, Prathap Simha, Sharad Tripathi, Devendra Singh (Alias) Bhole, Mukesh Rajput, Ajay Tamta, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Hari Narayan Rajbhar, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Daddan Mishra, Kaushal Kisore, Bahadur Singh Koli, Kaushalendra Kumar, Ramsinh Patalyabhai Rathwa, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Om Birla, Subhash Chandra Baheria, Sumedhanand Sarswati, Rahul Kaswan, Devji Mansingram Patel, Kantilal Bhuria, Chandu Lal Sahu, Ravinder Kushawaha, Parbhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava, A.T. (Nana) Patil, Ramachandran Mullappally, R. Gopalakrishnan,

the Railway Minister for taking a courageous decision to strengthen the Railways. He said that, earlier, better railway amenities were available to only those passengers who would travel in higher class or AC coaches. He appreciated the Railway Minister for taking a decision to ensure cleanliness in general bogies and to provide dustbins in these bogies. He said that setting a target of 30,000 bio-toilets was necessary not only from the viewpoint of health and sanitation but also from the viewpoint of our national dignity. The insurance facility provided to the passengers is also a good step. We are proud of our Railway Minister for the assurance that by the year 2020, 95 per cent of our trains would run on time. To tackle the increasing revenue without increasing passenger fares, the Railway Minister has taken a decision to use railway properties for the purpose of advertisements and thereby earning revenue through them. The decision to give Railways vacant land on lease to the deprived section of people like SCs, STs and OBCs for undertaking horticulture or organic farming on such land will not only prevent the encroachment on the railway land but it would also create employment opportunity to them. The government has awarded contracts worth ₹40,000 crore within 20 months of its coming to power whereas during the previous 10 years of UPA rule, 99 rail projects worth ₹60 thousand crores were started, out of which only one project could be completed. He said that the Minister of Railways did not follow the previous governments of the past 10 years which announced 3,438 trains nor did he try to break their record. Rather he was of the view that we should make a new beginning.

Shri R. Parthipan (AIADMK), while wholeheartedly welcoming the announcement regarding setting up of the first-ever rail auto hub at

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Ramcharan Bohra, Yogi Adityanath, Mallikarjun Kharge, Hemant Tukaram Godse, Ramdas Chandrabhanji Tadas, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, Birendra Kumar Choudhary, B. Sreeramulu, Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, Prof. Richard Hay, Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose, Dr.(Smt.) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Dr. Kirit Somaiya, Dr. Kulmani Samal, Dr. Jayakumar Jayavardhan, Dr. K. Gopal, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, Dr.(Smt.) Mamta Sanghamita, Dr. Yashwant Singh, Dr. Tapas Mandal, Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. Bhartiben Dhirubhai Shiyal, Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh, Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud, Dr. P.R. Sundaram, Dr.(Smt.) Ratna De(Nag), Dr. Virendra Kumar, Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Dr. K.C. Patel, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Dr. Anirudhan Sampath, Dr. K. Kamaraj, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, (Adv.) Joice George, Km. Shobha Karandlaje, Smt. V. Satya Bhamu, Smt. Kavitha Kalvakuntla, Smt. Riti Pathak, Smt. Aparupa Poddar, Smt. R. Vanaroja, Smt. Krishna Raj, Smt. Poonam Mahajan, Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Smt. Ranjanben Bhatt, Smt. Anju Bala, Smt. Kamla Paatle, Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, Smt. Protima Mondal, Smt. Anupriya Patel, Smt. Geetha Kothapalli, Smt. Renuka Butta, Smt. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Smt. Sakuntala Laguri, Smt. Pratyusha Rajeshwari Singh, Smt. Rita Tarai and Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam

Chennai, said that the North-South Dedicated Freight Corridor from Delhi to Chennai should have been rightly extended upto Thoothukudi. Similarly, the East-Cost Corridor could also be extended upto Thoothukudi. Shri Parthipan requested the Railway Minister that Chennai should be given high priority in the diamond quadrilateral high speed rail network. Funds should be allocated for the Madurai-Bodinayakanur gauge conversion work. The Dindigul-Sabarimala new line needs to be surveyed and laid immediately. The Madurai-Karaikudi new line via Melur should be implemented. The doubling of Madurai-Chennai and Madurai-Kanyakumari lines must be expedited.

Replying to the discussion on 9 March 2016, the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu said that the Budget for 2016-17 was made in very challenging times. The shortfall in loading was on account of less imported coal, cement, iron ore, depressed steel demand, decentralized procurement of foodgrains and global slow-down which have impacted the loading containers by almost 8.80 million tonnes. With the Plan Budget of ₹1,21,000 crore, which is 21 per cent higher than the expected Plan for the previous year, the Railways is trying to add new sources of revenue and also targeted reduction in the cost of operation. In 2016-17, Railways will be commissioning 2,800 Kilometres of broad gauge line and 1,600 kilometres is to be commissioned in 2015-16 in railway electrification. Monetizing data and software is something which, for the very first time, Railways are trying to do, not only in India, probably anywhere to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Railways. On account of cost optimization of operation, ₹1,500 crore is being saved and an annualized saving of ₹3,000 crore is to be achieved by the end of this year on electricity. For every rupee spent on the Railways, we have five times better impact on the economy as a whole.

Shri Suresh Prabhu said that for Assam and the North-East, in 2013-14, the allocation was ₹2,330 crore; last year, for 2015-16, it was, ₹5,368 crore and this year again, it is ₹5,340 crore. In the case of Bihar, the 2013-14 allocation was ₹1,244.8 crore; this year, it has been increased again to ₹3,171 crore. In Karnataka, for 2013-14, the allocation was ₹909.4 crore; it was increased to ₹2,779 crore this year. During 2008-2014, 658 ROB/RUB/subways were constructed as against an average of 1037 during the years 2014-16. In 2016-17, the speed of gauge conversion was 7 kms per day as against an average of 4.3 kms a day in the last six years. The accumulated arrears of track renewal has come down from 7588 kilometres to 5300 kilometres and the number of overage wagons has come down from 14,649 to 6,177. On

the 8,146 ST/SC backlog vacancies in the Railways, 99.55 per cent vacancies have been filled up. He also said that the Railways is starting *Tejas* which will showcase the future of train travel in India operating at speeds of 130 kilometres and above. He added that the Cabinet has approved 400 stations for development and Railways are trying to make new State Joint Ventures which will open a new avenue for development.

All the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways), 2016-2017 voted in full. All the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), 2015-2016 voted in full. Resolutions were adopted.

The Budget (General)–2016-17: Presenting the Budget (General)–2016-17 on 29 February 2016, the Minister of Finance, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley, said that he is presenting the Budget for the year 2016-17 when the global economy is in serious crisis when the global growth has slowed down from 3.4 per cent in 2014 to 3.1 per cent in 2015. Financial markets have been battered and global trade has contracted. Amidst all these global headwinds, the Indian economy has held its ground firmly. Shri Jaitley highlighted the various initiatives and achievements of the Government and said that the growth of GDP has now accelerated to 7.6 per cent; the Consumer Price Index inflation has come down to 5.4 per cent; the external situation is robust. The Current Account deficit has declined from 18.4 billion US dollars in the first half of last year to 14.4 billion this year. It is projected to be 1.4 per cent of GDP at the end of this year. Our foreign exchange reserves are at the highest ever level of about 350 billion US dollars; the last 21 months have placed the economy on a faster growth trajectory. The Plan expenditure has increased at the RE stage in 2015-16 in contrast to the usual practice of reducing it. We achieved this despite adopting the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommendations which increased devolution to the States by 55 per cent.

Shri Jaitley said that the risks of further global slowdown has three serious implications. First, we must strengthen our firewalls against these risks by ensuring macro-economic stability and prudent fiscal management. Second, since foreign markets are weak, we must rely on domestic demand and Indian markets to ensure that India's growth does not slow down. And third, we must continue with the pace of economic reforms and policy initiatives to change the lives of our people for the better. He focused on the prioritization of expenditure of the Government in the farm and rural sector, the social sector, the infrastructure sector and banking sector, etc.

Shri Jaitley emphasized in detail how the Budget proposals for this

year is built on the transformative agenda with nine distinct pillars: Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, with focus on doubling farmers' income in five years; Rural Sector, with emphasis on rural employment and infrastructure; Social Sector including Healthcare to cover all under welfare and health services; Education, Skills and Job Creation to make India a knowledge based and productive society; Infrastructure and Investment to enhance efficiency and quality of life; Financial Sector Reforms: to bring transparency and stability; Governance and Ease of Doing Business: to enable the people to realise their full potential; Fiscal Discipline for prudent management of Government finances and delivery of benefits to the needy; and Tax Reforms: to reduce compliance burden with faith in the citizenry. The direct tax proposals would result in revenue loss of ₹1,060 crore and indirect proposals are expected to yield ₹20,670 crore. Thus, the net impact of all tax proposals would be revenue gain of ₹19,610 crore.

The Finance Minister said that though this Budget is being presented amidst global and domestic headwinds, there are several challenges and we see them as opportunities. The agenda of the Government is to "Transform India" for the benefit of the farmers, the poor and the vulnerable. He said that "*Champions are made from something they have deep inside of them—a desire, a dream, a vision*". We have a desire to provide socio-economic security to every Indian, especially the farmers, the poor and the vulnerable; we have a dream to see a more prosperous India; and a vision to "Transform India".

Initiating the discussion on the Budget (General)–2016-17 on 10 March 2016, Dr. Shashi Tharoor (INC) said that this is a political budget having much more to do with the upcoming State elections than with a coherent economic vision. The Finance Minister has not done enough to stimulate growth in the coming year and beyond. The external debt of the country is already at an all time high of ₹31.7 lakh crore and the growth has slowed in all the key sectors in 2015-16. On disinvestment, the Government had announced a target of ₹69,500 crore last year but had risen only ₹25,312 crore. The Government has again announced an ambitious target of ₹56,000 crore for the fiscal year 2016-17. Dr. Tharoor highlighted the Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement of a generous corpus of ₹10,000 crore for Startup India whereas the Finance Ministry has translated his promise of ₹10,000 crore into an allocation of ₹1,100 crore. Even though the Government has budgeted an increase in the allocation for Central Plan for agriculture, including the newly named *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*, it is still lower than the ₹19,047 crore allotted by the UPA in the last fiscal year

2014. This year's allocation for the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* is much below the UPA's allocation of ₹26,608 crore in the last year and customs duty exemptions on 76 life-saving drugs have been withdrawn in this Budget. He said that the Budget has confirmed the fears of many foreign observers that this Government is not going to make any significant institutional reforms.

Participating in the discussion³, Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan

³ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, Jaydev Galla, Parayamparanbil Kuttappan Biju, M. Udhayakumar, Parasuraman K., Rameshwar Teli, P. Kumar, Yerram Venkata Subbareddy, T.G. Venkatesh Babu, Sankar Prasad Datta, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, K.N. Ramachandran, Suresh C. Angadi, Sunil Kumar Singh, Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Parhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava, Shyama Charan Gupta, Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia, Tariq Anwar, Arka Keshari Deo, Virender Kashyap, B.S. Yediyurappa, Rahul Kaswan, Santosh Singh Chaudhary, Virendra Singh, Rodmal Nagar, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Rajeshbhai Narannbhai Chudasama, Ganesh Singh, Md. Badaruddoza Khan, M. Chandrakasi, G. Hari, A. Arunmozhithevan, K. Ashok Kumar, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hariom Singh Rathore, Prem Singh Chandumajra, Vinod Kumar Boianapalli, Ninong Ering, Rahul Shewale, S.P. Muddahanumegowda, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Harish Dwivedi, Ramachandran Mullappally, Pashupati Nath Singh, Ram Kumar Sharma, C.R. Chaudhary, Raghav Lakhnupal, Dharmendra Yadav, Ramsinh Patalyabhai Rathwa, Anurag Singh Thakur, Chandu Lal Sahu, Shri rang Appa Barne, Rabindra Kumar Jena, Ladu Kishore Swain, H.D. Devegowda, Rajeev Shankarrao Satav, Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Kunwar Bharatendra Singh, Birendra Kumar Choudhary, Kaushalendra Kumar, Hari Manjhi, Rajendra Agrawal, Keshav Prasad Maurya, C.N. Jayadevan, Hemant Tukaram Godse, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Doddalahalli Kempegowda Suresh, Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, Nanabhau Falgunrao Patole, Km. Shobha Karandlaje, E.T. Mohammad Basheer, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ram Tahal Chaudhary, Dharambir Singh, Lakhn Lal Sahu, Ramesh Chander Kaushik, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Gopal Shetty, Anto Antony, Om Birla, P.P. Chaudhary, Harishchandra Deoram Chavan, Ramcharan Bohra, Dushyant Chautala, B.N. Chandrappa, Neiphio Rio, Devendra Singh (Alias) Bhole, Nalin Kumar Kateel, T. Radhakrishnan, Asaduddin Owaisi, Kristappa Nimmala, Rangaswamy Dhruvanarayana, Bhagwant Mann, Sharad Tripathi, Jagdambika Pal, Prem Das Rai, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Raju Shetty Alias Devappa Anna, A.T. (Nana) Patil, Rajesh Ranjan (Pappu Yadav), Ravinder Kushawaha, Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Jugal Kishore Sharma, P.R. Sundaram, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Ajay Misra (Teni), Sushil Kumar Singh, Bodh Singh Bhagat, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Ajay Tamta, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Prof. Chintamani Malviya, Prof. Richard Hay, Dr. Ratna De (Nag), Dr. Kirit Somaiya, Dr. Bharti Dhirubhai Shyal, Dr. Bholu Singh, Dr. K. Kamaraj, Dr.(Smt.) Mamta Sanghamita, Dr. Tapas Mandal, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Dr. Yashwant Singh, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Dr. Udit Raj, Dr. Kulmani Samal, Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, Dr. Aparupa Poddar, Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh, Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Dr. Jayakumar Jayavardhan, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, Dr. K.H. Muniyappa, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, Dr. Ponnusamy Venugopal, Dr. Anirudhan Sampath, Adv. Narendra Keshav Sawaikar, (Adv.) Joice George, Sushree Sadvitri Bai Phule, Smt. Ranjanben Bhatt, Smt. Jyoti Dhurve, Smt. V. Sathyabama, Smt. Kavitha Kalvakuntla, Smt. Poonam Mahajan, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. R. Vanaroja, Smt. Jayshreeben Patel, Smt. Kamla Paatile, Smt. Anupriya Patel, Smt. Riti Pathak, Smt. Renuka Butta, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Smt. Priyanka Singh Rawat, Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam, Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, Smt. Pratima Mondal and Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse

(BJP) said that this is a village-poor-and farmer-oriented Budget. Inflation which was 9.5 per cent during the UPA regime is now down to 5.4 per cent. Today, our foreign exchange reserves are \$350 billion, the highest in our nation's history. The government has doubled the budgetary allocation for agriculture and farmer's welfare and has made an allocation to the tune of ₹35,984 crore. Bank accounts for 21 crore people have been opened under the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana*. A *Health Insurance Scheme* providing a cover upto ₹1 lakh has been started for the common man which will ensure that he does not die for shortage of funds in case he suffers from serious illness. The government has fulfilled the demand of One Rank One Pension which had been pending for the last 30 years. He also said that under the *Mudra Scheme*, ₹1 lakh crore rupees have been disbursed among the poor during one single year which is a record in the history of India.

Joining the discussion, Shri S.R. Vijayakumar (AIADMK) said that Tamil Nadu has given utmost priority to the infrastructure sector and we welcome the proposed enhancement of outlay for the infrastructure sector. Expressing concern about the proposal to privatize the road transport sector through a central legislation by amending the Motor Vehicles Act, Shri Vijayakumar said that his party opposes any move by the Union Government to infringe upon the powers of the State Government. He supported the measures proposed to ease public private partnership, the launch of schemes to sustain and encourage education, skills and job creation, and the proposal to develop a National Career Service Platform. Shri Vijayakumar also expressed concern on the decision to permit hundred per cent FDI for marketing food products produced in India which appears to be a backdoor entry for FDI in retail market. He said that increase in the allocation under *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* to ₹19,000 crore will connect the remaining 65,000 eligible habitations by 2019.

Participating in the discussion, Prof. Sugata Bose (AITC) said that there is a belated recognition that irrigation, agricultural extension services and rural roads count as infrastructure and require enhanced public investment. He said that a mission to provide LPG connection to women members of poor households will begin to combat the health hazards of cooking on open fires but the launch of a new health protection scheme comes nowhere close to addressing the looming public health crisis facing our country. Women and children's health and education continue to face the cold winds of neglect. Shri Bose said that his call for investment in 10 of the most promising institutions of higher education to make them truly world class seems to have been

heard in the Finance Minister's announcement that an enabling regulatory architecture will be provided to 10 public and 10 private institutions to emerge as world class teaching and research institutions. Though there are various nice sounding schemes that have been announced but they have not yet helped our youth to stand up. There is a need to introduce State funding for elections to root out corruption in our political system. Taking advantage of the low global oil prices, the Government has raised revenues by indirectly taxing petroleum products instead of passing on the benefits to consumers. He said that the proposed excise tax on gold jewellery may, in fact, adversely affect goldsmith workers who are poor skilled artisan workers and added that this year's Budget is littered with cesses and surcharges.

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD) said that unlike the first two Budgets of the NDA Government, this year's Union Budget of 2016-17 involving an expenditure of close to ₹20 lakh crore is overtly political even as it escapes being populist. He said that the Finance Minister has brought under focus a distressed rural economy without being populist and throwing freebies. This Budget continues a greater reliance on indirect taxes as opposed to a concerted effort to expand the direct tax net. Shri Mahtab, highlighting the expenditure in respect of various flagship programmes undertaken by the Government and allocation of funds to the States, said that the most important issue which needs to be discussed is the NPAs in the Banks. A conservative estimate has shown that by 2018, NPAs may cross ₹6.5 lakh crore. He suggested that the Government should increase the Kisan Credit Card limit and give them a three-year period to pay that amount back. Expressing his concern at the fate of the GST Bill, Shri Mahtab said that the Corporate India, small and medium enterprises, and financial markets are all awaiting the passage of the GST Bill as all of them believe that it would help create a common market for their goods and services within India.

Shri P. Karunakaran [CPI(M)] suggested that the focus of the Budget should be on the benefits to common man. He said that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has increased the allocation in some sectors, but many sectors are lagging behind in their allocation in this Budget. Shri Karunakaran expressed concern in the areas of agricultural subsidy to farmers, infrastructure sector, price rise, growth rate, MNREGA, Taxation and black money, etc.

Replying to the discussion on 14 March 2016, the Minister of Finance, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley, said that the circumstances in which this Budget is being presented, comes in the backdrop of perhaps the

most challenging economic scenario being faced by the world during the last several years. The economies of the present world are so inter-connected that any happening in one corner of the world has a bearing throughout the world. One of the main reasons behind this situation is that many of those sectors for which the money was borrowed have been facing the impacts of either global slowdown or domestic slowdown. Amidst this global slowdown, if you compare our country with the rest of the world, we are in a much better condition. Therefore, the underlying philosophy of this budget is the deployment of maximum government resources in the sectors facing slowdown. He said that the Center has made allocation for irrigation under 4-5 different heads, deployed extra budgetary resources besides making a contribution to NABARD and creation of a special irrigation fund. The Government will try to create more and more resources in the rural areas through various schemes, whether it is road sector, irrigation, MNREGA, *Swachh Bharat*, insurance schemes, rural housing or the interest subvention. He said that by passing the Aadhaar law we have achieved a benefit of 25 per cent during the first year by implementing direct benefit transfer of LPG. He also said that *Mudra* is a very successful scheme under which relatively poor people are provided loans and the recovery rate of their loans exceed 99 per cent. While mentioning the *Stand Up India Scheme*, meant for women, SCs and STs, Shri Jaitley said that every Bank Branch is supposed to provide a loan upto ₹1crore to two persons of these sections which will ensure that entrepreneurs of these sections will be able to stand up. He said that there are more than 1.5 lakh Bank Branches in the country and in the next one year we will be able to make to 2.5–3 lakh entrepreneurs stand up by providing them business loans and it will become a self sustaining force. He added that this is the first such Budget in which we have achieved more than we have promised for.

All the Demands for Grants (General), 2016-17 were voted in full. All the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2015-16 were voted in full. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016 and the Appropriation Bill, 2016 was passed.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016: On 11 March 2016, the Minister of Finance, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley, moved the motion for consideration of the Bill. The Minister said that the focus of this Bill is that whoever gets a benefit from the Consolidated Fund of India in terms of subsidies, in

terms of any form of resource, either from the Centre or the State Government, or from any other State institution, this person is entitled to have an *Aadhaar* Card. Therefore, for him to get that benefit, either *Aadhaar* Card or any other document so prescribed will be necessary for the purposes of taking that benefit.

Initiating the discussion⁴, Shri Rajeev Shankarrao Satav (INC) said that the Government has presented the *Aadhaar* Bill as a Money Bill just to by-pass the Rajya Sabha. The *Aadhaar* is a product of the Congress and UPA Government. Though the House wanted this Bill to be referred to the Standing Committee but the Government could not wait for even two months. Shri Satav said that in this Bill, "National Security" word has been used but no definition has been provided in this regard.

Joining the discussion, Shri Ganesh Singh (BJP) appreciated the Bill and said provision has been made in this Bill to stop misuse and to provide benefits to the *bona fide* beneficiaries. Till now, 95 crore people have been provided with *Aadhaar* Cards and about ₹13,631 crore has been spent for this purpose. Under section 34 of the Bill, there is a provision for three years of imprisonment in cases which involve misrepresentation of facts and adoption of fraudulent means. Today, more than 21 crore accounts have been opened under the *Jan Dhan Yojana* of which more than 15 crore accounts are operational and overdraft facility of five thousand rupees have been provided therein. A scheme has been formulated to provide free LPG connections to more than five crore BPL families. Shri Ganesh Singh said that it is a fact that Court has suggested that *Aadhaar* should not be made mandatory but to stop the misuse and to provide the benefits directly to the *bona fide* people, some mechanism needs to be put in place.

Participating in the discussion, Shri B. Senguttuvan (AIADMK) said that the Bill is not a Money Bill per se. Subsidies should not be linked to *Aadhaar* so as to take away the powers of the State Governments in giving subsidies to the poor. The present Bill has been brought in with certain modifications in the National Identification Authority of India Bill, 2010. He expressed his apprehension that though the Standing Committee on Finance had raised critical concerns, including the possibility of illegal immigrants obtaining *Aadhaar* numbers, only some of these

⁴ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Tathagata Satpathy, Arvind Sawant, Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Jitendra Chaudhury, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Mekapati Raja Mohan Reddy, Rajendra Agrawal, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Kaushalendra Kumar, Asaduddin Owaisi and S.P. Muddahanume Gowda.

issues have been partially addressed in the new Bill. He suggested that there should be a provision in this legislation enabling assured access to State Governments to the *Aadhaar* database for the purpose of better implementation of programmes.

Replying to the discussion on 11 March 2016, the Minister of Finance, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley, said that the principal purpose of the Bill is to empower a State to distribute the resource of the State to the deserving people and save revenue so that it does not go to undeserving people. The focus of the Bill is that we should be able to identify the people who get it and those people in a targeted manner must get the benefit whereby the Government and the State will save resources and these resources must further be spent for the welfare of those people who deserve it. The Minister further said that no core biometric information collected under this Act shall be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever.

The Bill was passed.

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2016 (As passed by Rajya Sabha): On 15 March 2016, the Minister of Urban Development, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said the purpose of the Bill is that it is not only going to make the consumers the king, but bring in much needed regulation and transparency to the people who are involved in the real estate sector. The Bill seeks to create a set of rights and obligations for both the consumers as well as developers; establish a regulatory authority with which the developer will register the project to be launched and they have to declare all project related information, including the details of developers, status of land, various approvals, project schedule, information regarding architects and structural engineers, etc. He further said that apart from promoting fair play in real estate transactions, it also aims at ensuring timely execution of the projects and uniform regulatory environment and orderly growth of the real estate sector.

Initiating the discussion⁵, Shri K.C. Venugopal (INC) welcomed the

⁵ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri R.P. Marutharajaa, Kalikesh N. Singh Deo, M. Murli Mohan, Shri Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Prem Singh Chandumajra, E.T. Mohammad Basheer, Kaushalendra Kumar, N.K. Premachandran, Prem Das Rai, Rajesh Ranjan, M.K. Raghavan, Rahul Shewale, Prof. Saugata Roy, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud, Dr. A Sampath, Adv. Joice George and Smt. Poonamben Maadam

Bill as it proposes to constitute a Real Estate Appellate Tribunal who may also refer the case to the Competition Commission. He highlighted the provision of a Central Advisory Council consisting of representatives from the Union Ministry, State Governments, representatives of the Real Estate Regulatory Authorities, consumers and labourers to advise the Central Government on major questions of policy and protection of consumer interest. He said that one of the important provisions in this Bill is that 70 per cent of the amount collected from the buyers should be used only for construction. He suggested that the penalty amount of two or three per cent for the developer and 16 to 18 per cent of interest for the consumers in case of default, is against the suggestion made by the Select Committee and it needed to be rectified.

Joining the discussion, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel (BJP) said that the Bill is another major initiative of the Government in the direction of good governance. The Real Estate sector provides second largest number of employment opportunities after agriculture. According to this Bill, a developer will have to fulfill all the information given in the advertisement; the investors will have confidence and with the FDI in, certainly, employment opportunities will also grow.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Urban Development, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, said that the Bill is meant only for contract and transfer of title where the land and other related issues are left to the local bodies. However, the Minister said that the main question is about the genuineness, the promptness and the timeliness of the house delivery. It will be a significant moment in the history of the country because we are fulfilling the aspirations of the people by giving them the needed protection and also by giving credibility to the realty sector.

The Bill was passed.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 16 March 2016, the Minister of Mines and Minister of Steel, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, said that this Amendment will certainly bolster the mining business as well as production of minerals in the country. The Bill sought to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 to permit the transfer of captive mining lease granted otherwise through auction to facilitate banks and financial institutions to liquidate stressed assets where a company or its captive mining lease is mortgaged and also provide for merger and acquisition of plants/businesses linked with captive mines.

Initiating the discussion⁶, Shri Vincent H. Pala (INC) said that the Bill is a proposal to amend the MMDR Act, 1957 through which the Government wants to insert a clause that will allow transfer of captive mining leases granted through routes other than auction. This will facilitate banks and financial institutions to liquidate stressed assets. This amendment is in favour of inefficient mining enterprises rather than investing in technology solutions to enhance efficiency. This, in effect, means that the Central Government can make arbitrary new rules on a case to case basis in allocation of mining leases.

Joining the discussion, Shri Hukum Singh (BJP) said that the Government has made a provision to ensure that no assets can be transferred without auction. Pointing out a very practical point, Shri Hukum Singh said after floods, the land of a farmer is filled with sand and the land does not remain cultivable nor can the farmer clean his land by removing that sand. In such cases, the Government should make a provision that the farmer should have the right on that sand filled land for 1-3 years till the land becomes cultivable again. He said that, as of now, if the farmer takes out even a grain of sand from his field then the process of mining sets in and the local officers start exploiting him.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD) said that the general perception that was created by the Government was that once the Central Government comes into operation, they will be auctioning all the mines, more transparency will be there, more money will accrue and that money will also be transferred to the respective States. But around six or seven States had certain reservations that since land belongs to the State, whenever any lease has to be given, whenever any mining is to be given as prospective license or mining lease, then the State has to be taken into confidence. When the lease is granted by the State Government, its transfer should also be permissible with the permission of the respective State Government and not otherwise.

Replying to the discussion on 16 March 2016, the Minister of Mines and Minister of Steel, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, said that the Provision of Transfer Policy of captive mines is essential because people would become unemployed if some plant is in sick condition and gets closed. He said that trade should be simplified and employment

⁶ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Thota Narasimham, A.P. Jithender Reddy, Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli, Ganesh Singh, Hariom Singh Rathore, P.P. Chaudhary and Dr. A. Sampath,

should be generated. The last time when an amendment in the Act was brought, a clause was added in Section 12A wherein only those mines would be transferred which would be auctioned. States would implement this provision and the revenue generated would go to the State exchequer. Shri Tomar said that the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) has been constituted and auction notice of 43 mines has already been issued and in the second phase auction notice of 42 mines is likely to be issued soon.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

The Budget Session, 2016-17 of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha scheduled from 23 February to 13 May 2016, with recess in between from 17 March to 24 April 2016, for Standing Committees to examine and Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17). The Seventh Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 23 February 2016 and concluded on 16 March 2016. The Session was prorogued on 29 March 2016 by the President.

A chart showing the dates of ballots and last dates of receipt of notices of questions during the Session was circulated to Members along with Bulletin Part-II dated 6 February 2016. The notices of Starred Questions (SQ) and Unstarred Questions (USQ) for the Session were entertained *w.e.f.* 8 February 2016, the day following issuance of Summons. The last date of receiving notices of Questions was 29 February 2016.

The actual number of notices of Starred Questions (SQ) and Unstarred Questions (USQ) tabled by the Members were 25811 (SQ 16452 + USQ 9359). As a result of splitting few questions, where two or more Ministries were involved, the number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions increased to 26109 (16649 + 9460). Two Short Notice Questions were also received. The maximum number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions included for ballot in a day, were 1432 and 768, respectively, on 14 March 2016. The minimum number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions included for ballot in a day, were 851 and 508 for 24 February 2016, respectively. The maximum and minimum number of Members whose names were included in the ballot were 318 for 14 March 2016 and 192 for 24 February 2016, respectively.

All the notices were examined in the light of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Directions by the Speaker, Parliamentary Conventions and past precedents, with a view to deciding their admissibility

or otherwise. Out of 26109 notices of questions received, including split questions, 280 notices were included in the lists of Starred Questions and 3220 in the lists of Unstarred Questions.

The Ministry-wise break-up of admitted Notices of Questions shows that the Minister of Railways answered the maximum number of Questions (both Starred and Unstarred), i.e. 336 followed by the Minister of Finance who answered 237 questions (both Starred and Unstarred). The minimum number of questions (both Starred and Unstarred), which was one, was answered by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Names of 357 Members were included in the Lists of Starred and Unstarred Questions. The maximum number of questions admitted/clubbed, i.e., 62 were in the name of Shri Dhananjay Mahadik, MP.

The maximum and minimum number of Members whose names were included in the Lists of Questions was 303 on 14 March 2016, and 224 on 24 February 2016, respectively.

In all, nine notices for raising Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session and all were disallowed.

In all, two Short Notice Questions were received during the Session and both were disallowed.

A total of two correcting statements were made by the Minister of Home Affairs, correcting the replies already given to previous questions in the Lok Sabha.

A total of 71 Starred Questions were orally replied during the Session. The average number of Starred Questions answered orally during each sitting of the House was 5.07. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally on a single day was seven, on 10 and 11 March 2016.

The average number of Unstarred Questions appearing in the Lists was 230 per day during the entire Session.

A total of three thousand four hundred and twenty nine Statements were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in reply to Starred and Unstarred Questions during the Session and 80 copies each of the relevant Statements were sent half-an-hour before the commencement of the Question Hour to the Parliamentary Notice Office for the use of Members.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing

away of Shri Purno Agitok Sangma, former Speaker of Lok Sabha, and sitting member of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha; Dr. Balram Jakhar, former Speaker of Lok Sabha; Shri Yashpal Singh, Shri Noorul Huda, Shri Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, Smt. Shanti Devi, Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad, Shri Basori Singh Masram, Shri Pawan Diwan and Shri Ramswaroop Prasad, all former members; and His Excellency Shri Sushil Koirala, former Prime Minister of Nepal and the President of the Nepali Congress. References were also made to seven security personnel who were martyred and 20 others injured when terrorists attacked the Pathankot Air Force station on 2 January 2016 and ten soldiers of the Indian Army who were killed in a natural calamity when an avalanche hit a high altitude post in Siachen, Jammu & Kashmir on 3 February 2016.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY EIGHTH SESSION*

The Two Hundred and Thirty Eighth Session of the Rajya Sabha was scheduled to be held in two parts, *i.e.* from 23 February 2016 to 16 March 2016 and from 25 April 2016 to 13 May 2016. The first part of the Session, which commenced on the 23 February 2016, was adjourned on 16 March 2016 to meet for the second part of the Session on 25 April 2016. The House was, however, prorogued by the President of India on 30 March 2016 and therefore, the Two Hundred and Thirty Eighth Session concluded on 16 March 2016. The House sat for 16 days and the actual hours of sittings were 86 hours and 35 minutes.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Members of the Parliament: On 23 February 2016, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed the Members of both the Houses in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was moved by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The discussion took place on 2, 3, 8 and 9 March 2016.

Moving the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said that the speech delivered by the President gave an overall view of how the country was taking a big leap towards development. He said that it was clearly referred in the speech that the Government believed in the principle of '*Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*' by bringing all sections of the society in the mainstream. Under 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance' he said, the Government's thrust had been on e-governance to ensure efficiency and transparency. He further said that the Prime Minister wanted to ensure that every Chief Minister gets a voice and problems of States were tackled at individual level through the concept of 'Team India' or 'Co-operative Federalism'. He said that the Government had also accepted the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission and acceded to the long standing demand of the States for devolution of 42% net tax revenue, as against 32% previously.

* Contributed by the General Research Unit, LARRDIS, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Regarding universal social security services Shri Nadda enlisted various initiatives of the Government viz. *Jan Dhan Yojana* which brought a revolutionary change in economic scenario concerning the poor, *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana* and *Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana* which provided insurance to the common man, the Atal Pension Yojana making the common man think about getting pension. He said that till 2014, the number of bank account holders was just little more than 3 crores which increased to 21 crores in last one and a half years connecting poor people to these schemes. Under '*Housing for All*' and '*Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana*', he said, the Government intended to construct 2 crore houses by 2022 for poor and peasants.

With the aim of enhancing production in agriculture sector, Shri Nadda informed that the Government had kept ₹5,717 crores for the year 2016-17, in addition to ₹1,000 crores of last year, for the '*Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana*' (PMKSY). In this respect, he mentioned of the schemes '*Har Khet ko Pani*', '*Per drop more Crop*', '*Watershed Development*', '*Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme*' and '*Soil Health Card*'. Regarding '*Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme*' he said that the scheme would have a far reaching effect. As regards compensation to the farmers, he informed that now farmers would be eligible for compensation even if one-third of their crop is destroyed unlike in the past when the limit for getting compensation was 50% damage of crops. The amount of compensation for crop had also been increased by one and half times.

Speaking of economic development, Shri Nadda said that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow had increased by 40% and the economy was witnessing above 7.5% growth in GDP. As of Skill India, he informed that ₹1,700 crores had been allocated for skill development and 1500 Multi-skill Training Institutes had been established. Through Start-Up India, youth were being enabled to start their own work and through Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) bank, 2.7 crore poor youth were benefitted. Regarding health sector, both Preventive and Promotive steps were being taken by the Government viz. through extensive vaccination programmes, free diagnostics, affordable life saving drugs etc. Regarding internal security, whether it may be Naxalite movement or insurgency in north-east, Shri Nadda stated that the Government had tried to take the States into confidence to formulate a collective approach through convergence of ideas, reflecting a considerable improvement in this field. With regard to Bangladesh border dispute which was continuing since 1971-72, he said, was resolved within one and a half year.

Seconding the motion of thanks Shri M.J. Akbar of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that the President's speech reflected the spirit of the Government. He said that the policies of the government were aimed at providing security to poor and peasants by ensuring that they have surplus money in their accounts at the time of adversity. He said that the Government of the day believed in the poor and believed that they also could become businessmen. He informed that for the small time workers who were out of economic radar, the government introduced MUDRA and around 1 lakh crores had been disbursed to nearly 2 crore people through the scheme till now. Summing up, he said that the philosophy of the Government was focussed on the words—earning, irrigation, education, medication, sanitation, housing, villages and the poor.

Participating in the discussion¹, Dr. K.P. Ramalingam of *Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam* welcomed the President's Address wherein a number of announcements regarding implementation of various schemes for the benefit of the common citizens of the country had been made. He, however, pointed that many things announced last year had been left out, like no budgetary provisions had been made for *Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana*. Welcoming the government's move to rename the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation as Ministry of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare, he said that 'Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme' gives a ray of hope to farmers. He further stated that according to a study only about 20% farmers have insured their crops in India, and therefore he emphasized the need to give priority to successful implementation of the insurance scheme through awareness programmes. Speaking on government's proposal to concentrate on micro irrigation, he said that though the scheme was being run successfully in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and some other States, yet there are difficulties regarding availability of liquid fertilizers and it had to be imported. He stressed on the need for its indigenous production. Further, in view that in last few decades country's lands had gone barren, he stated that the Government should give preference to use organic fertilizers across the country. He also urged the government to ban plastic bags and cups

¹ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Neeraj Shekhar, A. Navaneethakrishnan, Narendra Kumar Kashyap, Ashwani Kumar, Baishnab Parida, Anil Desai, Sharad Yadav, Derek O' Brien, Praful Patel, Ahmed Patel, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Dilip Kumar Tirkey, Pramod Tiwari, Sitaram Yechury, D. Raja, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Ram Kumar Kashyap, Husain Dalwai, Arun Jaitley, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Chaudhary Munvvar Saleem, Dr. Vijayalaxmi Sadho, Dr. M.S. Gill, Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth and Shrimati Rajani Patil

which flow through drainage from urban to sub-urban areas, resulting in dumping of plastic waste in agricultural lands. He further mentioned that under National Commission for Integrated Water Resource Development, government's target to bring 28.5 lakh hectares of land under irrigation could not be achieved without interlinking of rivers at national or at least at regional level.

Replying to the points raised by the Members, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi thanked all Members from the opposition for smooth functioning of the House and requested Members to pass the motion of thanks on the President's Address unanimously.

The Prime Minister stated that the country needed a quantum jump instead of incremental improvement now. Working in this direction, he said that the stress was being given on 'Good Governance', transparency being its first condition. As a result of government's efforts in this direction, he said, the Government could earn great profit on auctions of coal, spectrum, F.M. Radio. Stating about accountability, the second aspect of good governance, he said that many project had been held up since 10 to 20 years due to various reasons and nobody was held accountable for that. The Prime Minister informed that he reviewed around 300 such projects having worth of 15 lakh crores which have now been started again and were proceeding at increasing pace. On decentralisation, the third aspect of good governance, he said, the government was taking big policy steps in this direction—regional offices had been strengthened, States or even at district or zonal level, authority had been delegated for giving various clearances. He added that effective delivery was another important aspect in this regard.

Clarifying on targeted subsidy, the Prime Minister explained how, under this, through the use of technology the Government was trying to ensure that the subsidy reaches the right person and in a regular and timely manner. He said that the effort was to bring transparency, block leakages and oust the involvement of middlemen in the whole process. On skill development, he said that in 2014 the government created a new Ministry specifically for skill development, norms were set up in this regard and emphasis was given on skill initiative and consistent quality. He informed that the seats in Industrial Training Institutes had been enhanced by 20% and stress was being given on international mobility by preparing work force of global standards. He said, to enable youngsters gain experience, emphasis on apprenticeships was being given. Further, as a result of Government's efforts to strengthen manufacturing in the country, he informed there was 6 times increase in electronic manufacturing, maximum export in softwares, maximum

manufacturing of cars. In an effort to boost employment, he said, the micro and small industries were given tax relief and financial assistance was provided to crores of people through MUDRA banks whose maximum beneficiaries belonged to SC/ST/OBC categories and women.

Informing as to how the government intend to double the income of farmers, the Prime Minister mentioned that by the use of advisories given through Soil Health Cards farmers could enhance the productivity and reduce the input cost. Further, along with agriculture, fisheries, poultry, animal husbandry, milk production could do the value addition. Under 'blue economy', fishermen could do the farming of seaweed at the sea shore land. Hence, through scientific methods the task could definitely be undertaken. Mentioning about the National Agriculture Market he said, through this e-platform farmer could ascertain the place where he could get the maximum price for his produce. Also, through honey farming farmers could be given advantage of extra income.

Speaking on sanitation the Prime Minister said that the Government's *Swachhata Abhiyan* had become a public movement. In this respect, he informed that in all cities challenging competitions had been initiated by Ministry of Urban Development. He appreciated the role of media in promoting the task. At the end, responding to a query regarding tax exemptions, he informed that exemptions to the tune of ₹10,350 crores for pulses and vegetables and ₹5,800 crores for sugar was given. Also, exemption of ₹19,120 crores was given for industries in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and North-East.

The Budget (Railways) 2016-2017: The Budget (Railways) 2016-17 was laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Manoj Sinha, on 25 February 2016. General discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2016-2017 took place on 10 and 14 March 2016.

Initiating the discussion Shri Ahmed Patel of Indian National Congress said that Budget was an important document and also a mirror of economy and governance. He stated that today Railway was sick and a strong economy could not be achieved with a sick Railway. Recounting lacunae of the budget he brought the attention of the Government towards declining revenue in Railways and requested to analyse its reasons. Speaking on Railway debt, he said that as per the breakup of the financial support to Railways in 2016, 50% was from budgetary support and 50% was through debt from the market, whereas no internal surplus was reflected. He sought explanation from the Railway Minister in this regard. He pointed that on one hand Government had reduced the

budget allocation for Railways from ₹40,000 crores to ₹28,000 crores due to its under-utilized and on the other hand Government want to use debt to the tune of ₹8.5 lakh crores for investment. He wanted to know the source of such big debt and how it would be repaid back. In order to check increased number of Railway Crimes, he requested the Government to strengthen the Railway Police Force. Mentioning about the Government's proposal for Public Private Partnership (PPP), he said that under such system workers are exploited. He stressed that the railway network needed to be expanded at least at the border areas, backward and tribal areas, uncovered areas of Kashmir and other mountainous areas. Speaking on hawkers, he said that UPA government had taken initiative to make policy for them through Street Vendors Bill and it could help government to give direction in this regard. Stating about the Bullet Train, he wanted to know as to why it did not get any place in the Budget despite being the pet project of the Prime Minister. He, however, stated that the efforts should be made to revive the sick Railways before Bullet trains.

Participating in the discussion², Shri Ritabrata Bannerjee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said that in the last three years there had been a paradigm shift from the concept of Railways being a public transport to a commercial entity which was fundamentally wrong. He further said that as the passenger and freight charges were already hiked several times prior to the Budget, therefore no further hike was made in the Budget. He expressed disappointment that budget did not address the issues of expanding railway connectivity and improving passenger amenities. Expressing concern over the financial health of the railways, he alleged that both freight and passenger earnings had significantly dropped and the gap between the Budget Estimates and the Revised Estimates of Railway revenue was around a massive ₹17,000 crores. On the Government's intention to bridge the shortfall and have surplus funds through a massive dose of PPP and by selling the assets currently held by the Indian Railways, he asserted that the

² Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri R.K. Sinha, Naresh Agrawal, Ram Nath Thakur, Md. Nadimul Haque, S. Muthukaruppan, Veer Singh, A.U. Singh Deo, Sanjay Raut, Mahendra Singh Mahra, Mansukh L. Mandaviya, A.K. Selvaraj, Ronald Sapa Tlau, Bashistha Narain Singh, Dilip Kumar Tirkey, Tiruchi Siva, D. Raja, Praveen Rashtrapal, Meghraj Jain, Narendra Budania, Rangasayee Ramakrishna, Ram Kumar Kashyap, Mohd. Ali Khan, Balwinder Singh Bhunder, A.V. Swamy, Salim Ansari, P.L. Punia, Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mahant Shambhuprasadji Tundiya, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu, Dr. T.N. Seema, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu and Shrimati Bimla Kashyap Sood.

PPP model had proved to be a failure in improving the railways all across the world and selling assets was like selling family silver to meet the day-to-day expenditure. Stating that developing infrastructure and filling up of the necessary manpower was dire necessity, Shri Bannerjee brought the attention of the Government to 3 lakh posts lying vacant mainly concerning maintenance and safety standards. Further, resource mobilisation segments like port connectivity, mines connectivity, power plants connectivity were being eyed by the PPP and the FDI, for commercial returns. He said that the Budget basically was aimed for profit maximization of the few.

Speaking on Budget (Railways) 2016-2017, Shri Praful Patel of the National Congress Party said that the Budget was in the right direction with no new announcements and concentrating on completion of projects, as per prioritisation, rather than having just half-baked and unfinished projects. Regarding Government's plan to have a Capital Expenditure (Capex) of ₹1,25,000 crores by the Railways in the current fiscal, he cautioned that to absorb such an amount in a single financial year by Railways was a huge challenge given our system's procedural formalities. He, however, felt that even if 50% of the money was spent, it would go a long way in improving the overall infrastructure of the Railways. He further appreciated that bullet trains would be coming to India and government was getting good financial assistance from Japan on very favourable terms. He, however, felt that the speed of country's overall Railway network could be increased to some extent. He said that stoppages of some of the major trains should be rationalised. Further, advocating for integration of Railway network with airport infrastructure, he said that the major metros should have this kind of inter-modal connectivity which would help in making travel easier, safer and seamless, along with earning more revenue. Underlining the importance of port connectivity and freight corridors, Shri Patel said that in the absence of proper railway lines to evacuate coal, the available coal was not being able to be lifted to the State Boards or the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) leading to shortage of coal there. He thus requested the Government to look into such soft targets. Speaking on upgradation of Railway stations, he gave example of airport sector where Mumbai and Delhi went into joint ventures which not only improved airports but also gave enough money to build all the airports across India without resorting to any borrowing. He further suggested that rather than just inviting anybody and everybody to come and participate in building a railway station, it should be done in a clustered approach, where one big station also carries the responsibility of developing four smaller stations and Request For Quotations (RFQ) conditions should be more stringent.

Replying to the discussion Shri Suresh Prabhu, the Minister of Railways, agreed that the Railways had been passing through very difficult times, specifically due to deficiency of resources in comparison to the demands. At the same time, he said, the railways' network had been aging for a long time due to lack of investment. Stating that the Railways needed a proper vision, he said that all the stakeholders including the States, Members of Parliament, MLAs would be consulted to prepare a proper, long-term perspective plan, with physical targets.

Shri Prabhu stated that the year had been most difficult one for Railways. The freight movement was low resulting in low income and the Pay Commission and the Bonus Act had been another cause for increasing Railways' expenditure. He, however, said that despite shortfalls in revenue, the Government managed it by reducing expenditure. As a long term strategy he said, instead of relying on only traditional sources of revenue *i.e.* freight or fare, non-Railway revenue sources would have to be explored like by expanding freight basket, containerization and terminal capacity, by revamping parcel business, through advertising and by monetizing data software or other assets. This would be along with cost optimization through revamp of procurement policy, rigorous consumption monitoring, reducing pilferage and energy conservation measures. Regarding PPP model, Shri Prabhu stated that it was an old idea and government had approved the guidelines for formulation and appraisal of PPP back in 2006. In this regard, he referred to Dr. Vijay Kelkar Committee which gave good ideas in this regard. He said that the idea of PPP was being pursued vigorously by some States also *viz.* West Bengal and Kerala.

The Minister further informed that the Capex (Capital Expenditure) for the year was ₹1,21,000 crores which was the highest ever, and 21% more than the previous year. Regarding implementation, the minister said that the 2015-16 Railway Budget was the first Budget in which Action Taken Report had been given. He explained how tasks like laying of broad gauge lines and finalization of tenders were being undertaken at much faster pace. Through, e-Samiksha online platform, he informed, rigorous monitoring was being done of all Budget announcements.

The Prime Minister further informed about the provisions made for the common man *i.e.* *Antayodaya Express*, a long distance fully unreserved superfast train service to be operated on dense routes and *Deen Dayalu* coaches to be added in some long distance trains for unreserved travel. Sale of tickets would be made through hand held terminals and ticket vending machines and 139 helplines would be used for ticket cancellation. Apart from this, he said, baby food, hot milk and

hot water would be made available at stations and sub-quota would be provided to women in allotment of stalls. Regarding SC/ST backlog of vacancies, he informed that it had been brought down to 99.55% by filling most of the vacancies.

Regarding safety, Shri Prabhu stated that a separate mission had been created under which elimination of all unmanned level crossings and Train Collision Avoidance System would be taken up on a mission mode. Underlining various projects completed in North-East States and Jammu & Kashmir, he informed that for faster development of Railways, Government was going into joint ventures with the States, wherein ownership would be shared with States. Regarding Bullet Train, the Minister clarified that the project was being funded by the Government of Japan at a rate of miniscule 0.1% which was to be repaid in 50 years. To give stress on Research and Development, he informed that Government was trying to create a separate organisation—Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement. Mentioning that transparency had been major thrust of the government, he informed that sale of scrap, almost all the contracts, and recruitment etc. would be undertaken online. Appealing all to work together as partners he said that the government would try to take on all suggestion in a positive way.

The Budget (General) 2016-2017: The Budget (General) 2016-17 was laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, on 29 February 2016. Discussion on the Budget (General) 2016-2017 took place on 15 and 16 March 2016.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar of the Indian National Congress congratulated the Finance Minister for providing ₹2,000 crores for LPG cylinders which would be made available to 1.5 crore families. He, otherwise, termed it as an absolutely routine Budget without any bold vision. He pointed that the Government had made economic blunder by abolishing the Planning Commission which did stupendous work by acting as a countervailing agency by co-ordinating the economic activities of the country, whereas the newly brought in *NITI Aayog* was without any framework, functions and direction. He blamed the Government for failing to take the benefit of unprecedented fall in the international oil prices and take corrective measures to revive industrial growth.

Shri Mungekar further expressed concern over the reversing trend from direct taxes to indirect taxes which being regressive in nature was accentuating income inequalities, putting the burden on the poor. He also pointed that the Government was depending more upon the non-tax

revenue which was not a dependable source of financing the economic activities. He requested the Finance Minister to rationalise the exemptions or tax incentives by abolishing non-essential exemptions which were not contributing to economic growth. He also objected on bringing educational qualifications as eligibility criterion for *Gram Panchayat* Members and the *Panchayat Samiti* Members and requested to revoke it, as it was an insult to illiterate people who were basically SCs, STs, Muslims, minorities and women. Regarding Government's intention to double the income of farmers in next four years, he stated that it was impossible as in entire agriculture sector, in livestock, forestry and fishing, the rate of growth was stagnant since five years. He further pointed out the less budgetary provision made for micro, small and medium enterprises and also said that the amount allocated to social sector spending was grossly inadequate. Higher and technical education sector was under severe crisis and one-third of the posts of teachers in the Central Universities were lying vacant. He urged the HRD Minister to devote more time and energy to attend to such problems. Regarding budgetary provision made for SCs and STs, he said, it was quite less in proportion to their population.

Participating in the discussion³, Shri Baishnab Parida of Biju Janata Dal said that in comparison to the first two Budgets of the NDA Government, 2016-17 Union Budget, involving an expenditure of close to ₹20 lakh crore, was overtly political. He said that the Finance Minister had focussed on distressed rural economy without being populist and throwing freebies. He felt that the Government's idea of building infrastructure for irrigation, rural roads, digging of ponds, and above all, doubling the farmers' income by 2022, for which ₹87,765 crore investment was earmarked, was quite unrealistic. With repeated monsoon failures, low wages and small rise in the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the rural sector was in deep trouble. Pointing that the Budget laid a greater reliance on indirect taxes as opposed to a concerted effort to expand the direct tax net, he termed the Budget as pro-capitalists and pro-corporate houses.

Stating about the crisis in NREGA he said that the number of man days of employment provided, had come down to less than 40%

³ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Prabhat Jha, Naresh Agrawal, Pavan Kumar Varma, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, T. Rathinavel, Satish Chandra Misra, K.N. Balagopal, Bhupinder Singh, C. M. Ramesh, Ishwarlal Shankarlal Jain, D. Raja, Rajeev Shukla, Bhupender Yadav, Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Ajay Sancheti, Harivansh, Madhusudan Mistry, K.R. Arjunan, Raj Babbar, K.K. Ragesh, Ram Kumar Kashyap, Palvai Govardhan Reddy, Ronald Sapa Tlau, Digvijaya Singh, Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai and Shrimati Wansuk Syiem.

households as compared to the demand of 100% and many workers had not been paid during the last few years. He requested the Government to enlist such workers and take necessary action in this regard. Further drawing the attention of the Finance Minister to farm labourers, marginal peasants who actually were tillers of the land, he said that they had not been given any legal status on the Right to land and hence, were unable to get loans from the banks. He further, expressed his disappointment over insignificant increase in allocation under PMKSY, the flagship irrigation scheme of the Government of India, from ₹5,300 crores to ₹5,700 crore.

While expressing his views on the Budget (General) 2016-2017, Shri S. Thangavelu of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam congratulated the Government for launching a new initiative to ensure that the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are provided with a cooking gas connection, supported by a Government subsidy, for which provision of ₹2,000 crores had been made in the Budget. He also welcomed the double budgetary allocation to Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry and lauded the Government's aim to double the farmers' income in next five years. He, further, brought the attention of the Government towards the need to promote Micro Irrigation given the different water needs of the farmers for agriculture. He urged the Government to take all steps to protect the interests of the farmers starting from sowing of seeds till harvest. He stressed on inter-linking of rivers which, he said, would provide irrigation facilities to additional 35 million hectares of land.

Shri Thangavelu further requested the Government to take necessary steps to develop Special Economic Zones in order to create employment opportunities and help the Government earn good revenue from exports. He brought the attention of the Government towards Tuticorin-Madurai Industrial Corridor in Tamil Nadu which was launched with the intention to attract industrial investors into the Southern District of Tamil Nadu. Further, stating that insurance is the safest mode of investment as well as saving, he requested the Government to withdraw the service tax on life insurance premium.

Replying to the discussion Shri Jayant Sinha, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance said that the big idea behind the budget was to ensure that the poor people in the far away places get their rights and entitlements. Rebuffing the criticism that the Government was pro-corporate, he said that the Budget, in fact, was for villages, farmers and poor. In this context, he mentioned about enhanced budget allocation made for food security, disbursement of money through '*Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and Mobile number*' (*JAM trinity*) to reduce the corruption and wastage

in the process, health coverage of upto ₹1 lakh being provided to BPL families and an extra coverage of ₹30 thousand for old people, poor women being provided with gas stoves for health benefit, '*Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana*' to fulfil the housing requirements of BPL families. He added that Government had committed to make provision of electricity and roads in all villages by 2018-19.

Giving explanation regarding roadmap of the Government to double the income of the farmers, Shri Sinha outlined the measures taken in the Budget to achieve the same. In 'Crop Insurance Scheme', he informed, farmers would be given compensation on 30% damage instead of 50% previously. Through '*Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana*' farmers could grow 2 to 3 variety of crops including vegetables or other high value products viz. pulses. Improved facility of fertilizers was being provided and marketing platforms had been prepared to help farmers ascertain the place where they could get good price for their produce. Diversified income schemes were being promoted for added income through horticulture, fisheries, dairy etc. Through Soil Health Card, he said, information regarding the suitability of the soil for different crops would be imparted to help farmers grow better crops. He said that all these measures would be a compelling and powerful package to enable the farmer's double their income.

Speaking on fiscal management, Shri Sinha said that the Government had been very prudent and careful as regards managing expenditures. Despite the fact that after the 14th Finance Commission devolved 42% of divisible revenues to the States, leaving a very constrained fiscal space for centre, the Government had been able to stay within the 3.5% fiscal deficit. He claimed that additional allocations made in 2016-17 had been made without any increase in borrowing and country's interest burden had come down. He further added that the Government had been able to manage inflation quite well and excepting prices of *dals*, price of all essential things had either stayed flat or had come down.

Stating about allocations in social sector he stated that for almost all institutions of national importance of higher education, the allocations had been increased and also as an innovative approach to finance such institutions a Higher Education Financing Agency had been created with a debt capacity of about ₹9,000 crores or ₹10,000 crores. He informed that total health expenditure had gone up to 14% and regarding SC and ST sub-plans, the growth had been in the range of 12-14%. Total allocation for irrigation, which had been under multiple heads, was ₹31,690 crores. Hence, he asserted that Government had increased the public investment in the Budget dramatically.

Short Duration Discussion on Situation Arising in Central Institutions of Higher Education with Specific Reference to Jawaharlal Nehru University and University of Hyderabad: A short duration discussion on situation arising in Central institutions of higher education with specific reference to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and University of Hyderabad took place on 25 and 26 February 2016.

Initiating the discussion Shri Sitaram Yechury of the Communist Party of India said that whatever happened in the Hyderabad Central University and the JNU was not confined to only one or two educational institutions in our country and rather, institutes like Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Nehru Memorial Museum were also witnessing interference of an order that was not sanctioned by law. He said that every single institution and the Central University has been established by an Act of Parliament and in case of its violation Parliament should intervene and ensure to put an end to it. He demanded for constitution of a House Committee to examine all these developments. Referring to the suicide by Rohith Vemula, a PhD student at Hyderabad Central University (HCU), and to some other Dalit students against whom action was taken by the University, he stated that these students were socially ostracised and their scholarships were stopped. Explaining about the backdrop, he said that after some clash between two student groups, a letter was written by a Minister to the HRD Minister after which five senior officers of the Ministry intervened telling the University to take action. He referred to it as a partisan and anti-*Dalit* intervention creating a situation leading to a tragic death. On the issue of alleged anti-national slogans raised by the students at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Shri Yechuri expressed disappointment over the fact that the Union Home Minister, being a repository of all intelligence inputs, took reference of a fake tweet to attack JNU students to have backing of terrorists. Condemning the assault on journalists and students by lawyers and BJP supporters at Patiala House Court, he said, being a secular democratic country the Constitution endows people with Rights, and suppressing dissent was not in consonance with the Indian Constitution or democracy. He appealed to the Government not to castigate the students or the University and stop tirade against them in order to advance its own brand of nationalism, and maintain the richness of country's plural society who belong to different faiths, castes, languages and cultures. He stated that all have their own point of view and only through debate and discussion all rise to higher levels.

Participating in the discussion⁴ Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy of the Trinamul Congress said that Rohith's death was not the first one of such incident and it also happened in the past at regular intervals, while remedial action was not taken by the Government of the day or even of the past. As autonomous bodies, he said, it was incumbent upon the university authorities to take stock of the situation within the campus and act accordingly. He stated that the cruelty inflicted upon Rohith Vemula should not be repeated and the culprits, who were directly or indirectly responsible for it, must be brought to the book. Speaking on the incident occurred at the Jawaharlal Nehru University he said that, as reported, a commemorative function to observe the death anniversary of a hard core terrorist, who was executed pursuant to court's order, was organized in the name of cultural evening on the 9 February 2016 at the University wherein anti-India slogans were raised. In this context he wanted to know as to why the permission for organizing the programme was accorded despite the knowledge that such function was held in the campus twice in succession after the execution of the terrorist and why the permission was withdrawn at the last moment and at whose behest. Referring to the reports that some outsiders and noted separatists thronged the campus on the fateful evening to raise slogans and posters glorifying the terrorists, demanding freedom for Kashmir and right to secede from India, he said that how the separatist elements were allowed to enter the campus. While condemning all acts of anti-national activities, Shri Roy criticized any attempt to brand anyone as anti-national who otherwise was not involved in such activities. He criticized the administrative excess to curb a dissenting voice as it goes against country's constitutional safeguards and strongly condemned the attack on journalists at Patiala House Court. As regards the Section 124 of the Indian Penal Code relating to Sedition charges, he said, it was high time to have a relook into this Section to avoid its misuse. He, however, believed that the liberty could not be enjoyed as a licence and both ultra-nationalism and ultra-leftism were rejected by the people of the country.

Shri Bhupinder Singh of the Biju Janata Dal while speaking on the issue said that the matter was very grave. He asked the government to confirm whether the Intelligence Bureau had informed that anti-national slogans could be raised at the conference being held on 9 February

⁴ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Bhupender Yadav, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Arun Jaitley, Javed Ali Khan, K.C. Tyagi, Narendra Kumar Kashyap, D.P. Tripathi, Sanjay Raut, S. Thangavelu, Ramdas Athawale, V. Hanumantha Rao, Tarun Vijay, Baishnab Parida, P.L. Punia, D. Raj and Prof. Mrinal Miri.

2016. He further stated that as alleged by opposition, between 3 September and 18 December 2015 there had been talks from the government side that anti-national activities were going on in the Central University of Hyderabad. In that case, he said, why any action was not taken by the government in these four months. He said that any anti-national slogans being raised against the motherland were detestable; however, public opinion should be respected in democracy. He stated that it would have been better if Kanhaiya and Rama Naga were given a hearing. Even if charges levelled against them were proved false, their dignity had already been disgraced. This could lead to another case of suicide like that of Rohith Vemula. He added that if politics of the day decides, then there would be no such incident in any university of the country. He advocated for implementation of a uniform education policy which would foster nationalism and patriotism.

Replying to the points raised by the Members, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, the Minister of Human Resource Development, initially paid homage to Rohith Vemula, a student at Hyderabad University, and conveyed her condolences to his family. While quoting the last notes of the deceased—the value of a man was reduced to his immediate identity and nearest possibility, to a vote, she said that while he was identified as a scholar but many could be accused of identifying him as a vote bank. She informed that the Chief Warden against whom aspersions were being cast was herself a Dalit and even Rohith had acknowledged on 23 October 2015 that Students Federation of India (SFI), Hyderabad Central University (HCU) were trying to portray Chief Warden as the main culprit for their unexpected embarrassment as casteist and they should avoid trying to pitch Dalits against Dalits. The Minister said that the issue was regarding an FIR filed in a State not governed by her party on 4 August 2015 and FIR stated that 40 people unlawfully walked into a hostel room of Hyderabad University with fists and blows and warning of dire consequences against a particular student. Clarifying on the letters sent by the officers of the HRD Ministry to the University, in response to the letter of a Minister informing about this incident and requesting to intervene, she said that as per Manual of Office Procedure it is incumbent upon the officers to acknowledge the correspondences of Members of Parliament within 15 days and after 15 days they have to reply to the same.

Further, regarding the charge of removing the Vice-Chancellor of Vishwabharati, the Minister said that the Vice-Chancellor, who was appointed by her predecessor despite after proven charges of sexual misconduct, was indulging in malpractices in the University. She

informed that due process of law was followed, an ex-judge was appointed for enquiry and the Hon'ble President removed the Vice Chancellor. As regards rollback of Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP), she explained that the courses under this programme did not have the sanction of the Hon'ble President of India which would have rendered the degrees obtained by students after four years legally untenable. Further, in authentication of the issue of JNU, the Minister referred to the stamped document of the Registrar of the university dated 10 February 2016 regarding the incident. She informed that the document comprised the names of Kanhaiya Kumar, Shehla Rashid and Rama Naga also. As regards Mahishasur Martyrdom Day to be celebrated in the university campus, she stated that when some students raised their voice against it as an attempt to defame their culture, they were thrashed.

While replying to further queries on 26 February 2016, she made clarifications regarding fellowship of Rohith Vemula. She informed that close to ₹3,19,029 were given to him in the past and the last fellowship was given to him on the 20 November, 2015 of ₹54,000. The money pendency reflected in his last note arose from some paperwork that the deceased was yet to file. Further, refuting the charge of not co-opting any person from SC community for any of the related processes, the Minister stated that the Proctorial Board on 10 August 2015 where decisions were taken, did have a representative of the SC/ST community and also a woman representative. The Executive Council on 27 November 2015 which made the decision of not allowing certain students to stay in the hostel also had specially co-opted a member of the SC community who was also the dean of students' welfare. She further informed that the Ministry post this incident sent two officers, one from the minority community and another to assist from the backward community, to enquire into the incident. Mentioning about her online conversation with Rohith's mother she said that her only plea to me was that a judicial enquiry be made into the child's death. As assured to her, she informed that a Judicial Commission was being appointed and the Judge chairing the commission had served in the Allahabad High Court till the year 2010.

Calling Attention to Situation Arising Out of Complete Breakdown of Law and Order in Delhi: On 25 February 2016, Shri Anand Sharma of the Indian National Congress called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the complete breakdown of law and order in Delhi witnessed recently.

Replying to the points raised by the Members Shri Rajnath Singh,

Minister of Home Affairs said that Delhi Police was one of the largest metropolitan police of the world. Also, Delhi adjoins many other States and around 40 lakh people from outside Delhi commute through the State on daily basis. Hence, Delhi Police had multi-dimensional responsibilities. He said that Delhi Police may not be perfect, however, it was trying best to maintain efficient law and order system in Delhi. He informed that in view of less strength of Delhi Police, the Government had sanctioned 4227 posts in the year 2015. On the issue of women's security he said that women's representation should be enhanced to 33% even in police department to ensure their safety. He further informed that Chief Ministers of all States had also been issued advisories in this regard. Speaking on other steps taken in this regard, he said that stress was being given on use of modern technology for the purpose; programmes like 'Himmat', 'Operation Nirbheek', 'Shishtachar' were being run; self defence training was being imparted to students.

As regards rampant increase in cases of crime, the Minister stated that to establish a defined procedure and fair registration for FIRs, Government had initiated the system of e-FIR. Hence, people whose FIR was not being registered previously, were now registering e-FIR easily even on small incidents, resulting in increase in cases of crime on record. On the issue of action taken, he asserted that no incident of communal tension or violence had occurred during last one year in Delhi. Claiming that conviction rate is good, he said, if needed he would present the data in the House. He condemned the incident at Patiala House Court wherein some JNU students, accused of sedition charges, were attacked. He informed that as soon as the incident occurred, he communicated with the Delhi Police commissioner and directed him to take strict action in the case. Regarding delay in registering FIR, he clarified that the FIR was registered on the same day when the episode took place. He said that whatever sections were applicable in the case had been put against the accused. He informed that at the time of incident the Police arrested the accused lawyers as well as a BJP MLA, also. As the investigation was undergoing, all should wait for the results. He assured the Members that the culprits would be punished by the Court.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Bureau of Indian Standard Bill 2015⁵: On 3 March 2016,

⁵ The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha on 3 December 2015 was laid on the table of the House on 4 December 2015.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the Minister of Food and Consumers Affairs moved that the Bill to provide for the establishment of a national standards body for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, conformity assessment and quality assurance of goods, articles, processes, systems and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration. Discussion to the Bill took place on 8 March 2016. The Bill sought to replace the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 (BIS Act) which provided for the establishment of a Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The core activities of BIS are standard formulation and certification of articles and processes under license. At present, the BIS is not formally recognised as the National Standards Body of India though it has been representing India in various international bodies. The BIS Act also does not provide for recall of sub-standard ISI marked products, hallmarking of precious metal articles, compounding of offences, etc. Provisions related to formulation of standards and conformity processes are also required to be aligned with global best practices. Further, the Act restricts the list of items to those, as referred to in the Schedule of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, which can be brought under the ambit of mandatory compliance by manufacturers. To address these issues and future challenges in the area, comprehensive amendments were required in the BIS Act to adequately protect the interests of the consumers. Therefore, it was proposed to enact a new legislation and repeal the BIS Act. The Bill *inter alia* sought to provide for—(i) establishment of BIS as National Standards Body of India; (ii) to empower the Central Government to authorise any other agency having necessary accreditation for the purpose of conformity assessment against Indian Standard; (iii) to enable the Government to bring more products, systems and services under the ambit of standardisation; (iv) to allow multiple types of conformity assessment schemes in tune with global best practices; (v) to enable mandatory hallmarking of precious metal articles; (vi) to prevent the misuse of Standard Mark; (vii) to provide for compounding of offences and also make certain offences as cognizable; and (viii) to repeal the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 (63 of 1986)⁶.

In his reply to the queries of the Members⁷, the Minister informed

⁶ Extract from the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' of the Bill.

⁷ Those who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Tarun Vijay, Naresh Agrawal, T.K. Rangarajan, Bhupinder Singh, Anil Desai, Vivek Gupta, Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan and Dr. R. Lakshmanan, Munquad Ali.

that the consumer, now, could file complaints electronically from their home and need not to take services of advocates as they could represent themselves. He said that the reason behind formulating this Bill was to bring all products under one umbrella of Indian standardization, while agencies like Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Steel Authority of India Limited, Electronic Authority would keep checking products at their own level. Further, Companies could self certify their products, he said, however, in case of any complaint stringent action would be taken against them. Also, while importing and exporting products BIS standard would be followed.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses etc., as amended, was adopted and the Bill was passed.

The National Waterways (Amendment) Bill, 2015⁸: On 9 March 2015, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, moved the Bill to make provisions for existing national waterways and to provide for the declaration of certain inland waterways to be national waterways and also to provide for the regulation and development of the said waterways for the purpose of shipping and navigation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration. In many countries, the inland water transport is recognised as fuel efficient, cost effective and environment friendly mode of transport, especially for bulk goods, hazardous goods and over dimensional cargos. It also reduces time, cost of transportation of goods and cargos, as well as congestion and accidents on highways. So far five waterways have been declared to be national waterways by Acts of Parliament. The regulation and development of inland waterways for the purposes of shipping and navigation and matters related thereto are undertaken by the Inland Waterways Authority of India constituted under the provisions of the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985. Since the inland waterways is lagging behind road and rail sectors in the country, the Central Government has evolved a policy for integrated development of inland waterways throughout the country and has accordingly identified 101 new inland waterways in addition to five existing national waterways to be declared as national waterways for the purposes of shipping and navigation by a standalone legislation in terms of Entry 24 of the Union List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

⁸ The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha on 21 December 2015 was laid on the table of the House on 21 December 2015.

The enactments by which the existing national waterways have been declared as national waterways are also proposed to be covered under the proposed legislation, namely, the National Waterways Bill, 2015, by repealing them with a suitable saving clause. The enactment of the proposed legislation will in no way impinge on the rights of the State Governments for usage of water, ownership of appurtenant land, minerals, metal, sand, etc., rather usher in development of transportation and tourism in States⁹.

Replying to the queries of the Members¹⁰, the Minister stated that only 3.5% of country's traffic navigates through waterways despite being most cost effective modes of transport. China is ahead of us in such a competition because of various industries running on the banks of rivers. Use of waterways as a means of transportation would reduce the logistics cost thereby reducing the cost of essential commodities. He clarified that while working on the waterways Rights of State governments on their minerals, water etc. would not be infringed upon. He also clarified that the selection of waterways had been finalized after due consultation with the standing committee and the States. He also made it clear that every project would be proceeded with after due clearance from the Ministry of Environment and hence, ecology would not be disturbed for any project. He further gave account of various projects and their financial aspects in detail. He informed, on the lines of Air Traffic Control (ATC) system, for the first time for river traffic control River Information System (RIS) had been initiated at Farakka to Haldia route. As an economical and pollution free source of fuel, he said, the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) would be used for the purpose. He stated that the inland water-ways would bring a revolutionary change in transport and tourism sector, along with boosting irrigation, fisheries, industries and employment.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses etc., as amended, was adopted and the Bill was passed.

C. QUESTIONS

During the Session, 5963 notices of Questions (4132 Starred and 1831 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 210 Questions were admitted as Starred and 2234 Questions were admitted as Unstarred.

⁹ Extract from the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' of the Bill

¹⁰ Members who participated in the discussion were: Shri Shantaram Naik, Basawaraj Patil, Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, K.C. Tyagi, Ahamed Hassan, A. W. Rabi Bernard, Ambeth Rajan, Ritabrata Banerjee, Dilip Kumar Tirkey, Tiruchi Siva, Anil Desai, Shri Husain Dalwai, Prof. M. V. Rajeev Gowda and Dr. Chandan Mitra.

The total number of Starred Questions orally answered was 77. The total number of Questions received in Hindi was 928.

Daily average of Questions: All the lists of Starred Questions contained 15 Questions each. On an average 5.5 Questions were orally answered, for all the sittings having Question Hour. The maximum of Questions orally answered was 8 each on 15 and 16 March 2016 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was 2 each on 1 March 2016.

The list of Unstarred Questions contained 159 on 24 February 2016. All other lists of Unstarred Questions contained 160 each. However, 2 Questions each were cancelled from the lists of 8 and 9 March 2016 and 1 Question was withdrawn from the list of 14 March 2016,

Half-an-Hour Discussions: 2 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussions were received; however, none of them was discussed.

Short Notice Questions: 1 notice of Short Notice Question was received and it was disallowed.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Bandhu Mahto, Shri Mufti Mohd. Sayeed, Shri Kapil Verma, Prof. M. Sankaralingam, all former Members of Rajya Sabha, Shri Sushil Koirala, former Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri A.B. Bardhan, former General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, Shrimati Mrinalini Sarabhai, Doyenne of Indian Classical Dance, Dr. Balram Jakhar and Shri P.A. Sangma, former Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Seventeenth Session of the Thirteenth Assam Legislative Assembly commenced on 1 February 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 4 February 2016. There were 4 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: Being the First Session of the year, the Governor, Shri Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya addressed the members of the State Legislative Assembly on 1 February 2016. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his address was moved in the House and following discussion, the motion was passed on 4 February 2016.

Financial Business: During the Session, the List of Supplementary Appropriation for 2016-2017 was introduced, considered and passed by the House on 4 February 2016.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of 14 leading personalities.

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Third Session of the Sixth Delhi Legislative Assembly commenced on 22 March 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 31 March 2016. There were 5 sittings in all.

Address by the Lieutenant Governor: Being the First Session of the year, the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Najeeb Jung addressed the members of the House on 22 March 2016. The Minister of Transport, Shri Gopal Rai, moved the Motion of Thanks. Ten members participated in the debate. The Chief Minister, Shri Arvind Kejriwal replied to the debate. The Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Lieutenant Governor was adopted by the House on 29 March 2016.

Financial Business: The Deputy Chief Minister who also holds the Finance portfolio, Shri Manish Sisodia presented the Annual Budget for the year 2015-2016 on 28 March 2016. The discussion on the Budget was held on 30 March 2016 in which 17 members participated. The Chief Minister also expressed his views on the budget. Following the debate, the Annual Budget was passed by the House.

* Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Legislative Business: During the Session, the House passed the Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2016 and the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Mehtab Chand Jain, former member of the Delhi Metropolitan Council (1972-77 and 1983-1990); Shri Krishan Tyagi, former member of the Legislative Assembly of the NCT of Delhi (2008-2013); Soldiers who lost their lives in avalanche in Siachen, Jammu and Kashmir and persons who lost their lives in terror attack in Lahore, Pakistan on 27 March 2016.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Session of the Sixth Goa Legislative Assembly commenced on 11 January 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 15 January 2016. The Governor, Smt. Mridula Sinha prorogued the House on 28 January 2016. There were 5 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor, Smt. Mridula Sinha addressed the members of the State Legislative Assembly on 11 January 2016.

The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for her Address was moved by Dr. Pramod Sawant and seconded by Shri Nilesh Cabral. The Motion of Thanks was discussed from 12 to 14 January 2016. The Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Governor was adopted after discussion and voting in the House on 14 January 2016.

Election of Speaker: On 12 January 2016, Shri Anant Vishnu Shet was elected as the Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly.

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 14 January 2016, Shri Vishnu Surya Naik Wagh was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following seven Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House. (i) The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2016; (ii) The Goa University (Amendment) Bill, 2016; (iii) The Goa Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2016; (iv) The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dated 15 April 1961 (Amendment) Bill, 2016; (v) The Goa Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2016; (vi) The City of Panaji Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2016; and (vii) The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

* Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Financial Business: On 12 January 2016, the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2015-2016 (Second Batch) were presented, discussed, voted and passed and the corresponding—The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2016 (Relating to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2015-2016 (Second Batch) was introduced, considered and passed.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Dr. Wilfred De Souza, former Chief Minister of Goa; Shri Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir; Lt. Gen (Retd.) J.F.R. Jacob, former Governor of Goa and Punjab; Shri A. B. Bardhan, former member of Parliament and Secretary of the CPI; Shri Sharad Joshi, an eminent farmers' leader and former member of Rajya Sabha; Shri Anil Salgaonkar, former member of the Fifth Legislative Assembly; Shri Mangesh Priyolkar, a veteran freedom fighter; Shri Ramkrishna Dharma Sawant, a veteran freedom fighter; Shri Laxman Dattaram Shet Govenkar, a veteran freedom fighter; Prof. Vithal Acharya, a veteran freedom fighter; Smt. Lakshmi Bai Sardesai mother of Vijai Sardesai, member of the Sixth Legislative Assembly; Shri Vishwasrao Dhempe, a renowned Goan businessman; Shri Jagmohan Dalmiya, former President of Board of Control for Cricket in India; Smt. Tilottama Arlekar, mother of Shri Rajendra Arlekar, Minister for Forest and Environment; Shri Gajanan Pendharkar, former President of Vicco Laboratories Company and businessman; Shri Ravindra Jain, a noted musician and singer; Shri Saeed Jaffrey, a veteran actor of the Indian cinema; Ms. Sadhana Shivdasani, a veteran actress; Shri Herbert Kanoen *alias* San, a international football player; Shri Mangesh Padgaonkar, a Marathi Poet; Prof. Bal Apte, a renowned English Professor; and the soldiers who lost their lives in the terrorist attack at Pathankot Air base on 2 January 2016.

II

The Twelfth Session of the Sixth Goa Legislative Assembly commenced on 14 March 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 18 March 2016. There were 5 sittings in all.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following five Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House. (i) The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2016 (Relating to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2015-2016 (Third Batch); (ii) The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016; (iii) The Goa Court-Fees (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2016; (iv) The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dated 15 April 1961 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Bill No.16 of 2016); and (v) The Goa Tax on Infrastructure (Third Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Financial Business: On 15 March 2016, the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2015-2016 (Third Batch) were presented, discussed, voted and passed and the corresponding—The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2016 (Relating to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2015-2016 (Third Batch) was introduced, considered and passed.

On 16 March 2016, Chief Minister, Shri Laxmikant Parsekar presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2016-2017.

On 17 March 2016, the 'Vote on Account' for the Financial Year 2016-2017 was presented, discussed, voted and passed and the connected—The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016 was introduced, considered and passed by the House.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.A. Sangma and Dr. Balram Jakhar, both former Speakers of the Lok Sabha; General (Retd.) K.V. Krishna Rao, former Governor of Nagaland; Smt. Asha Patil, veteran Marathi actress; Dr. Arun Tikekar, an eminent litterateur; Smt. Mrinalini Sarabhai, veteran danseuse; Ms. Aruna Bhat, veteran theatre artist; Dr. D. B. Kulkarni, noted litterateur; Shri Krishnanath Fadte, renowned *Bhajani kalakar*; Shri Nida Fazli, noted poet; Shri Vasant Karapurkar, veteran freedom fighter; Shri Vilasrao Saradesai, former President of Goa Footballer Association; Ustad Shri Abdul Rashid Khan, an eminent vocalist; Smt. Ophelia Cabral e D'Souza, an eminent tiatr artist; and Shri Ashok Borkar, a renowned poet.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Session of the Twelfth Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly commenced on 25 February 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 7 April 2016. The Governor prorogued the House on the same day. There were 25 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the First Session of the year, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Acharya Devvrat addressed the House on 25 February 2016. The Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Governor was adopted.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following two Bills were introduced, considered and passed. (i) The Himachal Pradesh

* Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2016; and (ii) The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2016.

Financial Business: During the Session, the Supplementary Budget (First and Final Batch) for the year 2015-16 and the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2016-17 were presented, considered and passed by the House.

The Chief Minister, Shri Virbhadra Singh who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2016-17 on 8 March 2016. The General Discussion on Budget was held for five days in which 45 members participated. The Chief Minister replied to the debate on 18 March 2016.

The Discussion and Voting on the Demands was held for four days and the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2016-17 was passed on 31 March 2016.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Desh Raj, former member of the State Legislative Assembly.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Thirteenth Session of the Tenth Manipur Legislative Assembly commenced on 19 February 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 4 March 2016. There were 11 sittings in all.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following four Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House. (i) The Manipur Municipalities (Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2016; (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016; (iii) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2016; and (iv) The Manipur (Right of Citizens to Time-Bound Delivery of Public Services) Bill, 2016.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Balram Jakhar, former Speaker of the Lok Sabha; Gen. (Retd.) K.V. Krishna Rao, former Governor of Manipur; Shri Laishangbam Ibomcha Singh, former member of the Manipur Territorial Assembly; Sarvashri Loitongbam Sarat Singh and Atomba Ngairangbamcha, both former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Session of the Twelfth Nagaland Legislative Assembly commenced on 15 March 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 19 March 2016. The Governor prorogued the House on 21 March 2016. There were 4 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor, Shri Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya addressed the members of the State Legislative Assembly on 15 March 2016.

The Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address was moved by Shri Vikho-o-Yhoshu, Shri Namri Nchang seconded the motion. Ten members participated in the discussion. The Chief Minister and Leader of the House, Shri T.R. Zeliang made the concluding remarks on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address and the Motion was adopted by voice vote.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following four Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House. (i) The Nagaland Prohibition of Gambling and Promotion and Regulation of Online Games of Skill Bill, 2016; (ii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2016; (iii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2016; and (iv) The Nagaland Backward Tribes Commission Bill, 2016.

Financial Business: During the Session the Chief Minister who also holds Finance portfolio presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2015-2016 and the Demands for Grants for the year 2016-2017 were put to vote and passed by the House. The Chief Minister presented the Budget for the year 2016-2017. The discussion on the Budget was initiated by Shri Pohwang in which four members participated. The Chief Minister replied to the debate.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Purno Agitok Sangma, sitting Lok Sabha member from Meghalaya and former Speaker of the Lok Sabha; General (Retd.) K.V. Krishna Rao, former Governor of Nagaland; Sarvashri L. Nokzenketba, Lalkholam Kuki and T. Sakusangba Aier, all former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Nineteenth Session of the Fifteenth West Bengal Legislative

* Material contributed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Assembly commenced on 25 February 2016 and was adjourned *sine die* on 27 February 2016. The Governor prorogued the House on the same day. There were 3 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: Being the First Session of the year, the Governor, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi addressed the members of the State Legislative Assembly on 25 February 2016.

The Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address was moved by Dr. Partha Chatterjee. A discussion on the Motion was held on 26 February 2016. The Chief Minister replied to the debate and the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address was adopted by the House on the same day.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following six Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House. (i) The West Bengal Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016; (ii) The West Bengal Appropriation Bill, 2016; (iii) The West Bengal Valuation Board (Amendment Bill), 2016; (iv) The West Bengal Correctional Services (Amendment) Bill, 2016; (v) Dunlop India Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 2016; and (vi) Jessop and Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 2016.

Financial Business: The Minister for Finance, Dr. Amit Mitra presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 2016-2017 to the House on 26 February 2016. The Supplementary Estimates for the year 2015-2016 were also presented before the House on the same day.

The Motion for Vote on Account was moved by the Finance Minister on 27 February 2016 and was adopted by the House. Discussion and voting on the Demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2015-2016 took place on the same day and all the Demands were voted with Cut Motions (Token Cuts moved By Shri Asit Mitra) on Demand Nos. 8, 9, 13, 27 and 49 being lost.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, former Speaker of the Lok Sabha; Shri Subrata Bose and Shri Renu Pada Das, both former members of the Lok Sabha; Shri Hiralal Singha, Shri Ali Ansar, Shri Gourchandra Kundu, Shri Habibur Rahaman, Shri Ram Sankar Kar, all former members of the State Legislative Assembly; Shri Subir Sen, eminent singer; and Shri Suprabhat Chakraborty, former Olympian Cyclist.

RECENT LITERATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

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APPENDIX I**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED
DURING THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA**

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23.2.2016 to 16.3.2016
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	16
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	105 Hours and 26 minutes
4.	TIME LOST DUE TO INTERRUPTIONS/ FORCED ADJOURNMENTS	4 Hours and 45 minutes
5.	HOUSE SITTING LATE TO COMPLETE LISTED BUSINESS	35 Hours and 37 minutes
6.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	11
	(ii) Introduced	12
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	2
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ Recommendation and laid on the Table	5
	(v) Discussed	10
	(vi) Passed	10
	(vii) Withdrawn	1
	(viii) Negatived	Nil
	(ix) Part-discussed	Nil
	(x) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	5
	(xi) Pending at the end of the Session	14
7.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	410
	(ii) Introduced	51
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Passed	Nil
	(v) Withdrawn	1
	(vi) Negatived	Nil
	(vii) Part-discussed	1
	(viii) Pending at the end of the Session	460
8.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notice received	Nil

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(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Discussed	Nil
9. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	281
10. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	354
11. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193	
(i) Notice received	148
(ii) Admitted	3
(iii) Discussion held	3
(iv) Part-discussed	Nil
12. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197	1
13. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	19
14. ADJOURNMENT MOTION	
(i) Notice received	108
(ii) Brought before the House	Nil
(iii) Admitted	Nil
15. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED BY WAY OF CALLING ATTENTION	1
16. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notice received	4
(ii) Admitted	4
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Part-discussed	Nil
17. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notice received	3
(ii) Admitted	3
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Part-discussed	1*
18. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	Nil

* Remained Part-discussed resolution at the end of Sixth Session.

(ii) Admitted		Nil	
(iii) Moved & Discussed		Nil	
(iv) Adopted		Nil	
(v) Negatived		Nil	
(vi) Withdrawn		Nil	
(vii) Part-discussed		Nil	
19. PRIVILEGES MOTIONS			
(i) Notice received		7	
(ii) Brought before the House		3	
(iii) Consent withheld by Speaker		3	
(iv) Observation made by Speaker	The matter is under my consideration		
20. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED, IF ANY, DURING THE SESSION			
—			
21. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITOR PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION			
		17,256	
22. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE PARLIAMENT MUSEUM DURING THE SESSION			
		9,861	
23. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED			
(i) Starred		280	
(ii) Un-starred		3,220	
(iii) Short Notice Questions		Nil	
(iv) Half-an-Hour discussions		Nil	
24. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES			
Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	4
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	1	1
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	2	—
iv)	Committee on Estimates	6+1*	3
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—

* Sitting of sub-Committee

1	2	3	4
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	4	4
vii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	–	–
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	1
ix)	Committee on Petitions	3	1
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	3	3
xi)	Committee of Privileges	3	2
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	4+11*	–
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	5	3
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	5	1
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	2	–
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	–	–
xvii)	House Committee		
	(a) Accommodation Sub-Committee		
	(b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	1	–
xviii)	Library Committee	–	–
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	2	–
xx)	Rules Committee	–	–
JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE			
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	7	1
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	2	–
DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES			
i)	Committee on Agriculture	8	–
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	8	3
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	4	–
iv)	Committee on Defence	2	4
v)	Committee on Energy	8	1
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	4	–
vii)	Committee on Finance	6	1
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	6	2

* Sitting of sub-Committee

1	2	3	4
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	1+2*	–
x)	Committee on Labour	8	2
xi)	Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas	4	2
xii)	Committee on Railways	3	–
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	6	–
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment	7	1
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	4	–
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	3	–

* Sitting of sub-Committee

APPENDIX II

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED
DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY EIGHTH
SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA**

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23.2.2016 to 16.3.2016
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	16 days
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	86 Hours and 35 minutes
4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	6
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	54
(ii) Introduced	1
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	9
(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with Amendments, if any	NIL
(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	1
(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	NIL
(vii) Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	NIL
(viii) Reported by Select Committee	NIL
(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	NIL
(x) Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	1 ¹
(xi) Discussed	12
(xii) Passed	7
(xiii) Withdrawn	1
(xiv) Negatived	NIL
(xv) Part-discussed	NIL
(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	5 ²

¹ The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill 2015 was introduced in Lok Sabha and referred to Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, which is under the administrative control of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

² Out of five, one Bill, namely, the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016, a Money Bill, was returned with amendments by the Rajya Sabha to the Lok Sabha.

(xvii) Discussion postponed	NIL
(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	51
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	127
(ii) Introduced	16
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	NIL
(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	NIL
(v) Reported by Joint Committee	NIL
(vi) Discussed	3
(vii) Withdrawn	2
(viii) Passed	NIL
(ix) Negatived	1
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion	NIL
(xi) Part-discussed	1
(xii) Discussion postponed	NIL
(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	NIL
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	NIL
(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	NIL
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	138
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	32
(ii) Admitted	2
(iii) Discussions held	2
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENT MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
Statement made by Ministers	2
9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	NIL
10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
(v) Negatived	NIL
(vi) Withdrawn	NIL

11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	3
(ii) Admitted	NIL
(iii) Moved	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION	
(i) Received	9
(ii) Admitted	9
(iii) Discussed	NIL
(iv) Withdrawn	NIL
(v) Negatived	NIL
(vi) Adopted	NIL
(vii) Part-discussed	1
(viii) Discussion Postponed	NIL
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	NIL
(ii) Admitted	NIL
(iii) Moved & discussed	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
(v) Part-discussed	NIL
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	27
(ii) Admitted	15
(iii) Moved	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
(v) Part-discussed	NIL
(vi) Negatived	NIL
(vii) Withdrawn	NIL
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved	NIL
(iv) Adopted	NIL
(v) Negatived	NIL
(vi) Withdrawn	NIL
(vii) Part-discussed	NIL
(viii) Lapsed	NIL

16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY.	1. 'Rajya Sabha Forum on Panchayati Raj' was constituted on 16.2.2016. 2. 'Select Committee on the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill 2016' constituted on 15.3.2016.
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	1,900
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	2,955
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	239 passes issued on 15.3.2016
20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	419 visitors visited on 10.3.2016
21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	210
(ii) Unstarred	2,234
(iii) Short-Notice Questions	NIL
22. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES	NIL
23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES	

S. No.	Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period from 1 st January to 31 st March, 2016	No. of Reports presented during the 238 th Session
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	NIL
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2	NIL
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	4	NIL
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	1	1
(v)	Committee on Rules	NIL	NIL
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	1	NIL
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	1	NIL
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	NIL	NIL
(ix)	House Committee	1	NIL
Department-related Standing Committees:			
(x)	Commerce	6	NIL
(xi)	Home Affairs	5	NIL
(xii)	Human Resource Development	6	2
(xiii)	Industry	4	NIL
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	7	7
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	5	NIL
(xvi)	Health and Family Welfare	5	1

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(xvii) Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	10	4
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Other Committees

(xviii) Committee on Ethics	1	NIL
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(xix) Committee on Provision of Computer Equipment to Members of Rajya Sabha	NIL	NIL
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(xx) Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	1	NIL
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24. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4	
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25. PETITIONS PRESENTED	1	
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26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES

	S. Name of Members sworn No.	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn
1	2	3	4

— NIL —

APPENDIX III
STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2016

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills [Introduced (Passed)]	Private Bills [Introduced (Passed)]	Starred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Unstarred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Short Notice Questions [Received (admitted)]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.	1.2.2016 to 4.2.2016	4	4(4)	Nil	64(59)	65(129)	39(38)
Bihar L.A.	25.2.2016 to 4.4.2016	21	7(7)	Nil	4,057(2,815)	(698)	284(7)
Bihar L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh L.A.	1.3.2016 to 31.3.2016	20	17(17)	Nil	1,563(1,023)	1,237(982)	Nil
Goa L.A.	11.1.2016 to 15.1.2016 & 14.3.2016 to 18.3.2016	5+5	12(12)	Nil	529(504)	1,094(1,036)	Nil
Gujarat L.A.	22.2.2016 to 31.3.2016	28	14(14)	16	6,276(4,594)	31(31)	4(1)
Haryana L.A.	14.3.2016 to 31.3.2016	12	17(7)	Nil	605(430)	186(113)	Nil
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	25.2.2016 to 7.4.2016	25	12(2+11)	Nil	1,024(701)	386(241)	Nil
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand L.A.	15.2.2016 to 18.3.2016	23	12(13)	Nil	764(1,421)	6(143)	1,210(220)
Karnataka L.A.	29.2.2016 to 5.3.2016 & 18.3.2016 to 31.3.2016	6+9	18(18)	Nil	180(180)	2,386(2,386)	Nil

Karnataka L.C.	29.2.2016 to 5.3.2016 & 18.3.2016 to 30.3.2016	6+8	15(15)	Nil	473 (60)& 818(105)	85(498)& 227(940)	1
Kerala L.A.	5.2.2016 to 24.2.2016	11	4(5)	Nil	3,804(3,184)	2,596(3,216)	1(1)
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	23.2.2016 to 1.4.2016	22	12(12)	-	4,103(3,720)	3,820(3,363)	Nil
Maharashtra L.A.	9.3.2016 to 13.3.2016	23	20(20+1)	2	13,730(1,327)	14(5)	17(2)
Maharashtra L.C.	9.3.2016 to 13.3.2016	23	1(17+1)	2	4,677(1,944)	21(18)	2
Manipur L.A.	19.2.2016 to 4.3.2016	11	5(4)	Nil	84(80)	24(22)	Nil
Meghalaya L.A.	4.3.2016 to 23.3.2016	12	6(5)	-	296(264)	15(14)	Nil
Mizoram L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland L.A.	15.3.2016 to 19.3.2016	4	3(4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odisha L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab L.A.	8.3.2016 to 22.3.2016	10	27(25)	Nil	357(309)	26(40)	-
Rajasthan L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikkim L.A.	17.3.2016 to 28.3.2016	8	5(5)	Nil	15(15)	15(15)	Nil
Tamil Nadu L.A.	20.1.2016 to 23.1.2016 & 16.2.2016 to 20.2.2016	3+5	8(8)	Nil	(14)	(538)	Nil
Telangana L.A.	10.3.2016 to 31.3.2016	17	9(12)	Nil	397(197)	2(52)	36(31)
Telangana L.C.	12.3.2016 to 31.3.2016	15	(12)	Nil	404(223)	(81)	8(7)
Tripura L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttarakhand L.A.	9.3.2016 to 18.3.2016	8	14(14)	-	(264)	(556)	(12)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	29.1.2016 to 31.3.2016	15	13(13)	-	439(76)	776(1,007)	551(14)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	29.1.2016	11	(13)	Nil	56(49)	28(27)	167(139)
West Bengal L.A.	25.2.2016 to 27.2.2016	3	-	-	-	-	-
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.	22.3.2016 to 31.3.2016	5	2(2)	Nil	60	185	-
Puducherry L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from the State/Union Territory Legislature

* Information received from the State/Union Territory Legislature contained NIL report

State/ Union Territory	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Rajasthan L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikkim L.A.	-	Nil	-	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	3(6)	Nil	-	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.	2	1(29)	Nil	-	2(1)	1(34)	1(2)	-	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	1(27)	Nil	Nil	1(1) ^(e)
Telangana L.A.	2(2)	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Telangana L.C.	2(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttarakhand L.A.	6(6)	3(3)	1(1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	8(8)	9(4)	2(1)	-	Nil	2(11)	1(1)	Nil	2(2)	-	Nil	Nil	2(4)	Nil	-	19(12) ^(e)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	6	1	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23 ^(e)
West Bengal L.A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.	1	1	2	Nil	4(1)	2	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	-	7(1) ^(e)
Puducherry L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from the State/Union Territory Legislature.

- (a) Agricultural Industries Development Committee-7, Bihar Heritage Development Committee-7, Internal Resources Committee-6, Ethics Committee-6, Question and Calling Attention Committee-6, Tourism Development Committee-6, Nivedan Committee-6, Women and Child Welfare Committee-6, Zero Hour Committee-6, Zila Parishad & Panchayati Raj Committee-6 and Minority Welfare Committee-6
- (b) Committee relating to the Exam. of the Papers Laid on the Table-1(1) and Women & Children Welfare Committee-1
- (c) Absence of Members Committee-1(1)
- (d) Committee on Local Bodies & Panchayat Raj-11(2), Committee on Public Health, Irrigation & Power-13(1)
- (e) Welfare Committee-7, E-Governance Cum General Purposes Committee-3, Public Administration Committee-4(2), Human Development Committee-3(4), General Development Committee-4(2) and Rural Planning Committee-6(4)
- (f) Committee on Development of Youth Culture, Sports and Library-6, Nivedan Committee-6(1), Committee on MLA Fund Monitoring-4, Zero Hour Committee-5, Zila Parishad and Panchayati Raj Committee-5, Committee on Question and Call Attention-5(1), Committee on Welfare of Minority Backward Classes and Weaker Section-6, Committee on internal resources revenue and central Aid-6, Ethics Committee-6(1), Committee on Environment and Pollution Control-6 and Committee on Welfare of Women and Children Development-5

- (g) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-7, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-3, Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities-6(1), Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayat Raj-7(2), House Committee Regarding Irregularities in Power Purchase-1, House Committee Regarding Tank Encroachment-5, House Committee Regarding working Style of Clubs in the State-7
- (h) Committee on Welfare of Senior Citizens-3(1), Committee on Environment-4(11), Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-5(3), Committee on the Welfare of Backward Class Communities-5(2), Committee on the Welfare of Women, Children & Physically Handicapped-5(3), Committee on the Welfare of Fishermen and Allied Workers-2, Committee on the Welfare of Youth and Youth Affairs-4(5), Committee on Official Language-3, Committee on Local Fund Accounts-7(14), Committee on the Welfare of Non-Resident Keralites-2(1) and Subject Committees-16(6)
- (i) Committee on welfare Women/Children-3, Agriculture Development Committee-1, Ethics Committee-1, Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Accounts Committee-1
- (j) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis & Nonandic Tribes (VJNT)- 10, Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-11, Committee on leave of absence of Members from sitting of the House-1(1) Panchayati Raj- 17, Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women-2, Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes-12, Committee on Minority Welfare-3(1), Paper laid on Table Committee-1 and Committee on Inspection on Private Charity Hospitals-4
- (k) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis & Nomadic Tribes (VJNT)-10, Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-11, Committee on Leave of Absence of Members from sittings of the House-1(1), Panchayati Raj-17, Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women-2, Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes-12, Committee on Minority Welfare-3(1) and Committee on Inspection on Private Charity Hospitals-4
- (l) Hill Areas Committee (Sub-Committee)-2 and Committee on Welfare of Women-1
- (m) Committee on Papers Laid/To be laid on the Table of the House-6 and Committee on Questions- 7(1)
- (n) Committee on Papers laid on the Table-1(1)
- (o) Committee Relating to Examination of Audit Reports of the Local Bodies of the State-12(10), Joint Committee Relating to Women & Child Welfare-5(2), Inquiry Committee on Sting Operation-(1) and Panchayati Raj Committee-2.
- (p) Committee on Reference & Question-1, Committee on Financial & Administrative Delays-2, Committee on Parliamentary Study-3, Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of U.P. Legislature-1, Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Jila Panchayats & Municipal Corporation-1, Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-7, Committee on Regulation Review-6, Daivee Aapda Prabandhan Janch Samiti-1 and Committee on Commercialization of Education-1
- (q) Committee on Women and Child Welfare-1, Question and Reference Committee-1, Committee on Environment-1, Committee Ethics-4(1)

APPENDIX IV**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE
PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD****(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2016)**

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1.	The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016	3.3.2016
2.	The Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2016	21.3.2016
3.	The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2016	21.3.2016
4.	The High Court and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2016	21.3.2016
5.	The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2016	21.3.2016
6.	The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2016	21.3.2016
7.	The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2016	25.3.2016
8.	The National Waterways Bill, 2016	25.3.2016
9.	The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016	25.3.2016
10.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016	25.3.2016
11.	The Appropriation Bill, 2016	25.3.2016

APPENDIX V**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES
OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES
DURING THE PERIOD****(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2016)**

ASSAM

1. Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2016
2. Assam Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016
3. The Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund and Pension Fund and Deposit Linked Insurance Fund Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2016
4. The Assam Repealing Bill, 2016

BIHAR

1. Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2016
2. Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2016
3. Bihar Utpaad (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
4. Bihar Mulyavardhit Kar Vidheyak, 2016
5. Bihar Panchayat Raj (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
6. Bihar Police Avar Seva Aayog Vidheyak, 2016
7. Bihar Karadhan Vivaad Samadhan Vidheyak, 2016

CHHATTISGARH

1. Chhattisgarh Krishi Upaj Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
2. Chhattisgarh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2016
3. Chhattisgarh Ayush Evam Swasthya Vigyam Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
4. Chhattisgarh Ayurvedigyan Parishad (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
5. Chhattisgarh Panchayat Raj (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
6. Chhattisgarh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2016
7. Chhattisgarh Motoryan Karadhan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
8. Chhattisgarh Rajkoshiya Uttardayitva Aur Budget Prabandh (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
9. Chhattisgarh Mulya Samvardhit Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
10. Chhattisgarh Nagar Palika (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
11. Chhattisgarh Nagar Palika Nigam (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
12. Chhattisgarh Anadhikrit Vikas ka Niymitikan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
13. Chhattisgarh Bhu-Rajasva Sanhita (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016

14. Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Sadasya Vetan-Bhatta tatha Pension (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
15. Chhattisgarh Adhyaksh tatha Upadhyaksh (Vetan tatha Bhatta) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
16. Chhattisgarh Vidhan Mandal Neta Pratipakchha (Vetan tatha Bhatta) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
17. Chhattisgarh Mantri (Vetan tatha Bhatta) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016

DELHI

1. The Delhi Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2016
2. The Delhi Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016

GOA

1. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2016
2. The Goa University (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
3. The Goa Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2016
4. The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dated 15.4.1961 (Amendment) Bill, 2016
5. The Goa Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2016
6. The City of Panaji Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2016
7. The Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2016
8. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2016
9. The Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016
10. The Goa Court-Fees (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2016*
11. The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dated 15.4.1961(Amendment) Bill, 2016*
12. The Goa Tax on Infrastructure (Third Amendment) Bill, 2016*

GUJARAT

1. The Gujarat Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2016
2. The Gujarat Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2016
3. The Gujarat Electricity Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2016
4. The Registration (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2016
5. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2016
6. The Gujarat Special Investment Region (Amendment) Bill, 2016
7. The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2016
8. The Gujarat Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2016
9. The Ganpat University (Amendment) Bill, 2016
10. The Gujarat Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016
11. The Gujarat Tax on Entry of Specified Goods Into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2016
12. The Gujarat State Higher Education Council Bill, 2016

* Bills awaiting assent.

13. The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2016
14. The Gujarat Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 2016

HARYANA

1. The Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
2. The Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
3. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Haryana Amendment Bill, 2016*
4. The Industrial Disputes (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2016*
5. The Factories (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2016*
6. The Payment of Wages (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2016*
7. The Haryana Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2016
8. The Haryana Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016
9. The East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Haryana Amendment Bill, 2016*
10. The Haryana Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
11. The Haryana Fire Service (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
12. The Haryana Appropriation (Repeal) Bill, 2016*
13. The Haryana Enterprises Promotion Bill, 2016*
14. The Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Service and Admission in Educational Institutions) Bill, 2016*
15. The Haryana Backward Classes Commission Bill, 2016*
16. The Haryana Management of Civic Amenities and Infrastructure Deficient Municipal Areas (Special Provisions) Bill, 2016*
17. The Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. The Himachal Pradesh Subordinate Courts' Employee (Pay, Allowances and Other Conditions of Service) Second Amendment Bill, 2015
2. The Himachal Pradesh Aerial Ropeways (Amendment) Bill, 2015
3. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2016
4. The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016
5. The Himachal Pradesh Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Area (Amendment) Bill, 2016
6. The Himachal Pradesh Protection of Interests of Depositor (In Financial Establishments) Amendment Bill, 2016
7. The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2016
8. The Shimla Road Users and Pedestrians (Public Safety and Convenience) Amendment Bill, 2016 (Withdrawn by the Government)
9. The Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016
10. The Shimla Road Users and Pedestrians (Public Safety and Convenience) Amendment Bill, 2016

* Bills awaiting assent.

11. The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Himachal Pradesh) Amendment Bill, 2016
12. The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2016
13. The Himachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances, Powers, Privileges and Amenities) Amendment Bill, 2016
14. The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Amendment Bill, 2016

JHARKHAND

1. Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankya-01) Vidheyak, 2016
2. Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankya-02) Vidheyak, 2016
3. Majduri Bhugtan (Jharkhand Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
4. Jharkhand Lok Bhumi Atikraman (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
5. Jharkhand Prachin Ismarak aur Puratatva Isthal Avshesh tatha Kalanidhi Vidheyak, 2016
6. Jharkhand Grahakshak (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
7. Audhyogik Vivad (Jharkhand Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
8. Jharkhand Vishesh Nyayalaya Vidheyak, 2016
9. Jharkhand Rajya Vishwavidhyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
10. Amity Vishwavidhyalaya Vidheyak, 2016
11. Pragyana International Vishwavidhyalaya Vidheyak, 2016
12. Jharkhand Rajya Uchch Shiksha Parishad Vidheyak, 2016
13. I Sect Vishwavidhyalaya Vidheyak, 2016

KARNATAKA

1. The Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016
2. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2016
3. The Karnataka Sangolli Rayanna Kshetra Development) Bill, 2016
4. The Karnataka State Minorities Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2016
5. The Karnataka Public Service Commission (Conduct of Business and Additional Functions) (Amendment) Bill, 2016
6. The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2016
7. The Karnataka Pawn Brokers (Amendment) Bill, 2016
8. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016
9. The Karnataka State Rule Development and Panchayat Raj University Bill, 2016
10. The Karnataka State Law University (Amendment) Bill, 2016
11. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016
12. The Karnataka Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016
13. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2016
14. The Karnataka Stamp (Third Amendment) Bill, 2016
15. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2016

16. The Karnataka Stamp (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015
17. The Karnataka Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2016
18. Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2016

KERALA

1. The Kerala Town and Country Planning Bill, 2015
2. The Kerala Anganawadi Workers' and Anganawadi Helpers' Welfare Fund Bill, 2016
3. The Kerala Land Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016
4. The Kerala Appropriation Bill, 2016
5. The Kerala Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016

MADHYA PRADESH

1. Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2016
2. Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank-2) Vidheyak, 2016
3. Bhartiya Stamp (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
4. Madhya Pradesh Vrittikar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
5. Madhya Pradesh Vet (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
6. Madhya Pradesh Upkar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
7. Madhya Pradesh Nagarpalika Vidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
8. Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Sadasya Vetan, Bhatta tatha Pension (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
9. Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Adhyaksh tatha Upadhyaksh evam Neta Patipaksha Vetan tatha Bhatta Vidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
10. Madhya Pradesh Mantri (Vetan tatha Bhatta) Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2016
11. Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Adhiniyam (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2016
12. Madhya Pradesh Nirsan Vidheyak, 2016

MAHARASHTRA

1. The Maharashtra Prohibition of Obscene Dance in Hotels, Restaurants and Bar Rooms and Protection of Dignity of Women (working therein) Bill, 2016
2. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2016
3. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016
4. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2016
5. The Maharashtra Public Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2016
6. The Maharashtra Water Conservation Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2016
7. The Maharashtra Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2016
8. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016
9. The Maharashtra Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2016
10. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016
11. The Maharashtra Tenancy and Agricultural Lands, the Hyderabad Tenancy and

Agricultural Lands and the Maharashtra Tenancy and Agricultural Lands (Vidarbha Region) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016

12. The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2016
13. The Maharashtra Yoga and Naturopathy Bill, 2016
14. The Maharashtra Protection of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2016
15. The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2016
16. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016
17. The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2016
18. The Maharashtra Settlement of Arrears in Disputes Bill, 2016

MANIPUR

1. The Manipur Municipalities (Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2016*
2. The Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016*
3. The Manipur Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2016*
4. The Manipur (Right of Citizens to Time-Bound Delivery of Public Services) Bill, 2016*

MEGHALAYA

1. The Contingency Fund of Meghalaya (Amendment) Bill, 2016
2. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2016
3. The Meghalaya Apartment Ownership Bill, 2016
4. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 2016
5. The Meghalaya (Benami Transactions Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2016

NAGALAND

1. The Nagaland Prohibition of Gambling and Promotion and Regulation of Online Games of Skill Bill, 2015
2. The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2016
3. The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 2), 2016
4. The Nagaland Backward Tribes Commission Bill, 2016*

PUNJAB

1. The Maharaja Ranjit Singh State Technical University (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
2. The Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2016*
3. The Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2016*
4. The Punjab Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
5. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
6. The Indian Penal Code (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2016*
7. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2016*
8. The Punjab Plastic Carry Bags (Manufacture, Usage and Disposal) Control (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

* Bills awaiting assent.

9. The Punjab Appropriation Bill, 2016*
10. The Punjab Satluj Yamuna Link Canal Land (Transfer of Proprietary Rights) Bill, 2016*
11. The Punjab State Commission for Women (Amendment) Bill, 2016
12. The Punjab Infrastructure (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
13. The Punjab State Commission for Minorities (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
14. The Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016*
15. The Punjab Gau-Sewa Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
16. The Punjab Bovine Breeding Bill, 2016*
17. The Punjab Privately Managed Aided Colleges (Non-payment of Grant-in-Aid on Account of Terminal Benefits) Bill, 2016*
18. The Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
19. The Punjab Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
20. The Amritsar Walled City (Recognition of Usage) Bill, 2016*
21. The Punjab Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2016
22. The Punjab Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2016*
23. The Indian Stamp (Punjab Second Amendment) Bill, 2016*
24. The Punjab Package Deal Properties (Disposal) Amendment Bill, 2016*
25. The Punjab Settlement of Agricultural Indebtedness Bill, 2016*

TAMIL NADU

1. The Tamil Nadu Court-Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Bill, 2016
2. The Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Bill, 2016
3. The Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016
4. The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016
5. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2016
6. The Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2016
7. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 2016
8. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016

TELANGANA

1. The Telangana Value Added Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016*
2. The Telangana Value Added Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2016*
3. The Telangana Value Added Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2016*
4. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
5. The Telangana Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
6. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
7. The Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
8. The Telangana (Agricultural Produce & Livestock) Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
9. The Telangana Payment of Salaries and Pension and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
10. The Telangana Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2016

11. The Telangana Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2016
12. The Telangana State Commission for Debt Relief (Small Farmers, Agricultural Labourers and Rural Artisans) Bill, 2016*

UTTAR PRADESH

1. The Uttar Pradesh Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2016
2. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Second Supplementary 2015-16) Bill, 2016
3. The Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016
4. The Uttar Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2016
5. The Uttar Pradesh Public Service (Reservation for Physically Handicapped, Dependents for Freedom Fighters and Ex-Servicemen) (Amendment) Bill, 2016
6. The Uttar Pradesh Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Bill, 2016
7. The Uttar Pradesh Harcourt Butler Technical University Bill, 2016
8. The Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Services Selection Board (Amendment) Bill, 2016
9. The Uttar Pradesh Fighters of Democracy Honour Bill, 2016
10. The IIMT University Meerut, Uttar Pradesh Bill, 2016
11. The Uttar Pradesh Industrial Area Development (Amendment) Bill, 2016
12. The Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2016
13. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2016

UTTARAKHAND

1. The Uttarakhand Water Tax on Electricity Generation (Amendment) Bill, 2016
2. The Uttarakhand Water Management and Regulatory (Amendment) Bill, 2016
3. The Uttarakhand Madarsa Education Board Bill, 2016
4. The Uttarakhand Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016
5. The Uttarakhand Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2016
6. The Uttarakhand Transport and Civic Infrastructure Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2016
7. The Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2016
8. The Uttarakhand Ground Water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Bill, 2016
9. The Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj Bill, 2016
10. The Uttarakhand Residential University (Amendment) Bill, 2016*
11. The Uttarakhand State Commission for other Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 2016
12. The Uttarakhand State Commission for Women (Amendment) Bill, 2016
13. The Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform (Amendment) Bill, 2016
14. The Uttarakhand Appropriation Bill, 2016*

WEST BENGAL

1. The West Bengal Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2016
2. The West Bengal Appropriation Bill, 2016
3. The West Bengal Valuation Board (Amendment) Bill, 2016
4. The West Bengal Correctional Services (Amendment) Bill, 2016
5. The Dunlop India Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 2016
6. The Jessop and Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 2016

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE

1. Uttarakhand LA–All Party Committee related to expenses incurred during disaster relief work-1
2. Nagaland LA–Select Committee on the Nagaland Prohibition of Gambling and Promotion and Regulation of Online Games of Skill Bill, 2015 (2nd & 8th March)
3. Goa LA–Select Committee on the Goa School Education (Amendment) Bill, 2014-2, Select Committee on the Goa Succession, Special Notaries and Inventory Proceedings Bill, 2012-3(1)

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING
THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2016

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The Enemy Property Ordinance (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2016	7.1.2016	23.2.2016	-	-
2.	The Uttarakhnad Appropriation (Vote on Account) Ordinance, 2016	31.3.2016	Yet to be Laid	-	-
BIHAR					
1.	Bihar Mulyavardhit Kar Adhyadesh, 2016	28.1.2016	25.2.2016	1.4.2016	-
2.	Bihar Panchayat Raj (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2016	5.2.2016	25.2.2016	1.4.2016	-
CHHATTISGARH					
1.	Chhattisgarh Motoryan Karadhan (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2016	-	10.3.2016	-	-
2.	Chhattisgarh Mulya Samvardhit Kar (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2016	-	10.3.2016	-	-

2.	The Kerala Land Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	9.1.2016	9.2.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Kerala Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	9.1.2016	9.2.2016	17.3.2016	–
4.	The Kerala Town and Country Planning Ordinance, 2016	9.1.2016	5.2.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation
5.	The Kerala Anganawadi Workers' and Anganawadi Helpers' Welfare Fund Ordinance, 2016	9.1.2016	9.2.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation
PUNJAB					
1.	The Punjab Gau-sewa Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	21.8.2015	18.3.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation on 22.3.2016
2.	The Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	9.9.2015	22.3.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation on 22.3.2016
3.	The Punjab State Commission for Women (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	17.11.2015	10.3.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation on 22.3.2016
4.	The Punjab Infrastructure (Development and Regulation) (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2015	7.12.2015	16.3.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation on 22.3.2016
5.	The Punjab Development of Trade, Commerce and Industries (Validation) Ordinance, 2015	10.12.2015	22.3.2016	–	Withdrawn on 22.3.2016 in the House

6.	The Punjab Plastic Carry Bags (Manufacture, Usage and Disposal) Control Ordinance, 2016	1.2.2016	16.3.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation on 21.3.2016
7.	The Punjab Rural Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	18.2.2016	16.3.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation on 21.3.2016
8.	The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	24.2.2016	16.3.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation on 21.3.2016
MAHARASHTRA					
1.	The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing Ordinance, 2016	16.1.2016	9.3.2016	19.4.2016	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 2016	21.1.2016	9.3.2016	19.4.2016	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	5.2.2016	9.3.2016	19.4.2016	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Maharashtra Public Trusts (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	23.2.2016	9.3.2016	19.4.2016	Replaced by Legislation
5.	The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	2.3.2016	14.7.2016	14.7.2016	Replaced by Legislation
TELANGANA					
1.	The Greater Hyderabad Municipality Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	4.2.2016	12.3.2016	–	Replaced by Legislation
UTTARAKHAND					
1.	The Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016	–	–	–	–

APPENDIX VII
A. PARTY POSITION IN 16TH LOK SABHA (STATE-WISE), (AS ON 31.3.2016)

States	No. of Seats	BJP	INC	AIA DMK	AITC	BJD	SS	TDP	TRS	CPI (M)	YSR CP	LJSP	NCP	SP	AAP	RJD	SAD	AIU DF	JKP DP	RLSP	AD
Andhra Pradesh	25	2	1	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	14	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Bihar	40	22	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	-
Chhattisgarh	11	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goa	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	26	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haryana	10	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Jharkhand	14	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	28	17	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kerala	20	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	29	25*	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra	48	23	2	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manipur	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Odisha	21	1	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab	13	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Rajasthan	25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	39	1	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana	17	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	11	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttarakhand	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	80	71	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
West Bengal	42	2	4	-	34	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Daman & Diu	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NCT of Delhi	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puducherry	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	543	280*	45	37	34	20	18	16	11	9	9	6	6	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	2

* Excluding Speaker, LS

Two nominated members who have joined BJP with effect from 8.12.2015

s Includes one member (Shri Rajesh Ranjan Yadav) who has been expelled from the party with effect from 7.5.2015

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

States	INLD	IU ML	JD(S)	JD(U)	JMM	CPI	AIN RC	KC (M)	NPF	PMK	RSP	SDF	AIM EIM	SWP	IND	TOTAL CIES	VACAN-
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	-
Bihar	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-
Haryana	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Karnataka	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-
Kerala	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	20*	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	48	-
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
Odisha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	39	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-
Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
UNION TERRITORIES																	
A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
NCT of Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puducherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	541*	1

* Excluding Speaker, I.S

Two nominated members who have joined BJP with effect from 8.12.2015

One vacancy *vice* Shri P.A. Sangma who passed away on 4.3.2016.

Abbreviations used for Parties:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); Indian National Congress (INC); All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK); All India Trinamool Congress (AITC); Biju Janata Dal (BJD); Shiv Sena (SS); Telugu Desam Party (TDP); Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS); Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CP(M)]; Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP); Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJSP); Nationalist Congress Party (NCP); Samajwadi Party (SP); Aam Admi Party (AAP); Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD); Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD); All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF); Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP); Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP); Apna Dal (AD); Indian National Lok Dal (INLD); Indian Union Muslim League (IUML); Janata Dal (Secular) [JD(S)]; Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)]; Jharkhand Mukhti Morcha (JMM); Communist Party of India (CPI); All India N.R. Congress (AINRC); Kerala Congress (M) [KC(M)]; Naga Peoples Front (NPF); Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK); Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP); Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMEIM); Swabhimani Paksha (Sw.P) & Independents (IND)

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 9 March 2016)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI (M)	JD (U)	AIA-DMK	BSP	CPI	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
STATES														
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 ^(a)	-	11	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
3.	Assam	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(b)	-	7	-
4.	Bihar	16	-	4	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	16	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
6.	Goa	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
7.	Gujarat	11	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
8.	Haryana	5	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(c)	-	5	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ^(d)	-	4	-
11.	Jharkhand	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ^(e)	1	6	-
12.	Karnataka	12	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(f)	2	12	-
13.	Kerala	9	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	2 ^(g)	-	9	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
15.	Maharashtra	19	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 ^(h)	1	19	-
16.	Manipur	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
17.	Meghalaya	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
18.	Mizoram	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
19.	Nagaland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1
20.	Odisha	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 ⁽ⁱ⁾	2	10	-
21.	Punjab	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 ^(j)	-	7	-

Nagaland L.A.	60	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	47 ^(a)	8	60	-
Odisha L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab L.A.	117	42	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	60 ^(b)	3	117	-
Rajasthan L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikkim L.A.	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31 ^(c)	1	32	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.	235	5	-	10	8	-	-	-	-	200 ^(d)	-	223	12
Telangana L.A.	119	19	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	92 ^(e)	1	119	1
Telangana L.C.	40	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	31 ^(f)	-	40	-
Tripura L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uttarakhand L.A.	71	27	28	-	-	-	2	-	-	5 ^(g)	-	62	-
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	404	29	41	-	-	1	80	-	-	245 ^(h)	6	402	2
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNION TERRITORIES													
Delhi L.A.	70	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	67 ^(v)	-	70	-
Puducherry L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- a) All India United Democratic Front=18, Bodo Land Peoples Front-12, Asom Gana Parishad-7 and All India Trinamool Congress-1
b) Rashtriya Janta Dal-80, Lok Janshakti Party-2 and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party -2 and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular)-1
c) Nominated-1
d) Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-3, Goa Vikas Party-2
e) Speaker-1, Indian National Lok Dal-19, Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)-2 and Shiromani Akali Dal-1
f) Himachal Lokhit Party-1
g) J&K People's Democratic Party-11 and J&K National Conference-8
h) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-19, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha-2, All Jharkhand Students Union-4, Jharkhand Party-1, Jai Bharat Samanta Party-1, Marxist Co-ordination-1, Nav Jawan Sangharsh Morcha-1 and Speaker-1
i) Badavara Srarnikara Raitara Congress Party-3, Karnataka Janatha Paksha-2, Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha-1, Karnataka Makkala Paksha-1, Speaker-1 and Nominated-1
j) Chairman-1

- k) Indian Union Muslim League-20, Kerala Congress (M)-9, Revolutionary Socialist Party-2, Kerala Congress (Jacob)-1, Kerala Congress(B)-1 and Speaker-1
- l) Hon'ble Speaker-1 and Nominated-1
- m) Shivsena Party-122, Peasant's and Workers Party-3, Bahujan Vikas Aghadi-3, All India Majalis-A-Ittehadul Muslimin-2, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena-1, Samajwadi Party-1, Bharip Bahujan Mahasangh -1, Rashtriya Samaj Party-1 and Nominated (Vacant)-1
- n) Shivsena-7, Lokbharti-1, Peasants and Workers Party of India-1 and People Republican Party-1,
- o) All India Trinamool Congress-4, Manipur State Congress Party-5, Naga People Front-4, Lok Jan Shakti Party-1
- p) North East Social Democratic Party (NESDP)-1, United Democratic Party (UDP)-8, National People's Party (NPP)- 2 and Hill State People's Democratic Party-4
- q) Naga People Front-47
- r) Shiromani Akali Dal-60
- s) Sikkim Democratic Front-28 and Sikkim Krantikari Morcha-3
- t) All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-149, Desia Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam-20, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-23, Pattai Makkal Katchi-2, Manithaneya Makkal Katchi-2, Puthiya Thamizhagam-1, All India Forward Bloc-1, Nominated Member-1 and Hon'ble Speaker-1
- u) Telangana Rashtra Samithi-78, All India Majlis Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen-7, Telugu Desam Party-3, Y.S.R. Congress Party-3 and Nominated-1
- v) Telangana Rashtra Samithi-21, All India Majlis Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen-2, Progressive Recognised Teachers Union-2 and Nominated-1
- w) Uttarakhnd Kranti Dal (UKD)-1, Others-3 and Nominated-1
- x) Samajwadi Party-227, Rashtriya Lok Dal-8, Peace Party-4, Quami Ekta Dal-2, Apna Dal-1, Ittehad-e-Millat Council-1, All India Council Trinamool Congress-1 and Nominated-1
- y) Aam Aadmi Party-67

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