

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER*

Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN**

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shri G.C. Malhotra

*Elected on 9.6.2004

**Nominated on 29.05.2004 by President

The following order was issued by the President of India on 29.05.2004 :

"I hereby appoint S/Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Giridhar Gamang and Manabendra Shah to be the persons before any of whom members of the House of People may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation in accordance with the provisions of article 99 of the Constitution of India.

**A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM
PRESIDENT OF INDIA***

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, June 8, 2004/Jyaishta 18, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Secretary-General may please call out the names of those Members who have not yet taken the Oath or made the Affirmation.

Members Sworn

Shri Baliram Kashyap (Bastar)

Shri Shivraj Singh (Vidisha)

Shri Subodh Baburao Mohite (Ramtek)

Shri Vishvendra Singh (Bharatpur)

11.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949:—

- (1) The Central Reserve Police Force Group "A" (General Duty) Officers Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 170 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2004.
- (2) The Central Reserve Police Force (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 291 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4/04]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT-5/04]
- (3) (i) Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Textiles Committee, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT-6/04]
- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987:—
 - (i) S.O. 506 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2004 containing order specifying mandatory packaging of certain commodities in the jute packaging materials for supply or distribution as specified in the Notification.
 - (ii) S.O. 507 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2004 rescinding the

Order published in Notification No.930 (E) dated the 14th August, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-7/04*]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT : (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Rural Roads Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Rural Roads Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-8/04*]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Rural Roads Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Rural Roads Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

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

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-9/04*]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Public Enterprises Survey (Volumes-I to III) for the year 2002-2003 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-10/04*]

- (2) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited, Patna, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited, Patna, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-11/04*]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Braithwaite and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Braithwaite and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-12/04*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. REHMAN KHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 444 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2004 containing order indicating the supplies of urea to be made by domestic manufactures of urea to States and

Union Territories mentioned in the Notification during the Kharif season, 2004 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-13/04]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Fertilizers Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-14/04]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-15/04]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Fertilizers Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-16/04]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-17/04]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you. Please let me go by some order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling the names of those who have given notices. I have called Shri Yogi Aditya Nath. He has given a notice.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to say two things...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be heard...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will hear one by one. I cannot hear everybody at the same time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please co-operate with me. I have allowed Shri George Fernandes to speak. If all of you speak at the same time, I cannot hear anything.

(Interruptions)

11.08 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Shivraj Singh and some others hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Kurup. Now, only what Shri Suresh Kurup says will be recorded. Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, I wish to raise an important matter.

One fine morning, the *International Herald Tribune* started its publication from Hyderabad. ...(Interruptions) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is not aware of it. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the lack of diligence in Kargil war has resulted

* Not Recorded

in the death of the Jawans of Indian Army...*(Interruptions)*
There is a need to how probe into this matter.
...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the intelligence department has been letter failure in mustering the information on the entry and movement of the intenders in Kargil. ...*(Interruptions)*
Report should be made published and the discussion be allowed to be held in the House on this none.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Please be brief.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The report about Kargil war...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri George Fernandes to speak. However, you are not allowing him to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, you please address the Chair. Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I demand that House should be informed ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia to speak now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It has appeared in *The Hindustan Times* of 6th June, 2004 that the Cabinet Committee on Security took 12 days to recommend for an air-strike against Pakistani infiltrators. ...*(Interruptions)* As a result, more than 400 jawans had been killed. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a serious matter. I demand that the hon. Minister of Defence should make a statement and an enquiry should be ordered immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, associating myself with this subject, I demand that the factual position about Kargil be presented before the House and discussion be held on this matter in the House ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should gives clarification in George to the losses suffered on account of the delay in the use of airforce in Kargil war. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seats. Shri George Fernandes, if they do not allow you to speak, then what can I do?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I called Shri George Fernandes to speak. I called him to speak. I gave him a chance to speak. You are not allowing him to speak. I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, regarding the report in *The Hindustan Times* of 6.6.2004 under the heading 'Air-strike delay cost Lives: Kargil Report' I would like to say that the persons responsible at the highest level delayed the decision-making process which would have enabled our Air-Force to strike. This has resulted in Pakistan getting vital time to make its own military build up and also loss of many a precious Indian Army personnel.

I demand that those persons at the highest level should be brought to book through a high level enquiry committee, possibly through a Joint Parliamentary Committee and make out a mechanism so that this type of delay never takes place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you also associate with him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Shri Hannan Mollah.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : The report appeared that during the Kargil War mishandling by the previous Government caused death of a large number of Army personnel. It is a serious matter. So, I demand that the hon. Minister of Defence should make a statement and should order a full-fledged inquiry into the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh to speak now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad) : Mr. speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government...*(Interruptions)* The takeover of the Bharat Pump and Compressor Ltd. by some of the multinational companies has led to a serious situations ...*(Interruptions)* I moved like to seek he clarification of the Government in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan to speak now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : On 3rd June, 2004, a devastating fire broke out at IOC terminal at Rajbandh under Kanksa Assembly segment of my parliamentary constituency. It has been reported that due to lightning the fire broke out. I personally visited the site. The personnel of West Bengal fire services, employees of I.O.C. and the entire administration with their coordinating efforts brought down the fire. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan, please be brief.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Although the I.O.C. authorities are of the opinion that they had taken sufficient precautionary measures, but they have failed.

The Government of West Bengal has decided to constitute a special task force at all the IOC terminals to combat any future mishap. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I urge upon the Government of India to consider taking other precautionary measures as they deem fit to combat with any such future mishaps. This is my humble submission. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thavar Chand Gehlot to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, soon after the process of formation of Congress Government in the Centre has begun, the Central institutions and organisations have cut down the supply of electricity to Madhya Pradesh by 100 MW and that of coal by 50 thousand Metric tonnes from 21st of last month...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please speak on the subject for which you have given notice.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Due to this, entire Madhya Pradesh is facing a severe electricity crisis...*(Interruptions)* The people are suffering ...*(Interruptions)* Discriminating against the State Governments at the instance of Centre is a condemnable act. Condemning these acts of Government through the House, I demand that the Union Government should ensure the adequate supply of electricity and coal as per the demand, of the Madhya Pradesh Government ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Karan Singh Yadav to speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please say it, that will be recorded.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,, I would like to draw your attention towards the bumper crop of onion in Rajasthan this season...(Interruptions). I regret to inform the House that despite such bumper crop the farmers are not getting proper remunerative prices for their crop. Today the onion is being bought at the rate of Rs.100 per quintle i.e. Re. 1 per kg in the market. ...(Interruptions) Farmers keep their onion crop loaded on their trolleys, truckes and camel carts in hope of selling that but there are no takers for their produce. Finally the farmers have to sell their produce at throw away prices and they do not recover even the charges which they pay for hiring vehicles....(Interruptions)

I hail from district Alwar. Today the farmers of Western Rajasthan are looking towards the pro farmer Union Government in the hope of getting some help. The BJP Government in Rajasthan is paying no attention towards farmers and even the Central agencies like NAFED have failed to fulfill their obligation. ...(Interruptions) I am of the opinion that these organisations are still having the officers who have ideologically affinity with previous BJP Government and they are not paying any attention to the problems of the farmers. Even today the BJP Members are interrupting me when I am expressing my views about farmers in the House...(Interruptions). These people are responsible for vitiating the atmosphere of the country by creating communal discord in Gujarat and elsewhere in the country and also for the death of hundreds of jawans in Kargil War and also for being involved in several major scams in the country. Today they are stopping a new MP like me from expressing my views in favour of the farmers...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you and the House I request the Minister of Agriculture that by conducting a probe into the matter, he should ensure that farmers get the appropriate remunerative prices for the onion crop. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Shri Ramji Lal Suman may speak now.

(Interruptions)

11.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are several notices under Rule 377. All these matters listed for the day be treated as laid on the Table.

- (i) **Need to make all the Railway Reservation counters at Hyderabad functional and open Additional Railway reservation counters at Sanat Nagar, Ashif Nagar and Himayat Nagar in Andhra Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV (Secundrabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the House I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the railway reservation counters in Hyderabad. The population of Hyderabad is more then 60 lakh. There are several computer counters at railway reservation counters but half of them remain closed. It is on account of this that there is long queue for purchasing railway ticket and person has to wait for one and half to two hours. Thus the people of Hyderabad have to face several difficulties in purchasing railway tickets.

So, I urge upon the Government to open all the computer counters at railway reservation centres in Hyderabad and new railway reservation counters each at Sanat Nagar, Ashif Nagar and Himayat Nagar should be opened to meet the increasing demand of railway ticket.

- (ii) **Need to revive Prime Minister's Grant Project and release adequate funds to the 'Mumbai Repair and Reconstruction Board'**

[English]

SHRI MILIND DEORA (Mumbai-South) : Various Indian cities in our country face growing housing problems. In Mumbai, a large number of the population lives in old and dilapidated buildings and slums. Throughout the year, and especially during the monsoons, old buildings collapse resulting in the death of several residents. The Maharashtra Government had set up the Mumbai Repair & Reconstruction Board with the responsibility of repairing and reconstructing these old buildings.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

Unfortunately, due to paucity of funds, the Board is unable to discharge its responsibilities effectively. Realising this, in December 1985, our then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi created the Prime Minister's Grant Project. The Union Government granted Rs.100 crores towards an urban renewal programme in Mumbai city, as a result of which many of the old buildings were reconstructed and repaired.

There is an urgent need to revive the PMGP and additional funds need to be released to the Board. Considering the fact that Mumbai contributes over Rs.50,000 crores annually to the national exchequer, a sum of Rs. 250 crores per annum must be allocated towards the restoration of these buildings.

- (iii) **Need to Look Into the problems of Refugees in Jammu and Kashmir.**

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of displaced innocent people of border area who have been living out side of their home land for last 5 years. It is on account of this that their houses have been destroyed, cattle have been killed and their agricultural land have been acquired as forest land and they are some how surviving in tents. They are not getting their ration, cash relief and kerosene oil for the last four month. Ten years back the State Government had sent a proposal to the Central Government for a package of Rs.78 crore but that package has not yet been sanctioned and it is on account of this that refugees in Rajoury, Poonch and Jammu districts are living under the open sky.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that some permanent arrangement should be made for the refugees. Their outstanding relief fund should be provided at the earliest and the State Government should be instructed to solve their problems as soon as possible. Now when the talks of peace process are going on, refugees should be rehabilitated and land should be provided to them.

- (iv) **Need to extend the period of exemption of**

Excise Duty on cement and steel being used for reconstruction of damaged houses due to earthquake in Gujarat

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Devastating earthquake on 26.01.2001, damaged and completely ruined Kutch District, Gujarat. For reconstruction of the houses and buildings, the Union Government granted Excise Duty exemption on cement and steel to be used in such reconstruction of houses damaged by earthquake. The time limit of such exemption expired on 31.12.2003 which requires to be extended for further period of two years as fifty per cent of reconstruction has not yet even started.

- (v) **Need to release funds for providing relief to the people affected by Cyclone in Araria, Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister towards the loss of life and property in my parliamentary constituency Araria, Bihar due to severe cyclone that occurred last week. 50-100 people were reportedly dead, particularly in Araria. Thousands of people have become homeless. Immediate relief is required for them.

I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to grant at least Rs.5 crore to district administration from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the assistance of affected people of Araria.

- (vi) **Need to expedite Gauge Conversion work between Balaghat and Gondia in Madhya Pradesh and also construct a broad gauge Rail Line between Katangi and Tirohi after Survey.**

SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUIJ BIEN (Balaghat) : The gauge conversion work from Gondia to Jabalpur and Balaghat to Katangi in Madhya Pradesh is going on the metre gauge rail line between Balaghat and Gondia has been removed for gauge conversion work. However, even after 2 years time the said work has not

yet been completed as the pace of conversion work is very slow. It is on account of this that passengers on this route are facing many difficulties.

So, I urge upon the Government to take up the said gauge conversion work on paramount priority basis and broad gauge rail line between Katangi and Tirohi should be constructed after survey.

(vii) Need to provide Central assistance to the Government of Maharashtra to meet the drought situation in the State.

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jalna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to serious drought situation and lack of job opportunities in Maharashtra, people are migrating to other states. Labourers are not getting employment and cattle are not getting fodder and water. Due to this, the situation in Maharashtra has become serious.

Through you, I urge upon the Union Government to provide central assistance to the State Government of Maharashtra immediately to tackle this situation and direct them to keep the situation under control.

(viii) Need to re-introduce Airbus A-320 between Agartala and Kolkata

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West) : I would like to highlight the problems being faced by people of Tripura with regard to air journey from Agartala to Kolkata. Tripura is located at the tail end of North East Region and is completely land locked. Since there is no other reliable and fast means of communications, even the poorest people of the State are compelled to travel by air to Kolkata and to other destinations. This is particularly true for those who have to travel outside the region for medical care and higher education. Now there is an ATR in the morning. This flight is smaller and cannot accommodate stretcher patients. The luggage permissible is also only 15 kgs. per passenger. These flights even do not carry all Indian newspapers and daily mails. These things reach Agartala by other flights in the evening. Earlier there were 9 (nine) A-320 and five Boeing 737 flights in a week. During the monsoon flights from and to Agartala are frequently delayed/cancelled.

Keeping in view the above position, it is strongly demanded for introduction of Airbus A-320 in the morning in place of ATR and rescheduling of other flights in the afternoon during monsoon at the earliest.

(ix) Need to rehabilitate people belonging to minority community affected by devastating fire in Chail parliamentary constituency, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 30.5.2004 at 12.30 p.m., a fire broke out in settlement area of poor labourers belonging to Minority Community, situated near Kareili (Abuvark) Mosque in my parliamentary constituency Chail, causing heavy loss of life and property. About 12 people lost their lives and a large number of people were injured. Most of the people, affected in the incident, belong to one (Minority) community and are daily wagers.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take measures to rehabilitate these affected people and provide employment to them.

(x) Need for construction of an over-bridge at railway crossing in Bihta area of Patna Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is heavy traffic at railway crossing in Bihta area of Patna parliamentary constituency, this road happens to be a link road between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and this railway crossing is situated on a National Highway. The absence of an over bridge causes much time wastage of people while crossing and accidents also take place very often. There has been a long standing demand for an over bridge at this railway crossing.

Through this House, I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that an over bridge may be constructed at this railway crossing immediately.

(xi) Need to expedite construction of a rail over-bridge at Faizabad, U.P.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, would like to draw your attention towards the

inconvenience being faced by the people due to bifurcation of Faizabad city, which is a Divisional Headquarter of Uttar Pradesh, into two parts and closure of railway crossings at six places simultaneously. The entire traffic comes to standstill when passenger trains, goods trains and other trains pass through this area. In order to solve the problem of traffic jam the Ministry of Railways approved the construction of an over-bridge in Faizabad and also allocated funds in regard thereto on my earlier proposal but the bridge has not been constructed so far.

Therefore, measures should be taken to ensure the construction of over bridge with immediate effect.

- (xii) **Need for construction of an over-bridge in the coastal village of Palaverkatu in Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu.**

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperambudur) : Palaverkatu village comprised within Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu State is a coastal village consists number of hamlets. The people of the village and hamlets are mainly depending upon fishing for their livelihood. To sell their catching, they have to cross ½ km of shallow water to reach the main village Palaverkatu. For that purpose construction of an over bridge is required on the shallow water. Besides, there should be a permanent desilting station on the estuary for free flow of sea water into the lake. It will enable the fishermen for their trade.

I request the Hon'ble Minister for Surface Transport and Shipping to take immediate action in the matter.

- (xiii) **Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Maharashtra regarding Hazira Gas Pipeline Project of Marathwada Development Corporation.**

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir through this House I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a proposal submitted by Marathwada Development Corporation to the State Government ten years ago for setting up Hazira Gas Pipeline Project which would supply gas through gas

pipeline to many districts of Marathwada. The State Government had submitted the said proposal to the Union Government, but yet no appropriate action has been taken in this regard. This Gas pipeline project will help in the development of industrially backward areas of Marathwada and the unemployed youth will also get employment.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to clear this project immediately and provide necessary funds for this project.

- (xiv) **Need to declare a moratorium on all outstanding debts of farmers, particularly in Kerala.**

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : Peasants are committing suicide all over India, including Kerala. It has been admitted that this happens mainly due to the fact that the peasantry in India today is in a debt trap.

Indebtedness is in sharp increase, as the cost of agriculture is shooting up, and agriculture price is falling steeply, while Government stopped the mode of the subsidies to agriculture. In this context, it is necessary that the Government of India declare moratorium on all outstanding debts of peasants until a comprehensive legislation on agricultural indebtedness is brought about, which should have provision for writing off debts of the peasants upto Rs.1,00,000/- and guarantee for liberal credit in future, as well as interest at 4%.

- (xv) **Need to construct railway line between Jhargram and Purulia in West Bengal.**

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : The construction of rail line from Jhargram to Purulia in the State of West Bengal is a long standing demand of the people. This issue has been raised in the Lok Sabha several times. The people have also demonstrated and are agitated over the issue. The total length of the rail line is 136.24 km. It has also been surveyed and estimated by the South-Eastern Railways.

I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps so that the construction of railway line between Jhargram to Purulia may be taken up.

11.18 hrs.

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We shall now take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to speak now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

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

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on June 7, 2004."

(Interruptions)

Sir, the President's Address delineates the new Government's policy and plan for an accelerated development of the country. It reflects a commitment to the average Indian who was kept in oblivion, uncared for during the last six years. The policies of the BJP Government and the much-touted reforms had bypassed him.

In the recent elections, the first of the new millennium, the people have decisively voted out the BJP. The BJP, by calling early elections, had pleaded for euthanasia, mercy killing. The people of India have granted it to them. But they have proved to be not only bad losers, but singularly graceless. What the country witnessed in the election was a campaign that may have hypnotised the spin-doctors of the BJP, but not the people. Flushed with limitless resources, they forced an illusory 'India Shining and Feel-good' campaign on the people which was preposterous in ways more than one. ...*(Interruptions)*

A vicious and smear campaign was launched against the Congress President, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. She, on

her part, unprovoked and undeterred, toured the length and breadth of the country.

Wherever she went, people in large numbers, euphoric crowds surged forward to listen to what she had to say. The result is before each one of us. The result is before the country. ...*(Interruptions)* The renowned writer, Shri Khushwant Singh has also said that it could only be a person one hundred per cent Indian who could attract such crowds. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I had called Shri George Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I request you with folded hands to go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, defeat in these elections should have mellowed the BJP leaders and prompted them to introspect. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please co-operate with me. I called Shri George Fernandes, but you did not allow him to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : These self-proclaimed conscience-keepers of the nation went about whipping up lunatic passions, but Shrimati Sonia Gandhi announced her decision not to accept the Prime Ministership when not only 145 Members of the Congress Party, but the entire United Progressive Alliance and others, over 320 Members of this House extended their support to her. It is the rarest of rare cases of renunciation of power. ...*(Interruptions)* But, Sir, these people have the audacity to continue with their vilification campaign. No effort had been spared to malign her. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please co-operate with me. I will give you all opportunities to speak, but you are not listening.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : She never reacted but went about her job stoically with determination. Her aim was not to seek power. Having agreed to lead the Congress at a critical juncture, she never looked back. Today she has refused to accept the Prime Ministership. She had declined to accept it when it was offered on a platter in 1991. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are all my good friends. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : As a true Indian, her knowledge of Indian history and civilisation and her commitment to nationalism are far more than the originators of the vicious campaign. By launching this campaign, they have tarnished the India's image in the eyes of civilised world. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is not a Minister. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I request you with folded hands to go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can I allow you? He is not a Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, to them, I will only remind of the words of Rabindra Nath Tagore. In his poem *Bharat Tirath*, Tagore says:

"No one knows at whose bidding so many streams of people came and lost themselves in our sea. They gave and they took; they stirred

and they mixed, but they did not ever go back from the vast Indian beachhead of human beings."

This is what they fail to understand.

...*(Interruptions)* Sir, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi accepted the challenge not for the sake of seeking power, but to start afresh the work on Shri Rajiv Gandhi's mission. To her, secularism is not a dogma, but a necessary prerequisite for this country of vast diversity to prosper. With this in mind, she led the Congress and set about to put in place an "inclusive, secular and united" coalition for governing India. Her victory and renunciation of power only prove that service and duty is her anthem of life, her literature, her poetry, her philosophy. It is this sense of service and duty, which kept her going, which made her aspire, aspire for a strong secular India. It is her legacy to the future, it is her prayer.

Her one decision has dwarfed all the BJP leaders.

...*(Interruptions)*

The Leader of Opposition is sitting there, but he cannot control or refuses to control his own Members on the floor of the House. Sir, we had heard of an '*Aar paar ki ladai*.' Today, the '*Aar paar ki ladai*' is confined to the BJP's headquarters. ...*(Interruptions)* The former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee spoke with poetic abandonment. But from the results it is absolutely clear that Shri Vajpayee has been pipped by Shri Advani who. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, as the hon. President has observed, the people of India have spoken loud and clear. The verdict in these elections is a tribute to the vision of Shri Rajiv Gandhi who strove to take India into the 21st Century as a veritably developed country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, I request you all to please cooperate. I will give you time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The six year *interregnum* may have delayed the process, but the new Government under Dr. Manmohan Singh shall soon catch up for our tryst with destiny. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is also your House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, what could be greater intolerance than this? They are not prepared to accept defeat. The hon. President has observed that the verdict of elections is a rejection of the forces of divisiveness and intolerance. The hon. President observed that the verdict of the elections is for establishing the rule of law. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, every action of the last Government smacked on intolerance, even arrogance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you full opportunity provided you please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, we have heard the pep talk from Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he rose to felicitate you on your election as hon. Speaker. What has happened to it now? The Leader of the Opposition is sitting on that side, but the entire lot of Members from that side has rushed to the well of the House. Sir, the sound democratic traditions of building a consensus on major national issues were given a go by. The democratic temper – the lack of which is demonstrated here again today – which is so essential for running the affairs of a vast and diverse country like India was totally missing. There was perceptible, a sort of inebriation caused by the trappings of power. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am reminded of the Gujarat elections ...*(Interruptions)* Huge portraits were hung, proclaiming "Modi banam Musharaff", painting every non-BJP candidate as an enemy to divide and seek vote on communal lines...*(Interruptions)*

All that I have to say is that the nation is watching the B.J.P. It is not by words but by deeds that they will be judged by the people. People have passed their judgement now; the people have defeated them in the elections. With such actions, people will throw them into the dustbin of history. ...*(Interruptions)*

We have to embark upon, once again, the gigantic task of nation building...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, given this attitude of theirs, I stop here. And with these words, I move the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to rise to second the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Our Government and we salute the enlightened people of country who have with an aim to maintain the communal harmony, rooted out such elements who want to disintegrate and divide the country...*(Interruptions)* They talk of stability sovereignty, to develop the country, to make economic upliftment of the country...*(Interruptions)* What have they done to the country...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that people of our country have taken such a historic decision in 21st Century, which will be added as new chapter to history...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

The President's Address is a charter of the Government's policy and a mandate for action. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a mandate to take this country into the Twenty-first Century. It is a mandate not to be cowed down by anyone. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : It is a mandate to make India a powerful country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I am requesting you all to please go back to your seats. Please cooperate with the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : The important thing is to ensure an economic growth rate of above eight per cent. Fifty million households or 250 million people today live below the poverty line. With over eight per cent

growth rate, as Dr. Manmohan Singh has shown in the past, we will be able to raise one hundred million people above the poverty line in a period of five years. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is also important to look at agriculture. We need increased investment in agriculture, increased investment in rural development and increased investment in irrigation. The level of investment in agriculture has come down from 33 per cent in 1994 to about 24 per cent in 2003. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I will give an opportunity to everyone. With folded hands, I am requesting you all to please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Sir, we will not be cowed down by this sort of behaviour.

It is important to look at education. We have committed six per cent of GDP to be spent on education. Education is what is going to lead India into the Twenty-first Century. The NDA Government has messed up our future. ...*(Interruptions)* Out of every Rs.100 spent by the Central Government in the last four or five years, only one rupee went to education, 34 *paise* to health and 45 *paise* to child development.

Implementation, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is what we must look at in the future. Implementation is a major challenge in front of us. The previous Government announced a plethora of measures, but implementation was completely absent. The new process of implementation mentioned in the President's Address will revolutionise the Panchayati Raj System.

...*(Interruptions)* For the first time, in the history of our country a Ministry has been created for *Panchayati Raj* and that *Panchayati Raj* was brought to bear by Mahatma Gandhi. His dream of *Gram Swaraj* and *Poorna Swaraj* has been institutionalised and brought to bear by Rajiv Gandhi. Now we are seeing the fruition of our dreams under the leadership of the UPA and Dr. Manmohan Singh ji....*(Interruptions)* In summary, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a balanced charter of action. This Address speaks of economic reforms but with a human face; this Address speaks of massive investments in agriculture, rural irrigation

and other areas. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, but this Address does not forget industry and exports. This Address seeks of public/private participation in crucial infrastructural sectors. At the same time, this Address seeks to strengthen profitable public undertakings. ...*(Interruptions)* At the same time, it corrects the upper class bias of the previous Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you to go to your seats. You would get the opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : I wish they were shouting for 4000 farmers who died; ...*(Interruptions)* I wish they were shouting for the people of India; I wish they were shouting for an economic resurgence. ...*(Interruptions)* It is important also to promote rural industry. But none of this would happen unless we have an environment of communal peace and harmony. ...*(Interruptions)* But the track record that the NDA Government has left is a permanent blot on the forehead of every Indian. ...*(Interruptions)* Riots in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh and other areas are a blot on every Indian. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

11.37 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock*

14.00 hrs.

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, may I request you to please take your seats?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Speaker, sir, we want justice...(Interruptions). The House should not be run in this was...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

14.01 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Scindia.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Where is Shri Scindia? Has he finished his speech?

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Yes, Sir, he has finished his speech...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the leaders of the Opposition to ask their Members to please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, sir, I would like to say something...(Interruptions) Mr. speaker, sir, give me an opportunity to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members present in the House, whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been

circulated, may – if they desire to move their amendments – send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the notice board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

(Interruptions)

14.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Somabhai G. Patel and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

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

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on June 7, 2004."

Now, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, do you want to speak?

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, sir, how dare I speak in such noise...(Interruptions)

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla) : I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken for implementation of 'Resolution on Internal autonomy' passed by the J&K State legislature." (1)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that 'Kashmir shall be put on a higher trajectory of economic growth so that the educated youth of the violence affected areas get respectful avenues of employment.'" (2)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about creation of a separate Ministry for Minorities." (226)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address regarding restoring the subsidy Haj pilgrims." (227)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about granting A City status to Hyderabad." (228)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the representation of minorities in government jobs." (229)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to check unabated cases of suicides by farmers in Andhra Pradesh." (230)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 9th June, 2004 at 1100 hours.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, June 9, 2004/ Jyaistha 19, 1926 (Saka).

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