

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER*

Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN**

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Shri 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

MR. SPEAKER : Please maintain order.

Wednesday, June 9, 2004/Jyaistha 19, 1926 (Saka)

11.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Please maintain some order.

(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I have received a letter dated 9th June, 2004 from Shri Lalu Prasad, an elected member from the Madhepura and the Chapra Parliamentary Constituencies of Bihar, resigning his seat in Lok Sabha from the Madhepura Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. I have accepted his resignation from the Madhepura Parliamentary Constituency with effect from the 9th June, 2004.

[English]

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

11.02 hrs.

MEMBERS SWORN

[English]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Chhapra)

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI (Patil)
(Washim)

(Interruptions)

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and through you, to the august House, the members of the Council of Ministers.

Shri K. Natwar Singh – The Minister of External Affairs

Shri H.R. Bhardwaj – The Minister of Law and Justice

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless information regarding the tainted Ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : The Prime Minister of the country should not be weak otherwise it will lead to anarchy in the country...*(Interruptions)*

11.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 272 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2004 under sub-Section (3) of Section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 18/04]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 2004-2005 under sub-Section (3) of Section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 19/04]

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

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 20/04*]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 21/04*]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts under sub-Section (5) of Section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, 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 22/04*]

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

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited, New Shimla, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited, New Shimla, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 23/04*]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI A. RAJA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, 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 24/04*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

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

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 25/04*]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 26/04*]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 27/04*]

(2) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in

Notification No. G.S.R. 220 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2004 under sub-Section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 28/04*]

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

- (i) The Register of Interconnect Agreements (First Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. 11-11/2004/B & CS in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 29/04*]

- (ii) The Regulation on Quality of Service for VOIP based International Long Distance Service (First Amendment), 2004 published in Notification No. F.No. 402-30/2001-FN (PT) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 30/04*]

- (iii) The Regulation on Quality of Service for VOIP based International Long Distance Service (Third Amendment), 2004 published in Notification No. F.No. 402-30/2001-FN (PT) in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 31/04*]

- (iv) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) (1st Amendment) Regulation, 2004 published in Notification No. 1-6/2002-A & L in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 32/04*]

- (v) The Regulation on Quality of Service for VOIP based International Long Distance Service (Second Amendment), 2004 published in Notification No. F.No. 402-30/

2001-FN (PT) in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 33/04*]

- (vi) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Annual Report and Returns) Amendment Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 148 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 34/04*]

- (vii) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Third Amendment) Regulation, 2003 published in Notification No. F.No. 409-5/2003-(FN) in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 2004.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (vii) of (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 35/04*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-Section (4) of Section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:—

- (1) The Central Motor Vehicles (First Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 111 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum and a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 176 (E) dated the 5th March, 2004.
- (2) The Central Motor Vehicles (First Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 200 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT 36/04*]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi

and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highway Act, 1956:—

- (i) S.O. 426 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2004 authorising M/s Ideal Road Builders Limited, Dadar, Mumbai to collect and retail fees for the use of the National Highway No. 4 in Khambatki Ghat between Pune and Satara in the State of Maharashtra together with a Corrigendum thereto (in Hindi version only) published in Notification No. S.O. 542 (E) dated the 30th April, 2004.
- (ii) S.O. 528 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2004 regarding collection of Toll from the users of Bridge near Dera Bassi on Ambala-Kalka road on National Highway No. 22
- (iii) S.O. 240 (E) to S.O. 257 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2004 declaring each of the Highways specified in the Notifications to be a National Highway.
- (iv) S.O. 527 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.
- (v) S.O. 571 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.
- (vi) S.O. 597 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 710 dated the 18th June, 2003.
- (vii) S.O. 372 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2004 authorising the Special District Revenue Officer, Coimbatore, District Tamil, to perform the functions of competent authority to acquire land on National Highway No.47 (Salem-Kochi Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 387 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 45 (Tambaram-Tindivanam Section) in Velupuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ix) S.O. 390 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45B (Trichy Bypass end-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (x) S.O. 396 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management, operation and construction of Bypass on National Highway No. 8B in Boundary Rajkot District in the State of Gujarat.
- (xi) S.O. 435 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 923 (E) dated the 14th August, 2003.
- (xii) S.O. 436 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for Construction of Gorakhpur Bypass including Rapti Bridge on National Highway No. 28 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xiii) S.O. 438 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1013(E) dated the 2nd September, 2003.
- (xiv) S.O. 440 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 28 (UP/Bihar Border-Muzaffarpur) in the State of Bihar.
- (xv) S.O. 463 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2004 regarding

acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 60 (Laksmannath to Kharagpur Section) in the State of West Bengal.

- (xvi) S.O. 464 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore to Laksmannath Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xvii) S.O. 492 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1285 (E) dated the 10th November, 2003.
- (xviii) S.O. 493 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirapalli-Viralimalai-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xix) S.O. 495 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xx) S.O. 516 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 45 Villupuram Bypass portion) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxi) S.O. 517 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2004 authorising Sub-Divisional Officer (Sadar), District Nagaon, Assam to perform the functions of competent authority to acquire land on National Highways Nos. 36 and 37.
- (xxii) S.O. 518 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for development, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 (Nagaon Bypass) in the State of Assam.
- (xxiii) S.O. 531 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Harihar to Belgaum Bypass Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxiv) S.O. 532 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 834 (E) dated the 16th July, 2003.
- (xxv) S.O. 533 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning (Access Controlled Chittorgarh Bypass) of National Highway Nos. 76 and 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxvi) S.O. 535 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 962 (E) dated the 23rd October, 2000.
- (xxvii) S.O. 536 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.5 (Bhubaneswar-Kolkata Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xxviii) S.O. 545 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxix) S.O. 546 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 54 (Silchar-Harangajo Section) in the State of Assam.
- (xxx) S.O. 547 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8A (Bamanbore-Samakhiiali

- Section) and four laning of National Highway No. 15 (Samakhiali-Radhanpur Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxxix) S.O. 548 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highways Nos. 8A and 8B in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxxii) S.O. 549 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th May, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highways Nos. 8 and 8B in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 564 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning and construction of Bypass on National Highway No. 8B in Porbandar district in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 153 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2004 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of Amravati Bypass in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxxv) S.O. 384 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 439 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 28 (UP/Bihar Border-Muzaffarpur) in the State of Bihar.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 441 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 28 (UP/Bihar Border-Muzaffarpur) in the State of Bihar.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 443 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8B (Porbandar to Rajkot District Border Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxxix) S.O. 465 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 8 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- (x1) S.O. 490 and S.O. 491 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for construction of trumpet interchange on National Highways Nos. 8 and 79A in Ajmer District in the State of Rajasthan.
- (X1i) S.O. 494 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (X1ii) S.O. 539 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2004 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of different stretches mentioned in the Notification on National Highways Nos. 5 and 9.
- (X1iii) S.O. 1425 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8A (Bamanbore-Samakhiali Section) and four laning of National Highway No. 15 (Samakhiali-Radhanpur Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (X1iv) S.O. 1426 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 14 (Deesa-Radhanpur Section) in the State of Gujarat.

(x1v) S.O. 1427 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 14 and four laning of National Highway No. 15 in Border Kachchh District in the State of Gujarat.

(x1vi) S.O. 1428 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.8A (Bamanbore-Samakhiali Section) and four laning of National Highway No. 15 (Samakhiali-Radhanpur Section) in the State of Gujarat.

(x1vii) S.O. 1429 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 14 and four laning of National Highway No. 15 in Border Kachchh District in the State of Gujarat.

(x1viii) S.O. 1430 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.14 (Deesa-Radhanpur Section) in the State of Gujarat.

(X1ix) S.O. 1451 (E) to S.O. 1455(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.60 (Balasore to Laksmannath Section) in Balasore District in the State of Orissa.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (x1iii to x1ix) of item (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-37/04*]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 572 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2004 regarding

entrustment of National Highway No. 50 to National Highways Authority of India issued under Section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-38/04*]

(6) A copy of the National Highways Tribunal (Financial and Administrative Powers) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 313 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2004 under sub-Section (3) of Section 50 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-39/04*]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts under section 24 of the National Highways Act, 1988.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Highways Authority of India New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

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

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-40/04*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Interceptions for the year 2003 under sub-Section (3) of Section 48 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

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

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-41/04*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI AKHILESH SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 72 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 2004 under sub-Section (3) of Section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-42/04]

11.05 hrs.

[English]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Amendments to Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members may recall that after the Secunder of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address had concluded his speech yesterday, an announcement was made from the Chair, requesting the Members to move their amendments by sending slips to the Table within 15 minutes, indicating the serial numbers of the amendments that they like to move.

As the House had to be adjourned due to the situation prevailing here thereafter, most of the Members could not get an opportunity of moving their amendments.

Members who desire to move their amendments may now send slips at the Table within fifteen minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of the 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.

11.06 hrs.

[English]

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER : Now we come to the very important task of the election Deputy Speaker. We will take up the

Motions for Election of the Deputy Speaker, I call upon Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to move the motion standing in his name.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion moved by Shri Vajpayeeji.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I second the Motion.

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I Second the motion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I second the motion moved by Prof. Ramgopal Yadav.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I second the motion.

[English]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur) : I beg to move:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL (Faridkot) : I want to second it.

MR. SPEAKER : I allow you. But it should not be taken as a precedent.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Sir, on behalf of Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, I second the Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Motion moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and seconded by Shri L.K. Advani is before the House for consideration. I am putting this motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The motion is carried and I am very happy to declare that Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, has been chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House. The Leaders may usher him to his Chair.

11.09 hrs.

(Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal was conducted to the Chair by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Leader of the Opposition Shri L.K. Advani.

11.10 hrs.

[English]

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY-SPEAKER

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it gives me a great pleasure to felicitate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on his unanimous election to the august office of the Deputy-Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Apart from the great sense of satisfaction of our being able to elect yourself. Sir, as well as the Deputy-Speaker, Shri Atwal unanimously, all of us share in the added pleasure that the deliberations of this House will be guided by such able and distinguished parliamentarians. Shri Atwal had not only presided over the proceedings of the Punjab Legislative Assembly for five years but he had also been an active Member of both the Legislative Assembly and our Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Atwal's long association with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and his active participation in international conferences of parliamentarians and legislatures has given him a truly global vision. Members of this House will benefit enormously from his understanding and appreciation of parliamentary practices and procedures. This House has many first-time Members and they along with all of us will look to senior Members like Shri Atwal for guidance and advice in our collective effort to ensure the smooth functioning of this august House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I once again compliment Shri Atwal. I also offer him my best wishes along with the assurances of closest cooperation from the United Progressive Alliance, our Party and myself.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join the hon. Prime Minister in congratulating Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal for adorning the office of Deputy-Speaker of this House. The unanimous elections of the hon. Speaker and of the hon. Deputy-Speaker speak of the maturity of our democracy.

As it has been correctly pointed out, Shri Atwal has a very wide experience Presiding Officer, as he had to handle the Punjab Legislative Assembly as the Speaker. As a Member of this House, he has made his own contribution. In various international parliamentary fora he

has made his presence felt. I have no doubt that on assuming this august office, he will guide the deliberations of the House and he would give his advice and guidance which is needed to a large number of Members, including me, who have been elected to this House for the first time.

Once again I take this opportunity of congratulating him and assuring him of the fullest co-operation from our side.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, associating myself with the views expressed by the hon. Prime Minister and leader of the House. I extend my hearty congratulations to Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on his becoming the Deputy Speaker of the House. I think that while electing Shri Atwalji, we have just carried forward the convention laid down in the House prior to his being elected as Deputy Speaker. The Speaker of the House was also elected (unopposed) but there is slight difference between being elected as unopposed and in being elected unanimously. By unanimously electing you as Speaker and Shri Charnjit Singh Atwalji as Deputy Speaker today we have carried forward this convention. Many elected persons for this post assume the responsibility for the first time in their career but Atwalji is not among them. He has already served as the Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly and it is because of this that he is well versed in running and conducting the business of the House. Earlier he was elected as the Member in the Eighth Lok Sabha from Ropar constituency and this time he has been representing Phillaur constituency. During his last term as MP he had contributed a lot in the Committee set up for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. I am hopeful that given his sense of commitment and duty for the welfare of the backward sections of society, he would be able to handle his responsibility quite efficiently. I congratulate him, on my own behalf and on the behalf of my party and assure him of our full co-operation.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Raebareli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me add my words of greetings to Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal for being elected as the new Deputy-Speaker. The Deputy-Speaker is a senior political personality and has had a distinguished career both in the Punjab Vidhan

Sabha and in the Lok Sabha as well. He has also represented our country in a number of international fora. His range of interests and concerns is very wide. His meritorious record as a public figure is well-known. We, in this House, would look to him for guidance and I am sure, we shall all benefit by his experience.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, I wish to assure him of our fullest co-operation and we offer him our best wishes for a successful tenure.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri Atwalji on being unanimously elected and assure him that he would get our co-operation in conducting the business of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal has been unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha. I congratulate him on my own behalf on behalf of my party and alongwith the entire platform we represent.

I assure him that he would get our full co-operation in running the House. Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal is not new to politics. We had been together Members in the eighth Lok Sabha. I have observed that he used to actively participate in all the proceedings of the House. The most important point is that he has also served as the Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly and he had assumed that responsibility successfully for five years. I hope that he would help in maintaining the dignity and decorum of the House and would also pay attention towards 50 percent newly elected Members. I wish him all round success and again congratulate him on being elected as the Deputy Speaker unanimously.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : Sir, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal has been elected as the hon. Deputy-Speaker of this august House. I congratulate him on behalf of my party. DMK on behalf of my party leader. Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi and also on my own behalf.

Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal has served as the Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly and has been a Member of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Moreover, he is a well

experienced parliamentarian as he had been a Member in the Eighth Lok Sabha also. He had proved his ability as the Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. He is a widely travelled person, professionally qualified in law and a social worker in real sense.

Sir, I have been elected from a reserved constituency, Sriperumbudur of Tamil Nadu. I am very proud that a member of the dalit community has been elected to occupy the highest Chair of this House.

I hope that Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal will be successful Deputy-Speaker of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. I once again congratulate him, convey him my good wishes and assure him of our fullest cooperation.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party would like to congratulate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on being unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the House. I have a long association with him. We have started a common platform for the welfare of and safeguarding the interests of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the weaker sections of the society. I am happy to inform you that during his tenure as the Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, he had convened an All India Meet of the MP's and MLA's belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and he did it not once or twice but five times and we had taken some decisions in those meets. I am also happy that all these things have been reflected in the Common Minimum Programme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that under as well as under his leadership all these programmes he implemented. With these words I extend my hearty congratulation and best wishes to him.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party and party Supremo Shri Lalu Prasad, wish to extend hearty congratulations to Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on being unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the House.

His unanimous election as Deputy Speaker is a boost to the parliamentary democracy and it has strengthened healthy democratic convention. I am not only hopeful but certain that Mr. Deputy Speaker, by being completely impartial in his conduct, would help maintain the dignity of the House and run it smoothly. I assure him of the whole hearted support of our party in it.

With these words I would again like to congratulate Shri Atwalji.

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my Party, the TDP, I congratulate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal whole-heartedly for his unanimous election as the Deputy-Speaker of this House. His experience as the Speaker of Punjab Assembly and his association with members of national and international fora should help the Members of this House a lot.

On behalf of my Party and on my own behalf, I assure that we will be cooperating whole-heartedly in running this House smoothly. Wishing him again a successful tenure I compliment and congratulate him once again. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sardar Charnjit Singh Atwal has been unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of the House, I congratulate him on behalf of my party Shiv Sena. I congratulate hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, Shri Advaniji and Shri George Fernandes on behalf of Shiv Sena Supremo Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey, on giving the opportunity of contesting for this post to a Member who belongs to one of the constituent party of NDA.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Atwalji is a vastly experienced person. He has done a commendable job for the welfare of the backward sections of society in his capacity as the Speaker of Punjab Legislative Assembly and he has also been a Member of the House in the past also. Being an experienced and intelligent officebearer, I would expect that he would give equal opportunity for us to speak as Shri P.M. Sayeed used to do in his capacity as the Deputy

Speaker. We would also continue to provide our full co-operation in him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall also give you opportunity to speak.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would once again like to congratulate him and you.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a proud privilege for me and for my Party, the Biju Janata Dal, to felicitate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, who has been rightly chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this august House. Shri Atwal has a long standing experience as the Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. He has the privilege of long experience which will facilitate him as the Deputy-Speaker in running this House.

I, on my behalf and on behalf of my Party, assure him full support in conducting the business of this House and also assure him to help in maintaining the decorum and dignity of this House. I wish him all success.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, Samajwadi Party, I congratulate Shri Atwal Saheb on his being elected as Deputy Speaker of this House unanimously. Though, earlier also they have assured you and even today they are giving the assurance but now nobody believes them but I assure you that Samajwadi Party will give full support to you and hon. Deputy Speaker in conducting the business of the House smoothly.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my own behalf of my party I congratulate Shri Atwal ji on his being elected as Deputy Speaker, of the House unanimously. Today the view of the Chamber of Lok Sabha is very beautiful. The seat of Deputy Speaker is just opposite the seat of the Prime Minister and feel happy to see that today both the seats are occupied by the persons who wear turbans.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days ago you were elected unanimously. Unanimous election of Deputy Speaker also has established a new convention. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that

day you told that since you are a leftist, your inclination would always remain towards left side. We are sitting on your left but yesterday you did not favour us. I would request you to keep your words. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is the fate of the Speaker- who is always misunderstood.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You would try to stick to your words. The way we have promised to cooperate with you similarly we would cooperate with Deputy Speaker.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, I am very happy today since a leader of my party has been elected Deputy Speaker of this House unanimously. Speaker and Deputy Speaker, both have been elected unanimously. I am grateful to hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Advaniji, Shiv Sena, JD(U) and all our other allies as they have chosen a leader of a small party like our's for the post of Deputy Speaker.

In addition, I would like to say that Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal hails from a Dalit family and is an LLB. He has rendered his services in Punjab. He had been Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha also. We have worked together in the same party for quite a long time. We both are Members of Political Affairs Committee. The President of our party, Shri Prakash Singh Badal made a request for Atwal ji's name, therefore, I am grateful to him also. I am grateful to hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of House and all other parties who have unanimously elected him as Deputy Speaker. Since, you belong to my party, I, on behalf of my party assure you full support.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur) : Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party I, congratulate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on being elected as Deputy Speaker of this august House unanimously and I assure you that BJP will always render you all round constructive support.

[English]

SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR (Trivandrum) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are all very happy that Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal has been unanimously elected as the Deputy-Speaker of this august House. He is a very experienced Presiding Officer. I offer full support from my Party. I wish him all success.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of privilege for the *Pattali Makkal Katchi* of Tamil Nadu to felicitate the Deputy-Speaker Atwal ji. His election augurs well for the Lok Sabha. It is a matter of satisfaction for all of us that for the second time, the Fourteenth Lok Sabha has exhibited consensual approach – first in your election as the Speaker and, second, in the election of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. We have exhibited the highest tradition of democracy by choosing a Member from the Opposition as the Deputy-Speaker of the House and the Speaker from the ruling coalition. The election of Atwal ji has got a social implication also. By choosing a Member of the *dalit* community, we are sending a right signal to the people of this country and also inspiring the confidence of the people at large.

He is a very sincere and dedicated parliamentarian, having exhibited all the qualities of head and heart in the past and we hope that, with his experience, he would be able to supplement your efforts and contribute richly to the deliberations of this House.

Sir, on behalf of the leader of my party *Pattali Makkal Katchi* and on my own behalf, I felicitate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on his unanimous election as the Deputy-Speaker of this House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on being elected as Deputy Speaker unopposed. I assure him full support of my party. I again congratulate him and wish him success.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, RSP I, congratulate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on being elected as Deputy Speaker of Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a great thing that first your were elected unanimously and then Deputy Speaker also got elected unanimously. The occurrence of this historical event is a matter of great happiness for all of us. I assure hon. Deputy Speaker, that my party would fully support him and I am sure he would be able to tackle any problem, if it arises, in the House, peacefully. You would be able to render help to hon. Speaker and will also be able to carry out your task successfully. Wishing success for you, I conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Kolkata-south) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of the House and my party as well would will to congratulate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal ji...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very important occasion. Please keep silence in the House.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Do you have any objection? Sir, this is very unfortunate. When Members from the other side spoke, we did not interrupt them....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting all the Members to keep quiet.

(Translation)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Congress Party and ruling alliance which has supported the motion proposed by hon. Atal ji. I remember during previous Lok Sabha. When NDA Government was in power, we had also elected Shri PM Sayeed unanimously.

Today, I remember a line of National Antham written by Ravindra Nath Tagore. The National Anthem contained, -"Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat, Maratha, Dravida, Utkal Banga." Ravindra Nath Tagore started from Punjab and election of a leader from Punjab as a Deputy Speaker has further added something great to national honour. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : The Prime Minister is also from Punjab...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, this is not a debate. This is a very solemn occasion. Please allow the Member to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I request you all to please keep quiet. This is not a debate. This is a very solemn occasion.

I request the hon. Member to proceed.

(Translation)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have not done anything of that laid, at least let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to control them.

(Translation)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I wanted to submit, but they did not let me speak. Shri Manmohan Singh ji, who has been elected as the Prime Minister too hails from Punjab and now Shri Atwalji has been elected as Deputy Speaker. It is a matter of happiness not only for the people of Punjab, but every Indian is happy today. Punjab and Bengal have been associated since pre independence. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate you too.

Sir, I would like to request you only that you must also pay attention towards opposition.

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much for reminding me of my duty.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of my Party, I would like to congratulate Shri Atwal on his unanimous election as the Deputy-Speaker. Sir, this is the success of our Indian parliamentary democracy that we have the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, this is a solemn occasion of election of Deputy-Speaker. Hon. Members are felicitating him. Please do not disturb him.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, this is the success of our Indian Parliamentary democracy that we have the Prime Minister, the President and the Deputy-Speaker belonging to minority communities. I can only say, 'Long live Indian secularism, long live secular forces'.

I would once again like to congratulate the Deputy-Speaker, and I hope that just as this august House has a Parliamentary Committee on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, during his tenure-ship of Deputy-Speaker, this House will form a parliamentary committee for Minorities.

Lastly, I would like to say that this is a solemn occasion and very kind words have been spoken, but yesterday, as a new elected Member, I was very pained to hear some Members casting aspersions on the Chair. I take strong objection to that...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, this is not the time to say these things...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is a new Member. I would earnestly request you to please hear him. Shri Owaisi, please conclude.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, I do not want to be hypocrite over here. I was saying that I was pained to hear. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, this should not be allowed to go on record. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is a new Member and he is making his maiden speech. Please do not disturb him.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, I was only saying that I was pained to hear some Members casting aspersions on the Chair. On a solemn occasion like this, all kind words are spoken here, and I hope that we will follow the kind words that are spoken here.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Sir, on behalf of my Party Asom Gana Parishad and of my own. I offer my heartiest congratulations to Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal for his unanimous election as Deputy-Speaker of this House. I am also extremely happy that the entire House and the bigger political parties have reposed confidence on a person belonging to a regional party, Shiromani Akali

Dal. Being a Member of regional party, I express my sincere thanks to the entire House on his election as the Deputy-Speaker. On behalf of my party, I also assure our fullest cooperation to Shri Atwal and wish him a successful tenure in this House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party I would like to congratulate Shri Atwal ji on his unopposed election as Deputy Speaker and assure him full support from my party.

Sir, the fact which needs to be paid attention is that our is a regional party and the issues relating to downtrodden people are mostly raised in the House. Discussions take place here for the purpose and legislations are enacted. In view of your election as the Deputy-Speaker, all the hon. members who belong to the same category as those of neglected people in the House hope that you will pay attention towards them. I am sure that you will listen to such people, give attention towards them and will give them full opportunity to express their views.

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal has been unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker, therefore, I on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, Republican Party of India' would like to give heartiest congratulation to him on his election to this Post.

Sir, I and the members of my party are very happy that a person belonging to Scheduled Caste has been chosen for this post. He is Atwal of Punjab and I am Athawale of Maharashtra. Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, the former Speaker also belonged to Scheduled Caste, and it is very good that today you have been elected as Deputy Speaker. It is a matter of great pleasure for us.

Sir, had you been on this side, your name would have been suggested from this side, but you are not on this side, but on that side. Therefore, hon'ble Atal ji and Advaniji suggested and recommended your name. The entire House will fully cooperate with you because we want to run the Government and for this cooperation with you is essential. We do not have any problem regarding giving cooperation. You need cooperation of all Members, otherwise it would be difficult to conduct the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our party will try to give full cooperation to conduct this House. All members of my party would like to congratulate you. We want that you conduct the House smoothly. This Government will complete its five years term, and there would not be any problem in this regard. You would also remain the Deputy Speaker during this term, for this, I would like to congratulate you. You will conduct the business of the House smoothly, if you give me more time to speak, at the time the issue related to welfare of people, welfare of SCs, STs are raised, the House will be conducted smoothly. I would again congratulate you on behalf of My Party.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, on behalf of Indian Federal democratic Party, I would like to extend full support and also to congratulate hon. Charnjit Singhji on his elevation as the Deputy-Speaker of this august House.

Sir, I feel that he will be a strong pillar to support you in holding the dignity of this House. I am sure, with his valour and with his patriotism and with the valour and patriotism of the Sikh community I think this is an honour which has been given to the Sikh Community also. I feel proud of it and I feel very happy that a unanimous election has taken place for the post of Deputy-Speaker.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA (Tura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Treasury Benches for having conceded this position to the Opposition Benches. They have kept the good tradition of the parliamentary democracy. Having conceded this position to the Opposition Benches, the BJP, being the largest party in the NDA, could have taken this post to themselves. They did not. This gesture of accommodation and recognition to the smaller partners is itself a very great thing. Therefore, let me also congratulate BJP, particularly the former Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee, to whom the decision was left. Let me congratulate Akali Dal for this honour and I thank Akali Dal for having chosen Shri Atwal as their candidate.

I think there are a very few Members in this House who know Shri Atwal as I do because we had the opportunity of serving as the members of the Executive

Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for a long time. I have always been proud of Shri Atwal in the international conferences. His dignified way of dealing and presenting things before the CPA Conference particularly in the Executive Committee, was acknowledged by international audience. We had occasions of visiting different parts of the world together, being members of the Executive Committee, and whenever I was not able to attend certain meetings because of some other assignment given to me, I was always confident that Atwalji would be there to represent India in a very very dignified manner.

Today, I personally feel proud, I personally feel very happy because having seen his performance in the international forum, he richly deserves this position.

My heartiest congratulations and I wish him all the best and success.

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I, on behalf of my Party, Mizo National Front of Mizoram, and on my behalf, would like to congratulate Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal on being elected as the Deputy-Speaker of this august House. We all come to know that he had experience in Parliament as well as in the State Assembly. I hope this will be fruitful for me and also for other Members of this august House.

What I would like to point out today is that even a Member of a smaller Party like Akali Dal has a chance to become the Deputy-Speaker of this august house and hold a very important post. In my opinion, it is a very important event.

Taking this opportunity. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, Mizo National Front, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on becoming the Speaker because on that day I had no chance to congratulate you.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Leader of the Opposition and hon. Members, today we are happy to have been able to unanimously elect Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, a Member of this House and former Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha to the high office of the Deputy Speaker of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. On this occasion, I am glad to extend my heartiest felicitations to him on being elected to the office of the Deputy-Speaker.

May I also take the pleasure of warmly congratulating the Leaders of all political Parties and Groups in facilitating the unanimous election of Shri Atwal as the Deputy-Speaker cutting across all Party affiliations in keeping with the time tested convention of this august House. I am convinced that such a democratic spirit along with an inspiring solidarity would pave the way for the smooth functioning of the House.

Hon. Members, the Fourteenth Lok Sabha is all set with a renewed commitment to democratic norms and values. Yet another mandate in favour of the coalition governance makes us realise that our people believe in the ideology of inclusiveness with the ultimate objective of welfare, progress and development of all. We all owe our presence here to the people of our country who have bestowed on us the great responsibility of giving them a peaceful, progressive and prosperous India.

The efficacy of any democracy largely depends on the vibrancy of the Legislature. This, in turn, makes free and fearless discussions on the floor of the Legislature, the most effective instrument, for the success of the system. Only a balanced projection of the Parliament in action can encourage a healthy culture for healthy debates. In this, the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies can play a crucial role by discharging the great responsibility of ensuring freedom of thought and expression to all shades of opinion represented in the House. We, in fact, are required to be the custodians of the rights and privileges of the Members as well as the very fundamentals of our polity. We have to protect as well as discipline the freedom towards making our system responsive to genuine grievances and difficulties voiced in the House. We have to ensure that our Legislature works as a great integrator bringing together the diverse interests and forces of the society with mutual respect and civility.

It is against this backdrop that Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal has been unanimously elected to the office of the Deputy-Speaker. It is a great tribute to the goodwill, intellect and varied contributions throughout his political career. Hailing from the vibrant State of Punjab and representing the Phillaur constituency in the State, Shri Atwal was elected as a member of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha in 1977

and was elected to the Eighth Lok Sabha in 1985. Having actively guided the multifarious activities of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha as its Speaker, Shri Atwal would certainly give us the privilege of benefiting from his experience of conducting the proceedings of the House in a disciplined manner. His unopposed election to this august office would certainly add to the dignity of the office as well as that of this august House.

We earnestly believe that his deep insight and wide experience in the Field of social equality, upliftment of the weaker sections and development of the rural society would immensely contribute to the enrichment of parliamentary debates.

I am sure that with his political acumen in dexterity and longstanding experience, Shri Atwal will certainly carve out a niche for himself in the history of parliamentary democracy.

Shri Atwalji, I once again congratulate you and wish you the very best in carrying out the tasks ahead of you with firmness and persuasiveness. It is my firm belief that both me, as the Speaker, and you, as the Deputy-Speaker, would make good team in maintaining the independence of thinking, action and conduct on the floor of the House in a more dignified and decorous manner. As a matter of fact, Bengal and Punjab are natural allies. May I look forward to working in close co-operation with you towards strengthening and taking our Parliament to greater heights thereby making our nation proud of our democratic system!

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur) : Sir, first of all, I thank Almighty God who has blessed me with this opportunity to address this august House as the Deputy-Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji, hon. Leader of the Lok Sabha, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advaniji, hon. leaders of the other parties and hon. Members, it is indeed a great honour for me to be felicitated by you all on my assumption of the office of the Deputy-Speaker. By electing me unanimously to this high Constitutional position, the Members of Lok Sabha have bestowed a great honour on me. I thank every

one of you wholeheartedly for this honour. I am really overwhelmed by the warm references made about me. In fact, I do not know how to express my feelings. I can only say that I accept the responsibility entrusted to me with all humility. I shall strive hard to uphold the trust that has been reposed in me.

Friends, though I have been elected as the Deputy-Speaker of this House for the first time, I am not new to parliamentary institutions and parliamentary procedures. I have been a Member of this House and have had the privilege of serving as the Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha. My personal experience and rich traditions maintained by my predecessors will guide me in performing my duties and upholding the dignity of this august office.

I take this opportunity to heartily congratulate Shri Somnath Chatterjee you, Sir, on having been elected unanimously to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha. I assure you, Sir, that you will always have my fullest co-operation in manning this hon. House.

I also extend my warm and hearty felicitations to all the hon. Members who have had the privilege and honour of being elected to this House, which is the popular chamber of the largest working democracy in the world. I am sure I can always count on your co-operation in the discharge of my duties efficiently and impartially.

Friends, legislatures are the institutions of democracy through which we seek to serve the people. Being the supreme representative institutions of the people, they should work as role models for other institutions and organisations in the country and maintain high standards of work, discipline and decorum. I believe that the credibility of the Legislature is intimately related to the role and conduct of its Members.

12.00 hrs.

As people's representatives, they are expected to observe very high standards of decorum both inside and outside the Legislature and to help maintain its sanctity.

Debates and discussions are the lifeblood of Parliamentary democracy. Therefore, all sections of this House need to be given opportunities of express their views so that different shades of opinion could be placed before this hon. House on the matter under discussion.

In the era of coalition government, management of the time of the House is very crucial and orderly conduct of the House is a challenging task. On many occasions, the differences of opinion among leaders and Members on some contentious issues lead to a deadlock, which, I think, could be resolved by holding regular consultations and meetings with the leaders of all political parties and groups.

We are all representatives of the people and it is the duty of each one of us to conduct ourselves in a manner which would enhance the dignity of this august House and enable it to function effectively.

Hon. Members, despite having made considerable progress since Independence, our country is still confronted with problems of poverty, unemployment, socio-economic disparities, etc. If we have to provide dignified existence to our people, these problems are to be discussed and solved in this House. The examples of the selfless service rendered by the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and struggle for social justice and *dalit* empowerment undertaken by Dr. Ambedkarji, one of the founders of our Constitution, would always inspire us in our own efforts to bring about an improvement in the lives of our poor and down-trodden countrymen.

Parliament reflects the hopes and aspirations of the people and offers meaningful advice, guidance and suggestions to the Government in accomplishing its role of all-round development of the nation. In this task, the role and contribution of every Member of Parliament is very crucial.

Hon. Members, I shall look forward to your co-operation in conducting the business of the House smoothly. As the Deputy-Speaker of the House, it would be my foremost duty to protect the rights and privileges of hon. Members.

I thank all the Members of this august House, which is the sanctum sanctorum not only of the Indian democracy but also of all democracies of the world. By thanking you all Members, I also thank the people of the great nation who have bestowed faith in you in order that with your representation you would make the Constitution fairer and fairer, so that the quality of life is considerably improved.

With these words, I once again thank all of you for the trust reposed in me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I look forward to working in close co-operation with you in the days ahead.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. I wish you all the best, Mr. Deputy-Speaker.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

News item, 'Air-strike delay cost lives : Kargil Report'

12.04 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up statement to be made by Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all the issue regarding tainted Ministers should be settled...(Interruptions) Until they are dropped, no statement etc. will be taken up...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my attention has been drawn to the article published in the *Hindustan Times*...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can lay the statement. The statement will be treated as laid.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, my attention has been drawn to the article published in the *Hindustan Times* which suggests that for lack of decisive action by the then political leadership there was a loss of 474 men to the Indian Army and this also allowed Pakistan to wrest the initial advantage. The facts of the case are detailed below.

On 3rd May, 1999 the first information about an intrusion having taken place in Kargil came to the knowledge of the army Authorities. Between 25th May, 1999 and 26th July, 1999 the CCS was briefed on the various developments that were taking place. On the 26th of July, 1999 the Kargil operations were formally declared as over.

As with every war, so too with Kargil, the Indian Army in September, 2000 prepared a 6 volume classified, report to record the events and analyse the success and failures, shortcomings and strengths of the warlike situation in Kargil. The preparation of an abridged version of this report was taken up in July, 2003 and completed in January, 2004. This report is prepared for the purposes of campaign study in promotion examinations. As these are documents prepared for internal use for training purposes the Ministry of Defence has not been involved in any way with the preparation of these reports.

This 'in-house' report mentions the fact that despite Army asking for the employment of air power from 8th May, 1999 the CCS gave approval for the same on the 25th May, 1999. During this period the Chief of Air Staff was taking the view that air power at those heights could not be properly utilised as helicopters would be extremely vulnerable & there would be danger of escalation of the conflict. His view was that before committing air power political clearance should be obtained which was finally done on 25th May, 1999.

Hon. Members are aware of the circumstances in which the Kargil Review Committee, also popularly known as the Subramaniam Committee, was constituted by the then Government on 29th July 1999. A copy of the Kargil Report is already available with the hon. Members. The then Government had constituted a Group of Ministers to examine the recommendations of the Committee as well as four other task forces that were set up to examine in-depth the recommendations of the Subramaniam Committee. The recommendations of the Group of Ministers were approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in May 2001 and most of the measures have already been implemented by the previous Government.

One of the questions raised in the *Hindustan Times* article is that the casualties of 474 could have been avoided if air power had been used from the beginning. I wish there had been no casualties at all. However, I have been told that between 8th May, 1999 and 25th May, 1999 the number of casualties were 35. From 26th May, 1999 to the end of the Kargil operation on 26th July, 1999 the number of casualties was 439 (including six Air Force officers). The total casualties are thus 474. It would be seen that the time taken for giving clearance to deploy air power was

not the reason for higher casualties. After all, it was a difficult war fought from a position of disadvantage. The members of our Armed Forces demonstrated indomitable courage, fighting abilities, evicted the enemy and won the war.

Regarding the use of air power the Army had on 8th May, 1999 projected the requirement of attack helicopters for use against the enemy and also helicopters for transport of troops. This was considered between 12th May, 1999 and 17th May, 1999 and it was decided not to use this option as it may lead to escalation.

On 25th May, 1999 after a fuller and in-depth appreciation of the emerging situation the CCS took the decision to deploy the Indian Air Force. Finally on 25th May, 1999 the CCS gave the go ahead for use of air power.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we shall now take up the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want 'Zero Hour'?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till Two o'clock.

12.05 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*]

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.

(Interruptions)

*Treated as laid on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want that?

(I) **Need to set up Sixth Pay Commission for Central Government employees and also look into their other grievances.**

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (New Delhi) : Central Government Employees are the arms of Government through whom, any Government under a democratic setup, fulfils its programmes and policies. Coming from different parts and settled in alien terrain, they are spread in every nook and corner of our vast motherland. With them, they spread their language, rich culture and heritage. Thus symbolising a true sense of National Integration. In order to ensure that this organ of our society discharge its duties efficiently, diligently and honestly, we should ensure that this section of the society is provided with adequate job security, social security and retirement benefits essential for a just and honest living. In the past few years, the Central Government employees have a feeling of neglect and apathy. I thus suggest the following to be implemented in order to mitigate any such feeling:—

- (a) Setting up of 6th Pay Commission which is due since 1st January 2003.
 - (b) Raising of limit of jobs on compassionate grounds from 5% to 20%.
 - (c) Raising of Income Tax limits
 - (d) Making no change in the retirement age and keeping intact retirement benefits for new entrants into Government service.
- (II) **Need to Provide adequate compensation to the farmers of Hanumangarh district in Sriganganagar Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan whose lands were acquired by the Air Force in 1995.**

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Air Force was awarded 47500 acres of land in Rawatsar town of Hanumangarh district in my Parliamentary constituency Sriganganagar by the Central government in 1995, but compensation has not been provided so far. The

Central Government either immediately provide compensation or the land be returned to the farmers. The lives of farmers have been ruined and they cannot undertake any construction work as compensation has not been provided to them.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to provide the compensation to the farmers immediately.

(iii) Need to construct Railway overbridges at Fatehganj West and Mirganj in Bareilly, U.P.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is urgent need of railway overbridges at Fatehganj West and Mirganj in my constituency, Bareilly, which is located at National Highway No.24 (Delhi-Lucknow road). I have already requested the hon'ble Minister of Railways in this matter. Due to heavy traffic on this National highway, vehicles have to stop for a long time and lot of time gets wasted.

I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that keeping in view the heavy traffic and the inconvenience of passengers approval be granted for the construction of railway overbridges at Fatehganj West and Mirganj in Bareilly

(iv) Need to expedite completion of broad gauge rail link on Ajmer-Pushkar section in Rajasthan.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, about four years ago it was decided to provide rail link between Ajmer city, the heart of Rajasthan and famous place for tourism and Pushkar, the holy city of Lord Brahma but despite the approval of the Government of India the pace of the work is very slow and the work of land acquisition has not yet been completed. If Pushkar is linked with broad gauge, it would be a great facility for Pushkar where lacs of people gather every year from every corner of the country and it will also encourage the pilgrimage and tourism.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Govt. that the pre-approved plan of linking Ajmer-Pushkar with broad-gauge be completed immediately at war-footing level.

(v) Need to provide mobile telephone facility of B.S.N.L. in all tehsils of Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon) : Mr. Speaker Sir, my parliamentary constituency, Jalgaon is a main industrial area in Maharashtra. Banana is the main agricultural produce here. Banana is transported all over the country from here. In a large number banana traders reach here. But mobile telephone facility of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is not yet available in all tehsils here. Rawer, Yawal, Jamner and Mustainagar tehsils are deprived of mobile telephone facility. Adequate Mobile telephone facility of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is not available in all villages of Jalgaon and Bhusawal tehsils.

Therefore, through you, I want to request the hon'ble Minister of Communications to issue necessary orders to introduce mobile telephone service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited immediately the all said tehsils of Jalgaon, Maharashtra parliamentary constituency.

[English]

(vi) Need to Include the Marati community of Kasargod, Kerala in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : The Marati in Kasaragod (Kerala) were included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in 1956 and ever since they were legitimately enjoying all the benefits. But without any proper verification or assessment they were removed from the list in 1999. The Government of Kerala opposed it and strongly recommended their retention in the ST list. The SC/ST sub-committee of the Kerala Assembly also recommended the same. The National Commission for SC/ST, after visiting the area, took the same decision. As a result of the unjustified exclusion, the Marati students are deprived of all benefits which they were enjoying since 1956. The community is denied of all benefits including the one for house construction.

The Marati community has all the tribal characteristics – they are a primitive tribe with a distinctive culture. They are geographically isolated with no contact with other communities. Their backwardness is distinct.

I invite the attention of the concerned Minister to take urgent steps to include the Marati community of Kasaragod in the ST list.

(vii) Need to protect the interest of Jute growers and Jute industry.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Millions of jute growers and workers of jute industry would be adversely affected due to Ministry of Textiles Notification bearing No. SO 506(E) dated 16th April, 2004, drastically reducing the reservation percentage for compulsory use of jute bags for packing foodgrains from 100% to 60% and for sugar from 90% to 50% under Jute Packaging Materials Act. The JPM Act, 1987 was promulgated on the 9th May, 1987 to provide for compulsory use of jute packaging material in supply and distribution of certain commodities. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by its judgement dated 25th April, 1996 has upheld the legality and the validity of the JPM Act, 1987.

I, therefore, urge upon the new Central Government :

1. To withdraw Ministry of Textiles Notification No. S.O. 506(E) dated the 16th April, 2004 forthwith.

2. To ensure that jute continues under the Essential Commodities Act and the Jute and Jute Textiles Control Order, 2000 continues with power of Jute Commissioner to regulate production and supply of jute goods.

3. The buying of raw jute at Minimum Support Price by the Jute Corporation of India continues and so does the supply of the same by the J.C.I. under the B.T. will linked formula.

4. A 'National Policy on Jute' be formulated for future growth of the jute sector.

(viii) Need to take steps for Desilting of Barna River in Phulpur Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD (Phulpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is Barna river in Pratap Pur, falling under my parliamentary constituency Phulpur, which is flooded during the rainy season. Besides several other rivers merges with it in this

area as a result thousands of acres of farmers' land from neighbouring villages remains sub-merged throughout the year due to which the farmers are on the verge of starvation.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to ensure desilting of above mentioned river and resolve the problem of drainage so that farmers may cultivate their land.

(ix) Need for Speedy Implementation of Indo-Nepal Joint River Valley project.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bihar have to face the catastrophe of flood every year which causes large scale losses of life and property. Since most of the rivers of this area originate from the sub-mountain region of Himalaya the problem of flood can be tackled by checking the heavy inflow of the water at the origin place of these rivers besides, it would also help in generating adequate electricity. After Independence, the first elected Government of India, in consultation with Government of Nepal proposed Jal Kundi, Karnali and Bhali dam projects but even after elapsing about five decades the work on these projects has not yet been started as a result of which crores of people are facing hardships. Through this August House, I demand the Government that immediate and positive steps should be taken for the completion of these river valley projects at the earliest.

[English]

(x) Need to formulate a new policy to help the co-operative sugar industry in Maharashtra.

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (Kolhapur) : Sir, the sugar industry, especially co-operative sugar industry in entire India is facing acute financial problems. The sugar factories established and functioning before 1999 were able to avail of financial facilities given by Sampat Committee Report, however, the factories started later are not given these incentives. This coupled with steep rise in present sugar rates caused a catastrophic effect on co-operative sugar factories mostly located in Maharashtra.

Levy sugar rates are now higher than free sugar sale rates which has resulted in heavy stock-piling with factories.

Sugar factories have to dole out Rs.85 per tone by way of Excise and other Taxes out of which Rs.34/- goes to Central Government. A concession in this tax is required and refund for period of eight years be given to tide over financial problem. Now, the loans are not available from IDBI/ICICI but are to be raised from outside agencies at the rate of 17%.

It is suggested that new factories functioning after 1999 should be given Excise/Tax concession and monetary incentives on lines of Sampat Committee.

Through your good offices, I request the Food/Agriculture Ministry to formulate a new policy to help sugar industry.

- (xi) **Need to provide adequate compensation and employment to the children of people whose lands were acquired by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Chidambaram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.**

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram) : Neyveli Lignite Corporation is a profit making PSU in my constituency Chidambaram which has earned Rs.1,200 crore profit last year. NLC had come up because of lands given by thousands of people who were promised jobs, compensation and better facilities in that area.

They need their wards be employed, due compensation paid and drinking water and water for irrigation supplied. None of these happened till date satisfactorily. People are agitated over the issue.

I would like to urge upon the Government to issue orders to NLC to employ the sons and daughters of the land losers, to provide water for irrigation and drinking and to pay adequate compensation immediately, lest people of the area will be compelled to do agitation for the redressal of their grievances.

- (xii) **Need to take suitable measures to safeguard the interests of farmers in Andhra Pradesh.**

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : In the month of May, 2004, hundreds of farmers in Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide due to debts incurred for agricultural purpose. It is strange that suicides should increase exponentially after a financial package was announced for families of farmers who have died.

I request the Prime Minister to come out with a national policy to prevent such disasters and send some experts to visit Andhra Pradesh immediately and study the problems of farmers. The Union Government should ask the State Government to go in for long term solutions like crop pattern changes as free power does not mean that a farmer could cultivate his fields. The issue of rural indebtedness in general and how it affected the farmers should also be examined.

I, therefore, once again request the hon'ble Prime Minister's intervention in the matter to prevent farmers' suicides especially in Andhra Pradesh.

- (xiii) **Need to clear Durgadurai Mini Tidal Power project in West Bengal.**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : The west Bengal Government has submitted a detailed project report for the Durgadurai mini tidal power plant three years back. The project is pending with the Planning Commission. But no decision has been taken so far.

The estimated cost of the project was Rs.30 crore and it is very important for the backward and poverty stricken people of Sunderbans. Tidal power is abundantly available in the area which can be harnessed for the generation of electricity. The Centre is also providing 90 per cent subsidy for the project.

The project, when implemented would benefit several villages of the area. Otherwise the area is continuously facing energy crisis. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for the early clearance of the project so that work can be started as early as possible.

- (xiv) **Need to clear all pending flood and erosion control proposals of the Government of Assam.**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : I draw the attention of the Government about the problem of "flood and erosion" affecting primarily Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, U.P. and many other States which cause huge loss to the national exchequer every year. All developmental activities suffer badly in affected areas and people are subjected to unlimited human miseries. The recurring devastation

caused in Assam by floods associated with severe erosion render thousands of families homeless and landless year after year. In the recent years existence of many civil subdivision in Assam from Sadiya to Dhuburi including Majuli, Sadiya, Jonai, Dhakukhana, Dhemaji and Lakhimpur are threatened due to erosion.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to frame a national policy to declare flood and erosion as a national problem instead of shifting the burdens to only State Governments. Immediately, all the flood control proposals pending clearances in various Central Ministries including Water Resources, Planning Commission and DONER, like improvement of dyke from Deurighat-Sisi Kolghar-Tekeliphuta-Besamora-Dakhinpat-Auniati, Bhimpora to Ghonchapari, erosion control at Katori Chapori, Kundil River, Dirak Chumoni should be cleared. The Brahmaputra Board should be instructed to complete the various works like erosion protection of Majuli island, Anata Nola from Dhola to Guijan, immediately.

(xv) **Need to enhance the drug research activities in Jammu and Kashmir.**

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla) : The closure of drug-research laboratory activities in Kashmir province have limited the possibilities of research and development in the field of research and commercial production of valuable herbs. Kashmir has an environment to grow the medicinal plants of high value. In view of the unemployment of educated persons and technocrats in the valley particularly, it is highly desired that the scope and research activities in the field of drug research be enhanced and the closure of drug research farming in Tangmarg and Kupwara areas be reviewed, so that the tested medicinal plants be propagated for commercial production.

14.0½ hrs.

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

Text of Amendments

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : 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 any assurance about commissioning Paradeep Oil Refinery, Orissa at an early date." (3)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps to remove regional disparities amongst the States especially of Orissa" (4)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the specific steps to be taken no control the floods, cyclone and droughts in the country to mitigate the sufferings of the people." (5)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the approving the proposal of declaring the Waterways of Sundarbans as the National Waterways." (6)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Orissa as a special category State in view of its economic backwardness" (7)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : 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 plight of the farmers due to distress sale of paddy and other agricultural products and any specific plan to redress the problems of farmers." (13)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government initiative to start the work of the Oil Refinery Project at Paradeep in Orissa, which is pending since long." (14)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the special package for underdeveloped States like Orissa where the percent of people living below poverty line is highest in the country." (15)

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani) : 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 inclusion of Kondhamal District of Orissa in the K.B.K. Scheme of Government of India, though Kondhamal is the most backward district of India predominantly inhabited by SC/ST population." (16)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the speedy completion of Railway link from Khordha to Bolangir under East Coast Railway Zone." (17)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : 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 the handicapped and mentally retarded." (45)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the

Address about the effective steps to be taken to rescue the farmers and the poor who are in great debts and about to commit suicide."(46)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the criminalisation of politics and the menace of corruption and the steps to combat them." (47)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps to be taken to ensure that common man does not suffer due to hartals and bandhs organised by political parties." (48)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the huge loss of farmers due to floods and natural calamities and the manner in which such situations are dealt with." (49)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : 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 to protect the interest of the small investors especially in small savings of the Government." (54)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about flow of finance from industrialised states to Backward States and low investment by Banks and other financial institutions in backward States." (55)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the industrialization of those States which are mineral rich and nearer to the coast." (56)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government in providing special economic/financial package for the development of backward States, especially Orissa." (57)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to declare Odissi music as classical music." (58)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for completing Subhash Chandra Bose All India Institute of Medical Science at Bhubaneshwar on time." (59)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for expanding road facilities in backward state like Orissa with Central assistance." (60)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about completion of Paradeep Oil Refinery by the *end* of this Plan Period." (61)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing special opportunities to the cyclone—prone areas for development." (62)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about waiving all loans of farmers who have suffered due to cyclone, flood or drought." (63)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need of balanced economic development in the country and a special package for Orissa." (64)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the causes and cure of persistent backwardness of certain areas like Orissa even after 57 years of Independence despite the presence of abundant natural and human resources." (65)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the upward revision of royalty on minerals." (66)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the speedy construction of Indian Oil refinery at Paradeep." (67)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the construction of second rail bridge over Mahanadi, Kathajodi." (68)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda) : 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 any Special Package for speedy development of backward states especially Bihar." (108)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about initiating a dialogue with the Govt. of Nepal to check heavy inflow of river water which causes-heavy losses and also about better management of river water." (109)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing reservations to dalits of minority community on the lines of Scheduled Castes so as to create sense of security and making them participate in country's development." (110)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any step to be taken for making barren and waste land cultivable for agricultural development in the country." (111)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound action plan to bridge vast gap in agricultural production in different parts of the country and to make uncultivable land cultivable one." (112)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any targeted plan to bring down the cost of agricultural products for development of agriculture in the country." (113)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound action plan for eradication of unemployment in the country." (114)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about identifying industries and sectors for generation of employment in the country." (115)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound action plan for opening of schools in rural areas for providing education to one and all." (116)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound action plan for connecting all the villages in the country with roads." (117)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any targeted plan for connecting rivers in the country for better water management." (118)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound targeted action plan for increasing skilled labours in the country which is only 6% at present." (119)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound action plan for bringing entire agriculture land under irrigated area." (120)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any country wide action plan for harvesting rain water for enhancing its availability of water." (121)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound targeted action plan for providing social amenities to common men in the country." (122)

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

"but regret that the Address does not show any concern about gross violation of human rights in Iraq." (123)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to bring down prices of petroleum products, electricity and coal under New Fuel Policy in the country." (124)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any effective step for generation and transmission of power as per the installed capacity of Power Plants." (125)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any action plan for reducing

power loss in distribution and transmission of power which is almost 50% at present and bringing it at the global level." (126)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of steps for providing fuel, transportation and capital at cheaper rates and facilitating its availability so as to make country's industries, trade and agriculture **competitive** in the global market." (127)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of laying more emphasis on production in place of export under the Economic Policy". (128)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of any time bound action plan for bringing down excise duty and import duty on consumer products in the country to international level." (129)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of any action plan for investing country's huge foreign exchange reserve in some production field." (130)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of any effective action plan for bringing drastic changes in Public Distribution System and make it corruption free and people friendly." (131)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : 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 providing telephone facility in rural areas of Rajasthan and other states in a time-bound manner." (240)

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 for providing regular employment to crores of unemployed youth in the country and also 'work for one and all' and 'water for every field'." (241)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about expansion of basic medical facilities in rural areas of the country and also about setting up of medical institutes like the AIMS in every state." (242)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any nationwide scheme for connecting the remaining villages with pucca roads and also about repairing the already constructed roads which are in bad state." (243)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about immediate exploitation of the petroleum and natural gas reserves already found, exploration of new petroleum reserves and setting up of new oil refinery in Rajasthan." (244)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about completion of already sanctioned

railway projects in a definite time-frame and introducing unigauge system in the country." (245)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up a central university in Rajasthan." (246)

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 providing special assistance for development of border states like Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab." (247)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up industries with the central assistance in industrially backward districts particularly in Ajmer Markare region." (248)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about assurance for development, extension and maintenance of Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan." (249)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about construction of an airport in Ajmer which is the hub of education, tourism and religion." (250)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any measure to deal with the drought and famine problems ravaging Rajasthan every year." (251)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about launching a special recruitment drive to recruit the youth from Rajasthan in the Armed Forces and Para Military Forces." (252)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete scheme for the welfare of lakhs of ex-servicemen in the country." (253)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing reservation to the economically weaker sections of society in the country." (254)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulation of National Water Policy and the need for optimum utilisation of river water in the needy areas by interlinking rivers". (282)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increase and further development of national forest resources and maintaining ecological balance." (283)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulation of National Security Policy and National Nuclear Policy." (284)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about policy steps to be taken to check

increasing population and to promote Family Planning Programme." (285)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulation of concrete policy for National Disaster Management." (286)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about prohibition of cow slaughter." (287)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementation of constitutional provisions relating to Official Language Hindi after the specified period and permitting the use of Official Language in the Supreme Court and High Courts in their day to day working." (288)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulation of a policy for promotion and development of world's ancient language Sanskrit." (289)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any assurance regarding inclusion of Rajasthani, the mother tongue of 5 crore Rajasthanis, in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution." (290)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about concrete measures to be taken to root out corruption by passing the Lok Pal Bill and appointing Lok Pal thereunder." (291)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any assurance regarding special economic package for Rajasthan, which is most drought prone State and having Thar desert as its part." (292)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete scheme to solve the potable water crisis within stipulated timeframe in the villages of Rajasthan where water with fluoride contents is used for drinking purposes." (293)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about policy regarding exploration, extraction and mining of mineral resources of the country particularly along Aravali mountain ranges." (294)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the

Address about formulation of concrete National Youth Policy to motivate them to channalise their energy towards constructive works." (295)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete alternative in case of repeal of POTA to firmly deal with increasing terrorism." (296)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of tainted Ministers should be taken up first...(*Interruptions*) The tainted Ministers should be removed.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 am on Thursday, June 10, 2004.

1401 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, June 10, 2004/ Jyaistha 20, 1926(Saka).

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