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CONTENTS

PAGE

ADDRESSES

| | |
|---|----|
| Centennial Celebration of the All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) - <i>cum-</i> 82 nd Conference of AIPOC Shimla, 16-19 November 2021 | 1 |
| - <i>Address by the Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar</i> | 2 |
| - <i>Address by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh</i> | 4 |
| - <i>Address by the Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shri Jai Ram Thakur</i> | 8 |
| - <i>Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, and Chairman of All India Presiding Officers Conference, Shri Om Birla</i> | 12 |
| - <i>Address by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi</i> | 14 |
| Resolution - Adopted at the 82 nd All India Presiding Officers Conference - <i>cum-</i> Centennial Year Celebration, Shimla, 16-19 November 2021 | 20 |
| Constitution Day Celebrations in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi on 26 November 2021 | 23 |
| - <i>Address by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Coal & Mines, Shri Pralhad Joshi</i> | 24 |
| - <i>Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla</i> | 25 |
| - <i>Address by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi</i> | 27 |
| - <i>Address by the Vice-President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu</i> | 31 |
| - <i>Address by the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind</i> | 35 |
| Centennial Celebration of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament of India on 4-5 December 2021 | 39 |

| | |
|---|----|
| - <i>Address by the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, Parliament, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury at the Inaugural Function</i> | 40 |
| - <i>Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla at the Inaugural Session</i> | 44 |
| - <i>Address by the Vice-President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu</i> | 47 |
| - <i>Address by the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind</i> | 52 |
| - <i>Address by the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, Parliament, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury at the Valedictory Function</i> | 56 |
| - <i>Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla at the Valedictory Session</i> | 62 |

SHORT NOTE

| | |
|---|----|
| 100 Years of All India Presiding Officers' Conference | 67 |
|---|----|

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---|----|
| Conferences and Symposia | 71 |
| Birth Anniversaries of National Leaders | 76 |
| Exchange of Parliamentary Delegations | 79 |
| Parliamentary Research & Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) | 80 |
| Members' Reference Service | 83 |

PROCEDURAL MATTERS 84

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS 89

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST 96

SESSIONAL REVIEW

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Lok Sabha | 103 |
| Rajya Sabha | 123 |
| State Legislatures | 130 |

RECENT LITERATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST 131

APPENDICES

- I. Statement showing the work transacted during Seventh Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha 137
- II. Statement showing the work transacted during the 255th Session of the Rajya Sabha 142
- III. Statement showing the activities of the Legislatures of the States and Union Territories during the period 1 October to 31 December 2021 148
- IV. List of Bills Passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President during the period 1 October to 31 December 2021 155
- V. List of Bills passed by the Legislatures of the States and the Union Territories during the period 1 October to 31 December 2021 156
- VI. Ordinances promulgated by the Union and State Governments during the period 1 October to 31 December 2021 162
- VII. Party Position in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the Legislatures of the States and the Union Territories. 168

**CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE ALL INDIA PRESIDING
OFFICERS CONFERENCE (AIPOC) -CUM- 82ND CONFERENCE OF AIPOC
SHIMLA, 16-19 NOVEMBER 2021**

The All India Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India (AIPOC) celebrated its Centennial Year in Shimla, from 16 to 19 November 2021. The first Conference was held in Simla in September, 1921 – the same year in which the first bicameral Legislature, constituted under the Government of India Act, 1919, came into being at the Centre. Sir Frederick Whyte, became the first nominated President of the Central Legislative Assembly, who laid down the foundation of the Conference of the Presidents (now called Presiding Officers) and presided over the first Conference on 14 and 16 September 1921.

Commemorating the Centennial Year of the Conference, the 82nd AIPOC was organised at the place where it originated in 1921 - Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The Conference deliberated on two main subjects - (i) *Journey of a Century: Evaluation and the way forward*, and (ii) *Responsibility of Presiding Officers towards the Constitution, the House and the people*.

The 58th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was also organised during the 82nd AIPOC at Shimla. Since its inception in 1953, the Conference of Secretaries is regularly organised prior to the Conference of Presiding Officers at the same venue.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated by joining the Inaugural Function virtually. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the 82nd AIPOC, Shri Om Birla; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Jairam Thakur, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Hon'ble Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar; addressed during the function.

The Centennial Celebration of the All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) -cum- 82nd Conference of AIPOC at Shimla concluded with the adoption of a Resolution.

Text of Addresses of the Inaugural Function are reproduced below:

**WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE SPEAKER, HIMACHAL PRADESH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, SHRI VIPIN SINGH PARMAR AT THE
INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATIONS
-CUM- 82ND ALL INDIA PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE (AIPOC)
SHIMLA, ON 17 NOVEMBER 2021**

We are honoured to be a part of this august gathering at the Inaugural Ceremony of this Conference and privileged to receive guidance virtually from our respected Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi *ji*. With many achievements to his credit and endowed with extraordinary talent, Shri Modi *ji* has invoked national pride in millions of the people as leader of the masses. I felicitate and welcome him from the bottom of my heart from the Council Chamber of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Hundred years ago, it was here in Shimla when the first President, Sir Fredrick Whyte, an expert on democracy and a Member of the House of Commons, addressed the Presiding Officers' Conference. Shri Om Birla *ji* extended the opportunity to Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly in Shimla to host Centenary Year Celebrations. I also extend warm welcome to the Chairperson of the AIPOC.

The first Presiding Officers' Conference was held hundred years ago, and now we all stand witness to this historic moment after hundred years; years - 1921 and 2021 would find special mention in the annals of history. I welcome Hon'ble Shri Om Birla *ji* for whom I have great respect. Respected Om Birla *ji* is source of our power and inspiration and we receive guidance from him too; my compliments to you Sir. My compliments to Shri Jai Ram Thakur *ji*. We reposed our trust in your cooperation and guidance and that has enabled us to organize this event. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh *ji*, Leader of Opposition in Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Mukesh Agnihotri *ji*; Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. Hans Raj *ji*; Hon'ble Presiding Officers from various States of the country and the Secretaries from Legislative Assemblies of various States present in the Council Chamber, Hon'ble Ministers, MLAs, MPs and mediapersons present here. I once again thank you and welcome you all.

We have the privilege of organizing this event for the seventh time. I would like to recall that in the year 1921, Frederic Whyte was nominated first President of Central Legislative Assembly. In the year 1925, Shri Vitthal Bhai Patel who was elected to the Assembly from the Swaraj Party became its President defeating the British Representative. The history of the place is replete with many such achievements and I believe that more than 1300 motions have been passed in this August House. Indian women should be granted the right to vote; a motion in this regard was passed here in the year 1925. The water flowing in the rivers, streams and rivulets is not just water, it is very valuable and we should get royalty for its use. A motion to this effect was also passed here. A motion regarding maintenance allowance for the senior citizens was also passed here. Every Legislature should have a Assembly Secretariat; this motion was also passed here and these were enacted later on.

As time is short, I would just like to say that this Legislative Assembly is ranked among the best Legislative Assemblies. It is the first Legislative Assembly where Hon'ble MLAs get information regarding development works on their Android phones. I would also like to say that it is the endeavour of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly to give new momentum and new direction to development of the State with the help of technology. *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* is going on and recently the Hon'ble President of India addressed us on this platform only to mark the Golden Jubilee of Himachal Pradesh's Statehood and now we have got this opportunity in the form of Centennial Celebrations.

My compliments to all the Speakers of this Legislative Assembly as well as all the former Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh for their efforts to enable the State to touch new horizons. Their efforts have gone a long way in setting the State on the path of development. With these words, I would like to say that I am deeply obliged to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. I thank you all for gracing the occasion. I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for joining us virtually and am deeply obliged to him for his words of wisdom.

Jai Hind, Jai Himachal !

**ADDRESS OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA, SHRI HARIVANSH
AT THE CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATIONS -CUM- 82ND CONFERENCE OF
AIPOC, SHIMLA ON 17 NOVEMBER 2021**

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji; Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla Ji; Hon. Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shri Jairam Thakur ji; Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar ji; Deputy Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Dr. Hans Raj ji; Presiding Officers from across the country who have come to attend this 82nd Conference organized on the occasion of completion of 100 years of All India Presiding Officers Conference; Ministers and Members of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Secretary-General of Lok Sabha; Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha; Secretary of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hon'ble Prime Minister is present here virtually on this occasion. I extend a warm welcome to him and express my gratitude to him and thank him. On completion of 50 glorious years of formation of the State of Himachal Pradesh, I congratulate the government of the State, the Legislative Assembly and the people of the State for achieving remarkable progress and development. I would also like to thank the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha who has selected two apt topics for discussion on the eve of completion of 100 years of this Conference. The first topic is - *'Journey of a Century: Evaluation and the Way Forward'*. The second topic is - *'Responsibility of Presiding Officers towards the Constitution, the House and the People.'*

This is a momentous occasion. This is a historic occasion. This is an occasion to look back at the past and the history of the last 100 years. At the same time, this is also an occasion to accept the responsibility of shaping the next 100 years. Besides, this is also the time when we are celebrating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

The world of today, in this 21st century, is technology driven. Artificial Intelligence is going to become all pervasive in the coming times. Data is going to

become the driving force of our destiny. Virtual currencies and financial technology firms, climate change, clean energy, etc. are the concepts that are transforming the future of human beings and this planet. Furthermore, we are also bearing the brunt of Covid-19 calamity. In this globally connected world of 21st century, there are many such issues that are posing various challenges before India, humanity and the planet. The question is whether our parliamentary or legislative system and laws are up to these challenges? Are we prepared to bring in institutional changes in these systems and laws in accordance with the changing times? Is the pace of change in tune with the need of the time?

Here, I would like to quote the greatest futurist Ray Kurzweil. He says that

-

“Within a few decades, machine intelligence will surpass human intelligence, leading to the singularity - technological change so rapid and profound it presents a rupture in the fabric of human history.”

What Ray Kurzweil is saying is that in this era, from the year 2021, artificial intelligence will completely change the human civilization and the existing order. A question arises in my mind as to whether our legislature, government or administration is evolving in keeping with the changing times to reap the advantage of the opportunities presented by these circumstances? We require a dynamic legislature in these circumstances. We need a dynamic legislature which would adapt and evolve to make its institutions relevant to the modern times and the future. For example, significant work is being done in Britain by the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. This important body collects facts on crucial issues of future and provides resources to the ‘House of Commons’ and the ‘House of Lords’ so that they can examine and study these issues and make policy decisions accordingly. Similarly, the work of ‘Futures Committee’ in Finland is to identify the issues which might affect the country in the future and also to develop deep understanding of such issues. Now, we should also take such an initiative without any further delay. The country and the society

have to pay a huge price for any delay in the enactment and implementation of requisite laws. I have mentioned earlier that if we do not make laws in a timely manner and do not keep pace with the changing times then we will have to pay a huge socio-economic cost. This was also mentioned in Kevadia (Venue of the last AIPOC). Besides, I would also like to briefly mention that obsolete laws need to be repealed. Hon'ble Prime Minister had given the example of one such law in his Independence Day speech. That example was a revelation for me. I am trying to learn about old laws. There was a law that was in force since last 200 years in the country. The law was of pre-1857 era. "Ramanujam Committee" was formed on the behest of Hon'ble Prime Minister which identified obsolete Central legislature. About 1479 laws were repealed between 2014 and 2019. But, such an initiative is yet to be expedited in the states. We received information from nine states after I took personal initiative in the matter. Between 2003 and 2020, Karnataka has repealed 1300 obsolete laws. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh has repealed 500 obsolete laws during the last four years. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have also taken steps in this direction. But, other states are yet to do so. In the same manner, I am presenting one example regarding one law from amongst various such laws. We need to view everything from a new perspective. Let us take the example of assurances given on the floor of the House. We had also mentioned this yesterday in the meeting of the Standing Committee. Several Hon'ble Speakers had informed that many assurances are pending for about 25-30 years. Similarly, 842 assurances are pending in Rajya Sabha for the last ten years. This is also the case with many of the assurances in Lok Sabha. These assurances go back many years. Do we have any idea about any provision for these in the Budget? A lot of money and energy of our country is used-up in the meetings of our Committees. Why do we carry forward such futile things? We have a responsibility on our shoulders to make laws that are relevant for the next 100 years. We also discussed if any notable laws have been framed in the country and the society during the last 100 years. Why do we not discontinue such things? Should not we review other such provisions?

The present Conference is a historic one. This year is the 100th year of this Conference. At this juncture, it is our responsibility to frame laws which could serve for the next 100 years.

I also mentioned the sunset clause. Along with repealing the obsolete laws, it is also important to look into the scope and time frame of new laws. In many of the countries, a sunset clause is inserted into laws which are being enacted so that such laws are automatically repealed after a certain period. Experts say that our laws are made for physical age, but we should also analyse whether our legal system is able to keep pace with the changes in this digital and virtual age.

I also mentioned about Rules of Procedure. The digital era procedures cannot remain in consonance with rules formed during the physical era. *'Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, Rajya Sabha'* was drafted in 1964. Similarly, *'Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, Lok Sabha'* was drafted in 1952.

After that, piece-meal changes were made during the intervening decades. Should not we update and modernize these Rules and Procedure in order to keep in sync with the modern times? We must think over this issue.

Though, a lot of discussions have taken place in this Speakers' Conference from the year 1926 to the year 1968 and even afterwards over this issue of disruption and indiscipline, but we have not yet been able to find any way out in this regard.

I just want to submit that we have only given certain examples here. We had also mentioned this in Kevadia (Venue of the last AIPOC) Conference. Similarly, we had also talked about it in the All India Presiding Officers' Conference, Dehradun or Lucknow.

In a nutshell, I would like to say that we must evolve with the time and understand the importance of technology in shaping the destiny and future of human beings. This is crucial because time and tide wait for none.

Thank you.

Namaskar !

ADDRESS OF THE CHIEF MINISTER OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, SHRI JAI RAM THAKUR AT THE CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATIONS -CUM- 82ND CONFERENCE OF AIPOC, SHIMLA ON 17 NOVEMBER 2021

It is a momentous occasion today. We have gathered here for the 82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference. Our distinguished Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi *ji*, who has joined us virtually; Chairperson, All India Presiding Officers Conference and the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla *ji*; Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh *ji*; Hon'ble Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar *ji*; Leader of Opposition in Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Mukesh Agnihotri *ji*; Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Hans Raj *ji*, Presiding Officers of Legislative Councils and Legislative Assemblies; Deputy Presiding Officers; Council of Ministers; Hon'ble Legislators; media persons; and Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is a glorious moment for Himachal Pradesh. On behalf of *Devbhoomi* Himachal Pradesh, I express my gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister for joining us virtually and for his constant support and guidance.

I also express gratitude towards Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla *ji* for giving this opportunity to Himachal Pradesh to host the 82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference here. I warmly thank you on behalf of the people of Himachal Pradesh.

On this historic occasion, I am feeling proud to state that Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils form the fulcrum of democracy.

Members of these August Houses frame Acts, Rules and Policies for the welfare of the country, states and the people, after engaging in extensive deliberations on various issues, keeping in mind the hopes and aspirations of the people. Legislative Assembly of our State has a glorious history. Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, as a law making body, has a special place in the hearts of the people of the State. This August House of Himachal Pradesh is

known for adhering to the best traditions and for holding constructive discussions. This House has been presided over by many luminaries, right from the first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Shri Jaiwant Ram *ji* to the present Speaker, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar *ji*. They presided over the House and conducted the proceedings and provided guidance in a manner that enhanced the dignity of the House. On this occasion, I would also like to salute the first Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar *ji* whose efforts have gone a long way in shaping the destiny of Himachal Pradesh and subsequent Chief Ministers, Shri Ram Lal Thakur *ji*, Late Shri Veerbhadra Singh *ji*, Shri Shanta Kumar *ji* and Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal *ji* for their leadership and contribution in development of the State.

Himachal Pradesh is the first State in India to adopt a paperless work culture. This was achieved through *E-Vidhan*. In the past, former Presidents, late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam *ji* and late Shri Pranab Mukherjee *ji* and recently, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Year of attainment of full Statehood, Hon'ble President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind *ji* have addressed this August House, thereby adding to its glory.

This House has framed a number of Acts, Rules and Policies aimed at all round development of the State and welfare of the people.

Our State has several of landmarks to its credit in its saga of development since the year of its formation, 1948 till now. The economic condition of the State was precarious at the time of its formation. Means of livelihood were scarce and so were the resources. The harsh geographical terrain of the State posed a challenge on the developmental front but I am happy to say that even though we are a small State, we are developing at a fast pace and are trying to outperform other, bigger States on multiple fronts. At the time of its formation, the per capita income in the State was Rs. 240/- which has risen to more than Rs. 1,95, 000/- in the year 2020-21. So, it is evident that despite difficult and adverse conditions, Himachal Pradesh has succeeded in expediting its developmental agenda. I will not take more time today as many of my colleagues have already shared their thoughts. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri

Narendra Modi *ji* for sparing time from his busy schedule and gracing us with his presence on this historic occasion. I would also like to express my gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla *ji* for providing Himachal Pradesh this opportunity to host the All India Presiding Officers Conference in its centenary year and for chairing the Conference. I thank Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh *ji*, the Presiding Officers and others Deputy Presiding Officers of all the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils for gracing us with their presence in this Conference.

I thank and congratulate Hon'ble Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar *ji*. It is a pleasant coincidence that we are hosting the Centenary Year Celebrations of Presiding Officers Conference this year when we have also completed 50 years of achieving Statehood. We had a number of programmes lined up to mark the Golden Jubilee of attaining Statehood but had to make some changes due to the prevailing Covid situation. Even so, we plan on holding several programmes in the near future. As regards Covid, I would only like to say that Himachal Pradesh was the first state to achieve hundred percent first dose vaccinations in the country and I would like to thank the people of the State for this. I would also specially like to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister for staying connected with us virtually and guiding us. Now we have also achieved 75 percent second dose coverage in the State. I have full faith that under the able guidance of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, the country will soon override the Covid crisis and we will be able to go back to our normal life and work harder than ever to continue our journey on the path of progress.

I would also like to add that Himachal Pradesh has one more Legislative Assembly in Dharmshala and we want to utilise it fully. Our Winter Session, which is quite short, merely five to seven days long, is held there. If the National *e-vidhan* is sanctioned to be set up in Dharmashala, it would be greatly beneficial for us and we would also be able to make full use of that building. I express my gratitude to the Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, all the officials and media persons who have attended this programme. Heartfelt

gratitude and thanks on behalf of *Devbhoomi* Himachal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his benign presence though virtual mode and guidance.

Namaskar

Jai Hind !

**ADDRESS OF THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA AND CHAIRMAN OF ALL
INDIA PRESIDING OFFICERS CONFERENCE, SHRI OM BIRLA AT THE
CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATIONS -CUM- 82ND CONFERENCE OF
AIPOC, SHIMLA ON 17 NOVEMBER 2021**

I extend my warm welcome and felicitate all the Presiding Officers assembled here from all over the country in this historical city of Shimla located in Himachal Pradesh which is the abode of God and full of natural beauty. Shimla has been witness to many historical moments in our country. Today we are going to make this day an unforgettable one through this Centenary Celebration. I also felicitate Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi *ji*, who has a very long parliamentary experience, for joining this Conference today. We are fortunate that we will be benefitted with his able guidance and his guidance always encourages us.

The first All India Presiding Officers Conference of the Legislative Bodies of the country was held here 100 years ago. Several important decisions were taken in that Conference to make the democracy of the country more vibrant and robust, and this place has played very prominent role in this regard. In the long journey of this Conference, we have also got the guidance from former Speakers including Hon'ble Vitthalbhai Patel and Hon'ble Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar *ji*. The Legislative Bodies have become more sensitive and responsive to fulfill the changing requirements of the society under their able leadership.

Presently, the Legislative Bodies have a major obligation to present the country with viable solutions for all the burning issues through discussion and dialogue so that the democratic traditions could be further strengthened. The Conference has regularly been holding debates and discussions as to how a proper balance could be maintained in respective roles of the three organs of the Governance and make the legislative bodies more effective and competent. We also pay attention to ensure that the discussions and debates in the Legislatures are more disciplined, succinct and dignified and the parliamentary privileges become well defined.

It is absolutely necessary to make the Parliamentary Committee system more effective in a changing scenario. Information technology should be used extensively to enable People's representatives to discharge their Parliamentary duties properly. The declining number of sittings of the Legislatures and the lack of discussion during law-making procedure is a matter of concern for all of us. Let us resolve during the celebration of *Amrit Mahotsav* of Independence, to review the rules and procedures of the Legislatures to bring uniformity in the rules and procedures of all the legislative bodies to further enhance the dignity and prestige of the Houses.

There is a need to have a discussion with all the political parties to deliver better results to more and more people through the Houses by making democracy strong, accountable and transparent. I am sure, all the political parties will cooperate positively in this matter. As Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies, it is our prime responsibility to make a collective resolve to build a capable, competent and empowered legislature which can meet the needs of the 21st century as well as face the emerging challenges, and in this process we may ultimately make these legislative bodies strong and more accountable to the people.

We have assembled here to discuss these issues in this conference and I am sure that during this two- day conference, we will be able to have a definitive outcome to make these legislative bodies work according to the expectations and aspirations of the people of the country.

Thanks to all of you.

Jai Hind !

**ADDRESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRI NARENDRA AT
ALL INDIA PRESIDING OFFICERS CONFERENCE, SHIMLA ON 17
NOVEMBER 2021**

Namaskar!

Present with us in this program are Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla ji, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh ji, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Jai Ram Thakur ji, Leader of Opposition in Himachal Legislative Assembly, Shri Mukesh Agnihotri ji, Speaker of Himachal Vidhan Sabha, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar ji, the Presiding Officers of the various Legislatures of the country, and Ladies and Gentlemen!

This important Conference of Presiding Officers is held every year with some new discussions and new resolutions. Every year some nectar emerges from this churning, which gives impetus and new energy to our country and the parliamentary system and inspires us for new resolutions. It is also very pleasant that today this tradition is completing 100 years. We are all fortunate to witness this, and it is also a symbol of India's democratic expansion. On this important occasion, I congratulate all of you, all the members of the Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies of the country and also all the countrymen.

Friends,

Democracy is not just a system for India. Democracy is ingrained in our nature and part of life in India. Your journey has become even more special because India is currently celebrating *Amrit Mahotsav*, the 75 years of its independence. This coincidence not only enhances the uniqueness of this program, but also multiplies our responsibilities.

Friends,

We have to take the country to newer heights, achieve extraordinary goals in the years to come. These resolutions will be fulfilled only through '*Sabka Prayas*' (everyone's effort). When we talk about '*Sabka Prayas*' in democracy, in the

federal system of India, then the role and importance of all the states forms the very basis of it. What the country has achieved over the years, it is because of the active participation of the states; they remained big partners. There are many things which the country has done in the last few years with everyone's efforts; whether it is the resolution of the decades-old problems of the North-east or completion of all the big projects of development that have been stuck for decades. The biggest example is Corona before us. The solidarity with which the country has fought such a huge battle with all the states is historic. Today India has crossed a mammoth figure of 110 crore vaccine doses. What once seemed impossible is becoming possible today. Therefore, the dreams of the future before us, which are 'Amrit (nectar) resolutions', will also be fulfilled. These are going to be accomplished only with the united efforts of the country and the states. Now is the time to pursue our successes. What is left behind has to be completed. And at the same time, we have to make new rules and policies for the future with a new approach and new vision. The traditions and systems of our legislatures may be inherently Indian, our policies, our laws should strengthen the spirit of Indianness, the resolve of '*Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat*' (One India, Supreme India). Most importantly, it should be our collective responsibility that our own conduct in the legislatures should be according to Indian values. We still have many opportunities to realize in this direction.

Friends,

Our country is full of diversity. In our journey of development for thousands of years, we have recognized that the sublime and divine unity flows uninterrupted even in the midst of diversity. This seamless stream of unity cherishes our diversity and preserves it. In today's changing times, it is the special responsibility of our legislatures to remain alert if there is a contrasting voice regarding the unity and integrity of the country. May diversity continue to be honored as a heritage, may we continue to celebrate our diversity; this message should be conveyed from our legislatures perpetually.

Friends, often there is an image about politicians and public representatives among some people that these leaders are engaged in political manipulation round the clock. But if you notice, there are people's representatives in every political party who spend their time and life for the uplift of the people and in the service of the society. These acts of service keep people's faith in politics strong. I have a suggestion for such dedicated public representatives. We do several things in our legislatures, like we introduce Private Bills and spend time on them. There are some others who spend their time on Zero Hours in the legislatures. Can 3-4 days in a year be kept aside in a legislature so that our public representatives share with the rest of us about their special initiatives for the society and inform the country about this aspect of their life? Along with public representatives, other people of the society will also get to learn a lot from this. The constructive contribution of politics will also be exposed. If those who are engaged in creative works but tend to keep away from politics and the people doing such noble works join politics, then politics will also prosper in itself. I think a small committee should be formed which should screen and verify such experiences and then decide who should get the opportunity to articulate their views. A lot of qualitative change will come. The presiding officers know well how to explore and bring the best before people. Such events will inspire the rest of the members to do something different than politics and at the same time the country will also get an opportunity to know about such efforts.

Friends,

We can always do something innovative needed to promote quality debate. How to add value to debates and how to set new standards for quality debates? Can we think of setting aside time for quality debate? Such a debate in which there is dignity and seriousness and there is no political slander. In a way, it should be the healthiest time of the legislature. I'm not asking for everyday. It can be two hours, half a day or a day sometimes. Can we try something like this? It should be a healthy day, healthy debate and quality debate, a debate that does value addition and which is absolutely free from everyday politics.

Friends,

You also know very well that when the Parliament or any assembly of the country starts its new term, most of the members are the first timers. There have been frequent changes in politics and the people constantly give opportunities to new people who are brimming with new energy. It is because of the efforts of the people that there is always freshness and new enthusiasm in the legislatures. Do we need to mold this freshness into a new methodology or not? I think change is necessary. For this, it is necessary that the new members are given systematic training related to the House and they are briefed about the dignity of the House. We have to emphasize on making continuous dialogue across the parties and set new parameters of politics. The role of presiding officers is also very important in this.

Friends,

There is also a big priority before us to increase the productivity of the House. Along with discipline in the House, equally necessary is the commitment to the set rules. Our laws will prevail only if they are directly related to the interests of the people. Therefore, meaningful discussions in the House are very important. Young members, people's representatives from aspirational areas and women in the House should get maximum opportunities. Similarly, our committees should also be made more practical and relevant. Not only will it be easier for us to know the problems of the country and their solutions, but new ideas will also reach the House.

Friends,

All of you are aware that the country has implemented several systems like 'One Nation One Ration Card', 'One Nation One Mobility Card' in the past few years. Our people are also getting connected with such facilities, and the entire country is also getting a new experience together, as if the country is connecting from north to south, east to west. I would like all our legislatures and states to take this campaign to a new height in this virtuous period. I have an idea called 'One Nation One Legislative Platform'. Is it possible? Such a digital platform, a portal

that not only gives the necessary technological boost to our parliamentary system, but also works to connect all the democratic units of the country. All the resources for our legislatures should be available on this portal and central and state legislatures should work in paper-less mode. The presiding officers can take this system forward under the leadership of Honorable Speaker of Lok Sabha and Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. The ongoing work to digitize the libraries of our Parliament and all the legislatures and make them available online will also have to be accelerated.

Friends,

In this virtuous period of independence, we are rapidly moving towards 100 years of independence. This journey of 75 years is a testimony to how fast time changes. Next 25 years are very important for India. We are going to celebrate 100 years of independence after 25 years. Therefore, this virtuous period, 25 years, is very important. Can we make one mantra distinctive with full strength, dedication and responsibility? From my point of view that mantra is duty and duty only. There should be a sense of duty in the House; the House should send messages of duty; there should be a sense of duty in the speeches of the members; there should also be a custom of duty in their behavior; there should be tradition of the lifestyle of centuries, the duty should be primary even in the conduct of the members; duty should be paramount in debates and solutions; duty should be paramount in everything; there should be a sense of duty in everything. Duty should be given top priority in every aspect of our working style for the next 25 years. Our Constitution also tells us the same. When this message will be sent across from the Houses repeatedly, it will have a bearing on the entire country and on every citizen of the country. The speed at which the country has progressed in the last 75 years, the mantra to take the country forward at a manifold rate is – Duty. Duty of 130 crore countrymen to fulfill a great resolution! Best wishes to you for this new initiative of 100 years of parliamentary system. May this summit be very successful! May you come out with a clear outline where to take the country by 2047 and what role the legislatures will play for it! It will give a great strength to the country.

I once again congratulate you all very much.

Thank you.

RESOLUTION

(Adopted at the 82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference -*cum*- Centennial Year Celebration, Shimla, 16-19 November 2021)

Resolution No. 1

All India Presiding Officers' Conference should be organized twice a year. One Conference should be organized in Delhi and the other by some legislature.

Resolution No. 2

Immediately after the reconstitution of any Assembly, training programs should be organized compulsorily for capacity building and training of newly elected MLAs.

Resolution No. 3

A Committee of Presiding Officers should be constituted to fix the criteria for the best Legislative Council / Vidhan Sabha award.

Resolution No. 4

A consensus should evolved after discussion with all parties to ensure that there should not be any interruption in the House during the address by the President and the Governor along with question hour.

Resolution No. 5

A Committee of Presiding Officers should be constituted to reconsider the important contribution of Committees in the responsibility of monitoring, legislative and financial control of Legislatures.

Resolution No. 6

The Conference expressed satisfaction over the performance of its last one century and felt that:

- The Legislative Boards of India in their golden journey from 1921 to 2021 have discharged their responsibility of monitoring, legislation and financial control very successfully;
- The All India Presiding Officers' Conference , the summit organization of the Legislatures of India, has taken many important and far-reaching decisions in the direction of achieving its goals and objectives .
- At the same time, in the coming hundred years, the challenges posed before the Executive and Legislature by the continuous technological changes in the 21st century, the new turn of public expectations and aspirations, such as globalization; liberalization of the economy; Increasing use of information and technology; increasing complexities of the development system; keeping in view the changes taking place in legislative activities and procedures with a focus on public interest;
- Keeping this in view , the legislatures of India also need to make changes in their legislative procedures, rules and activities as soon as possible according to the time. On this very important issue also, as always, there is a need to provide leadership to the Parliament. Therefore, Parliament will take the initiative to develop a draft manual without delay. This model will be adopted by all the Legislatures according to their autonomy according to the need of their House;

Therefore, in order to more successfully discharge its constitutional duties and obligations, the Conference is again resolved in the national interest in the period (75 years) of 'Amrit Mahotsav' of India's Independence.

Resolution No. 7

Reviewing the action taken on all the motions / resolutions / decisions taken in the Conferences held between 1921; and 2021, the Conference is of the opinion that in the upcoming Conferences at the

beginning of the new century, appropriate action should be executed on the following subjects:

- (1) smooth and uninterrupted conduct of the proceedings of the Legislatures ;
- (2) Uniformity in the rules of Legislatures;
- (3) financial autonomy of Legislatures;
- (4) Review of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution;
- (5) Review of Committee system in Legislatures.

Resolution No. 8

The proceedings of the Parliament and all the Legislatures made public by the House will be brought on a single platform through information and technology.

Resolution No. 9

Welcoming the historic decision of the Himachal Pradesh Government to give financial autonomy to the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly in the Centenary Year of the Conference, let us resolve that all the legislatures should get financial autonomy in line with the financial autonomy provided to both the Houses of Parliament.

Resolution No. 10

Model rules should be developed for effective operation of local bodies and *Panchayati Raj* Institutions and financial resources should be made available to make these institutions effective.

Resolution No. 11

In the Centenary Year Conference of the Presiding Officers on the occasion of '*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*' it was resolved that from the *Gram Panchayat* to the Legislature and Parliament, a public awareness campaign would be launched towards public duties.

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE CENTRAL HALL OF PARLIAMENT, NEW DELHI ON 26 NOVEMBER 2021

On 26 November 1949, the people of India adopted the Constitution, drafted by the Constituent Assembly. The Constitution begins with - *"We, the People of India", having solemnly resolved to constitute India In our Constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution."*

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly. In recognition of his invaluable contributions in the drafting of the Constitution and in building of the modern India, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was celebrated in 2015. It has been decided, therefore, to celebrate 26 November every year (from 2015) as the 'Constitution Day' so as to promote constitutional values among citizens.

A function to commemorate 'Constitution Day or *Samvidhan Divas*' was organised on 26 November 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House, New Delhi. Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind; Hon'ble Vice-President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu; Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi; Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla and Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi, graced the occasion and addressed the distinguished gathering.

Members of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha attended the function. Hon'ble President of India released the digital versions of the Constituent Assembly Debates and the calligraphed Constitution of India. Hon'ble President also read out the Preamble to the Constitution and released the updated Constitution of India and inaugurated the online quiz on Constitutional Democracy.

Text of addresses of the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Vice-President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi are reproduced below:

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
COAL & MINES, SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI AT THE CONSTITUTION DAY
CELEBRATIONS HELD IN THE CENTRAL HALL OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW
DELHI ON 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

Today is the Constitution Day. I extend my warm welcome to the Hon'ble President of India, Hon'ble Vice-President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, my fellow Ministers and the Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to this programme, organized on this auspicious Day. I also welcome all the dignitaries present here and all others who have joined us virtually.

Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi *ji*, it was decided to celebrate 26 November as 'Constitution Day' since the year 2015. The commitment of the Hon'ble Prime Minister towards the ethos and values of Constitution is reflected in the fact that he launched '*Sanvidhan Gaurav Yatra*' in the year 2010 when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat. We are well aware of the importance of 26 November because we the people of India had adopted this sacred document, the Constitution of India in the year 1949 through our Constituent Assembly. We also know that the Constitution is such a fundamental and dynamic document, which provides for the administration of the country through fundamental rights and fundamental duties enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy and also leads us on the path of development in all walks of life. It is well known fact that Fundamental Rights would not be required if we perform our duties properly since they complement each other. Today after completion of the Address of the Hon'ble President, the whole country and all the Indians across the world will join us in reciting the Preamble of the Constitution. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has developed two portals to mark '*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*'. The first one provides the facility of online reading of the Preamble of the Constitution in 23 languages, *i.e.* 22 Scheduled Languages and English. The second one provides the facility to take part in an online personal quiz on constitutional democracy in which anyone can participate from anywhere and receive a certificate also online.

Before concluding, I would once again like to welcome Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Vice-President, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and all the dignitaries present here on this grand occasion. I also welcome those who have joined this programme virtually.

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI OM BIRLA AT THE
CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD IN THE CENTRAL HALL OF
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI ON 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

Hearty greetings to all the countrymen on the Constitution Day. 72 years ago, on this day our Constitution was adopted and our country started its journey of development with a resolve to attain peace, progress and equality. Our Constitution is the sacred book which embodies our cultural heritage, eternal values and ideals. It is the source of our rights and enjoins upon us certain duties as well. The Constitution is a binding force for us. It shows us the way to fulfil the hopes, aspirations and expectations of the people and also shapes the core values of unity and integrity of the country and upholds the dignity of the citizens. It is our moral responsibility to keep them intact. It is merely not a text which provides us with a legal framework and guidance but also an instrument of social and economic transformation. I salute our great leaders for providing us with such a wonderful Constitution.

Our Constitution is like the modern day *Gita*, which inspires us to work continuously. It also reminds us of our duties towards the nation. If we all the public representatives, citizens, all institutions take a pledge to fulfil our duties collectively then we may transform the life of every countryman, thereby realising the vision of *Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat*'. Our progressive Constitution is respected all over the world and is looked upon as a source of inspiration as it is instrumental behind making our democracy vibrant and the future of the country bright. The Constitution provides for the fundamental rights of justice, liberty and equality and today we are celebrating the Constitution Day. It serves us an opportunity to introspect and ponder over our duties as well.

We represent 135 crore people of the country in the Parliament. By holding positive discussions, debates and deliberations in Parliament regarding the problems and issues being faced by the people we can bring about a significant change in the lives of the common people. As people's representatives, it is our duty to behave in a dignified manner in our democratic institutions. It is the responsibility of all of us to uphold the dignity of the Parliament and its glorious traditions. We need to work collectively in the interest of the nation and further strengthen the best traditions and practices and evolve consensus to solve the major issues before the country. While celebrating this Constitution Day this year during the '*Amrit Kaal*' of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, let us resolve to discharge our responsibilities and duties sincerely and contribute through democratic institutions towards building a new nation. I extend my warm welcome to the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Vice-President and Hon'ble Prime Minister for their gracious presence in this programme being organized by the Parliament on the occasion of the Constitution Day. I also welcome all my friends from various countries and the

Ambassadors from neighbouring countries in this programme. Wishing you all a very happy Constitution Day.

**ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRI NARENDRA MODI
AT THE CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD IN THE CENTRAL HALL
OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI ON 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

Hon'ble President;

Hon'ble Vice President;

Speaker, Lok Sabha;

All the senior dignitaries sitting on the dais; and

All the brothers and sisters committed to the Constitution present in the House

Today is the day to pay homage to far-sighted great personalities like Babasaheb Ambedkar and Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Today is the day to salute this House, because scholars and activists of India had brainstormed for months at this holy place to prepare the groundwork for the bright future of the country. The nectar in the form of the Constitution has brought us here after such a long period of independence. Today, we also have to pay our respects to the revered Bapu. Today is also an occasion to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggle. Today, 26/11 is also a sad day for us when the enemies of the country carried out the heinous terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Many of our brave soldiers responsible for protecting the common man of the country as defined in the Constitution of India sacrificed themselves while fighting those terrorists. I also respectfully bow to all those who made supreme sacrifice.

Excellencies, just imagine what would have happened had we been entrusted with the task of writing the Constitution today. Despite the shadow of the freedom movement, the flame of patriotism and the horror of the Partition of India, national interest was supreme and it was the sole mantra in everyone's heart. In today's context, binding the entire country full of diversities, many languages, dialects, sects and princely states through Constitution and to chart out a strategy to move forward, I do not know if we could have written even one page of the Constitution. Over time, politics has had so much impact that even national interest also takes a backseat at times. I would like to salute those great personalities because they sat together and gave a Constitution with the belief that national interest is supreme despite representing different streams of thoughts.

Friends,

Our Constitution is not just a collection of many articles. Our Constitution is the modern expression of the uninterrupted stream of the great tradition of millennia. Therefore, we need to be devoted to the Constitution in letter and spirit. When we fulfill this constitutional system as a representative of the people from the *Gram Panchayat* to the Parliament, we have to always

keep ourselves committed to the Constitution in letter and spirit. While doing so, we cannot ignore hurting the idea of the Constitution. Therefore, we should celebrate Constitution Day every year because we should evaluate whether our actions are right or wrong in the light of the Constitution. It would have been better to make the tradition of celebrating 26th November as Constitution Day in the country soon after independence and after the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January (1950) so that our generations could understand how our Constitution was made, who were the people behind it, under what circumstances it was made, why was it made, where, how and for whom does the Constitution take us to. If all these things were discussed every year, then the Constitution, which is considered as a living entity in the world and a social document, could have become a great force for a diverse country for generations. But some people missed the opportunity. What could have been a greater holy occasion (to celebrate the Constitution Day) on the 150th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar. That Babasaheb Ambedkar has given a great gift and we should always remember him in the form of this scripture forever. The protest (against this day) is not happening today only. I remember when I was addressing the House in 2015 on Babasaheb Ambedkar's 125th anniversary, and making this announcement, even then there was resistance. Where did you bring November 26 from? Why are you doing this, what was the need? When you have this feeling then this country is not ready to listen to those who (question) the need to earmark a day to celebrate the adoption of the Constitution which has the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar attached to it. It is a matter of concern not to remember people like Babasaheb Ambedkar who have given so much to the country with an open mind.

Friends,

India represents a constitutional democratic tradition. Political parties have their own importance. And political parties are also an important medium to convey the sentiments of our Constitution to the people. But, the sentiments of the Constitution have been hurt. Every article of the Constitution has also been hurt. How can the parties which have lost their democratic character protect democracy? From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is heading towards a crisis which is a matter of concern for those committed to the Constitution and for those who believe in democracy, and that is '*parivarik*' (dynastic) parties, a political party, party for the family, by the family... I need not say more... Look at all the political parties from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, this is against the spirit of democracy and the Constitution. And, when I say dynasties, I do not mean many members of a family cannot do politics. On merit and with the blessings of the people, many members can join politics from a family. This doesn't make a party dynast. But when a party is run by one family for many generations and the family controlling every aspect of the party, then it becomes the biggest threat to a healthy democracy.

Today on Constitution Day, I would like to appeal to every citizen who has trust in the Constitution and who are committed to the Constitution, that there is a need for creating awareness in the country.

There was an experiment in Japan. It was seen in Japan that a handful of political families were dominating the system. Someone had taken it upon him to prepare the citizens, to bring people from outside the political families into the system. It was a success, though it took 30-40 years, but had to be done. If democracy has to prosper in our country, we also need to know many things, need to worry and awaken the countrymen. Similarly, does our Constitution allow corruption? There are rules and laws but what concerns most is when somebody, who has been declared corrupt and sentenced by the judiciary, continues to be glorified for political interests. When people disregard the corruption charges against them and start mingling with them for political interests, this also impacts the youth of the country when they see those in the field of politics glorifying the corrupt people. They also start believing that there is nothing wrong in corruption and people start accepting them after two-four years. Do we have to create such a social system? Yes, an opportunity should be given to reform a person if a corruption case has been proved against him. But I think this competition to eulogize such people in public life attracts some people to corrupt ways and it is a matter of concern. This is the virtuous era of independence, the 75th year of Independence. The British were engaged in crushing the rights of the citizens of India and it was natural and necessary to fight for the rights of the citizens of India.

Everyone, including Mahatma Gandhi, fought for the rights of the citizens of India. But it is also true that Mahatma Gandhi had constantly tried to prepare the country for duties, even while fighting for rights even during the freedom movement. He continuously tried to sow the seed of cleanliness, adult education, respect for women, empowerment of women, use of *Khadi* and the idea of *Swadeshi* and self-reliance among the people of the country. But the seeds of duties that Mahatma Gandhi had sown should have become a banyan tree after independence. But unfortunately, such a system of governance developed which only talked about assuring the rights of the people as long as they (political parties) were there. It would have been better if the duty had been emphasized after the independence of the country, then the rights would have been automatically protected. Duty gives a sense of responsibility and duty gives a sense of responsibility towards the society. Rights sometimes lead to a tendency that 'I should get my rights' and there is an attempt to frustrate society. With the sense of duty, there is a feeling in a common man that this is my responsibility which I have to fulfill. And when I perform the duty, then someone's right gets automatically protected, respected and honored. A healthy society is created as a result of both duties and rights.

It is very necessary for us that we walk on the path of protecting the rights through duties during this *Amrit Mahotsav* of freedom. It is the path of duty in which the rights are guaranteed, it is the path of duty which accepts others' rights with respect and gives them their due. And when we are celebrating Constitution Day, we should always have this spirit that the rights of everyone will be protected if we continue to walk on the path of duty with a greater degree of devotion and rigor. Today we are fortunate to fulfill the dreams of the freedom fighters with which they had made India. We should leave no stone unturned to fulfill those dreams.

I once again congratulate Mr. Speaker Sir for organizing this important occasion. This event was not that of any government, or of any political party, or of any Prime Minister. The Speaker is the pride of the House. It is a dignified post. It is a matter of Babasaheb Ambedkar's dignity, the dignity of the Constitution. Let us all pray to those great personalities to enlighten us so that we always maintain the dignity of the Speaker's post, maintain the pride of Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution.

With this expectation, many thanks to all of you !

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU
AT THE CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS, HELD IN CENTRAL HALL,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI ON 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

Today, we are here to commemorate a historic day. A day when the Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. It is an occasion to recall the vision that inspired the Constitution makers, reflect on the continuing mission that began 72 years ago, to translate that vision into action.

At the outset, I pay my gratitude to the President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad; Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the members of the Constituent Assembly for providing the direction for nation-building. Their overarching framework continues to guide us in the collective endeavour of our nation to scale new heights amidst the contemporary national and international challenges.

Our Constitution, in essence, is a statement of values, ideas and ideals seeking to ensure justice, liberty and equality for all in the true spirit of fraternity and is a guide to peaceful and democratic transformation enabling the people to fulfill their aspirations.

Our Constitution is marked by innovative borrowing from various sources and selective adaptation integrating the long held indigenous values and western concepts. It exemplifies the essential Indian world view that believes in welcoming noble thoughts from all over the world and adapting them to our national context.

As we all are aware, it was the ‘people’ of India who gave themselves this Constitution through their elected representatives in the Constituent Assembly. The Preamble summarizes the philosophy of the Constitution in which the people preferred our country to be a Democratic Republic, thereby indicating the instrumentalities by which the intended socio-economic transformation was to be achieved.

It has been our firm belief that people are at the centre of our development architecture. They are the agents of the transformation of our country. Their empowerment is the goal of all our efforts. Their aspirations steer our policies; their strengths drive our growth. Democracy, ultimately, is about people and their central role in governance and it is they who determine who should govern, how should they govern and what governance should ultimately lead to. Keeping this perspective in view, we had taken the first major step towards democratic governance by introducing universal franchise right from the day we became independent. While it took 144 years for the US and 100 years for the UK to confer voting rights on women and the working

class, we had the courage of conviction that each and every Indian should have the right to vote and be able to shape our shared destiny.

I have referred to the Preamble of the Constitution that mandated our country to be a 'democratic Republic' in order to share my thoughts on this solemn occasion on the functioning of our parliamentary democracy and its institutions. In a pluralistic society like ours with incredibly fascinating variety and diversity, 'debate' and 'dialogue' become the most important instruments for shaping public policies. This process of dialogue requires an openness to new perspectives, a willingness to listen to diverse views. This is the spirit that pervaded the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly. That's the spirit which should ideally permeate our Parliamentary system.

Addressing the Presiding Officers' Conference held recently in Shimla, Hon'ble Prime Minister referred to the need to make the legislatures more productive. This is absolutely essential. We must make our Parliament and legislatures effective forums for focused attention on people's concerns and national development. Time allocated during sessions must be fruitfully spent.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been maintaining the required statistics that enable the assessment of productivity of the House since 1978. For 16 years from 1979 to 1994, the annual productivity of the House has been over 100%. In the next 20 years since 1995, the productivity of Rajya Sabha has been more than 100% only twice in 1998 and 2009. A broad declining trend in productivity is evident and it touched the lowest of 35.75% in 2018, a year before the General Elections in 2019.

Clearly, we need to have more meaningful, productive use of our time in the Parliament. We need to recognize the exalted place that Parliament occupies in public perception. It is, indeed, the sacred place where people's voices are articulated and heard, where their hopes and fears are debated, where laws that protect them, foster their growth and enable fast-tracked national development are formulated.

The Constituent Assembly debates suggest that Rajya Sabha was created primarily to ensure that the enactment of legislation process is carried out with a calm, dispassionate, learned, evidenced-based, balanced approach. It was a House of elder statesmen - accomplished public persons who had the ability to participate in a dialogue without rancor and prejudice, who had the ability to present and debate on issues with conviction and persuasive expression.

My experience over the last four years suggests that no legislative proposal of the Government was defeated on the Floor of the House and in fact quite a few of them were passed

by consensus. However, there were instances of Bills being delayed on account of disruptions on various issues.

I wish and hope that in future we would have fewer occasions like this because it results in inadequate scrutiny of the Bills. The Parliament loses the benefit of the knowledge and wisdom of its members who have been elected to these positions by the people of this country with great expectations. This also goes against the very objective of having an upper House which was established for facilitating an in-depth discussion on key issues.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar *ji* had quite aptly noted that the effective functioning of the Constitution will depend on the quality of the people chosen to work it and said that the chosen bad lot can fail even a good Constitution while the good lot can work even a bad Constitution. As we celebrate the 75th year of our hard fought Independence and also commemorate *Samvidhan Diwas* today, we must be mindful of this profound statement. One of the implications is that if we have to work a Constitution well, we must focus both on strengthening all the organs of the State and established institutions as well as on enabling good governance. The institutions as well as the people who run them matter. At the same time, we must constantly review our performance critically and honestly reflect as to whether our policies and programmes are in consonance with the Constitutional values or not.

Underlying, our constitutional architecture is the firm foundation of ‘inclusion’, of leaving no one behind. It is the vision that finds echo in the overarching philosophy of the present government, led by Prime Minister Narendrabhai Modi that believes in “*Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas*”.

We have been trying to forge national unity by celebrating our diversity, by finding the many threads that bind us together. We must continue to do so. That’s the core Constitutional value we have inherited and fondly cherish. As Sardar Patel said and I quote

"But in the long run, it would be in the interest of all to forget that there is anything like majority or minority in this country and that in India there is only one community." Unquote.

We care for everyone, especially for those who are marginalized and need support. Every Indian should be enabled to contribute to national development. Every Indian has to be given the opportunity to shape the new India we are collectively dreaming of. Every Indian must be educated, healthy, skilled and forward-looking, ready to be a part of our country’s growth story. I am glad that the present government has turned many programmes like sanitation, cleanliness into people-driven mass *Abhiyans* or movements.

Our Constitution is not a static, archival document but a living document. It has enabled us to respond to the emerging challenges and adapt to the changing circumstances.

Consequently, it has been amended 105 times so far. This shows that we have had the ability to listen, debate, dialogue and be agile. This agility and flexibility is essential to strengthen our country's Constitutional values. So long as we are 'alive' to the changing realities within and outside our country and have the wisdom to make the right policy choices to address people's concerns, we shall see this beautiful tree of Constitution grow and flower. Our common aim should be to make this happen - everyday, in each of our institutions and in each of our actions. We know that this requires constant vigil, an attentive eye and concrete action.

There were certain unfortunate efforts to subvert the spirit and the philosophy of the Constitution during the dark period of Emergency, but fortunately they were undone. We, the people, have, time and again, demonstrated that we will not allow this beautiful tree to wither.

To conclude, our Constitution has worked well to enable our march towards building a new India and, in the process, realizing the dreams of freedom fighters and the vision of the Constituent Assembly. We need to draw lessons from our past experience and move ahead to propel India forward. *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* is a celebration of our achievements, we can legitimately be proud of. Let it be a spring board to take India to the next level and occupy its rightful place in the comity of nations as a *Sushikshit Bharat, Surakshit Bharat, Swasth Bharat, Atmanirbhar Bharat* and ultimately *Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat*.

Jai Hind !

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND
ON THE OCCASSION OF CONSTITUTION DAY
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

On the Constitution Day, I feel very happy to be here with all of you. India is world's largest democracy. I am sure that all of you are also feeling proud of our great democracy, on this occasion. In this very Central Hall, 72 years ago, the framers of our Constitution had adopted the document to build a bright future of Independent India and gave it to themselves on behalf of the people of India.

When we wrested the right to shape our own destiny, India was a country exploited by long foreign rule that had left its teeming millions poor and illiterate. But people were charged with enthusiasm to change that situation and build the nation. What our industrious countrymen needed was a constitutional structure. In a short span of about seven decades, the people of India have scripted an incredible story of democratic progress that has left the world amazed. I believe that India's journey of growth and development has been made possible due to the impetus provided by our Constitution.

Our Constitution contains all those lofty ideals for which the people of the world have been looking towards India with respect and hope. Our Constitution, beginning with the words "We the people of India", makes it clear that the Constitution of India is an expression of the collective aspirations of the people. The members of the Constituent Assembly, as representatives of the people, discussed and debated each and every provision of the Constitution. They were not ordinary people. Many of them had proved their talent in the field of law, many members were eminent scholars of their respective fields and some were philosophers too. But all of them were participating in the making of the Constitution only as elected representatives of the people to the Constituent Assembly. Behind their statements was the halo of their good deeds and high moral values. The people had come to know about the greatness of their character during our freedom struggle. In about three years of the making of our Constitution, those great personalities gave shape to the collective vision of India with great care. I am happy that today the digital versions of the Constituent Assembly Debates, and the calligraphed and updated versions of the Constitution have been released. Thus, with the help of technology, all these invaluable documents have become accessible to all.

In the Constituent Assembly debates we get glimpses of the greatness of human thought and consciousness channelled for nation-building. With the digital version of the debates made available, not only our countrymen but the whole world, especially the younger generation, will get to know about the greatness and potential of our country and will also get guidance for the future. In the calligraphed version of the Constitution, people will get to see the finest examples

of the excellence of our art, culture and ideals contained in our history and legend. The example of such an artistic presentation of the basic text of governance can be rarely seen elsewhere. With the updated version of the Constitution, citizens, especially students will get knowledge about the journey of our constitutional progress so far. The initiative to conduct online quiz on the subject of constitutional democracy is highly commendable. This interesting method will be very effective in promoting constitutional values among our citizens, especially the younger generation.

Honorable Members of Parliament,

The framers of our Constitution, reposing unwavering faith in the wisdom of the common man, gave the right of universal adult franchise to all the citizens despite the lack of literacy among our people and several such apprehensions. No other democracy had provided the right of universal adult franchise from the very beginning. When the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar presented the proposal for universal adult franchise on 16 June 1949, it was passed unanimously, without much resistance. It is particularly noteworthy in this context that in countries like England and America, women were given the right to vote after a long struggle. But in our country, not only women were given the right to vote from the very beginning, but many women were members of the Constituent Assembly and they made an unprecedented contribution in the making of the Constitution. We, the people of India, can proudly say that along with founding-fathers, our Constitution has also been made by its founding-mothers.

Some western scholars said that the system of adult suffrage was bound to fail in India. But this experiment was not only proved successful, but has gained in strength over the past decades. Even other democracies have learned a lot from the Indian democracy. If the challenges before the nation, at the time of our Independence, are taken into account, then 'Indian democracy' can undoubtedly be considered as one of the greatest achievements of human history. For this achievement, we salute the foresight of the framers of the Constitution and the wisdom of *Jana-Gana-Mana*.

Honorable Members of Parliament,

On 26 November 1949, a few moments before signing the Constitution document as the President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad made a statement. I would like to repeat some of his words. He had said [QUOTE] -

"A law giver requires intellectual equipment but even more than that capacity to take a balanced view of things, to act independently and above all to be true to those fundamental things of life - in one word - to have character." [UNQUOTE]

According to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, there can be no yardstick for measuring the capabilities of public representatives. Yet, his expectation from law-makers is evident from his statement. He wanted that the Members of Parliament should have a high level of morality and ethics, as they had a dual responsibility – first, for their own conduct and secondly – for their work as representatives of the people.

Honorable Members of Parliament,

This Parliament of ours is at the apex of India's democratic system. All the Members of Parliament are defenders of the dignity of the Parliament, whether they represent the ruling party or the opposition. All MPs gather here to discuss issues related to public interest along with making laws. In fact, the elected representatives of the *Gram Sabha*, the *Vidhan Sabha* and the Parliament should have only one priority. That singular priority lies in working for the welfare of all the people of their constituencies and for the interest of the nation. There may be differences of opinion, but no difference should be so great as to hinder the real purpose of public service. It is natural for members of the ruling party and the opposition to compete – but this competition should be about being better representatives and doing better things for the public good. Only then will it be considered healthy competition. Competition in Parliament should not be confused with rivalry. We all believe that our Parliament is a 'Temple of Democracy'. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of every parliamentarian to conduct themselves in this temple of democracy with the same spirit of reverence with which they do in their places of worship.

The opposition is, in fact, the most important element of democracy. Without an effective opposition, democracy becomes ineffective. It is expected that the Government and the opposition, despite their differences, continue to work together in the best interests of the citizens. Our constitution makers had envisioned this and it is also necessary for nation-building.

If all of you, the Members of Parliament, look at your responsibility as an extension of the ideals of the freedom struggle, you will remain mindful of your duty towards strengthening the legacy of the framers of the Constitution. If you realize that you are occupying the places where once our constitution makers used to sit, you will naturally feel a deep sense of history and sense of duty.

Honorable Members of Parliament,

Many remarkable examples of their sense of duty were demonstrated by our fellow citizens during the pandemic of COVID-19. Given our huge population and its density, it was

even more difficult for us to meet the extraordinary challenge posed by the pandemic. Nevertheless, our fellow citizens rose to the challenge and the administration also left no stone unturned to save as many lives as possible. It is long since the initial months of the pandemic, but those scenes will be etched in our memories for a long time to come. The scenes of how people all across the country, did their best to help each other and how Corona warriors from different spheres of life presented inspiring examples of brotherhood. We not only developed vaccines for ourselves, but also took the lead in providing vaccine to other countries. This endeavour of ours will be recorded as the largest of its kind in the history of humanity.

Honorable Members of Parliament,

We have recently observed the year-long 150th birth anniversary celebrations of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. We are now celebrating the 75th anniversary of our Independence. It is a matter of happiness for all of us that people from all over the country are actively participating in various programs organized as part of '*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*'. It is evident from the enthusiasm of ordinary citizens that they carry within their hearts, deep respect for those known and unknown freedom fighters whose sacrifices made it possible for us to breathe the air of freedom.

Commemorating such historic events are also occasions to remind us of the values which our freedom fighters fought for. Those values of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution. On the occasion of Constitution Day, let us rededicate ourselves to follow those great national ideals in our daily lives. By following these ideals, we will further enhance our stature on the world stage and will be equipped to face any challenge effectively.

Honorable Members of Parliament,

The Preamble of our Constitution is regarded as the conscience of the Constitution. The initiative to organize a collective recitation of the Preamble of the Constitution by all the fellow citizens at the end of today's program is highly commendable. This will further strengthen the sense of pride in all our countrymen for the ideals of the Constitution. In a little while we will do a verbatim reading of the Preamble of the Constitution together.

On the occasion of Constitution Day, I extend my warm greetings to all the fellow citizens.

Thank you.

Jai Hind !

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT OF INDIA ON 4-5 DECEMBER 2021

The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament of India, constituted for the first time in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1919, has completed 100 years of its journey as one of the strong pillars of parliamentary oversight of the Executive. Commemorating its valuable contributions and commitment in ensuring citizen's welfare by plugging financial loopholes in administration over the century, the PAC of Parliament organised a two-day function to mark the Centennial Celebration in New Delhi on 4-5 December 2021.

The historic occasion was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India. Hon'ble Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh, Hon'ble Chairperson of the PAC, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Union Ministers, Presiding Officers of Legislatures of States and Union Territories, Members of Parliament, Chairpersons of the PACs of State and UT Legislatures and other esteemed delegates attended the Celebration.

The two-day function was spread over four thematic Sessions - (i) Functioning of PAC in Present Times, Challenges and the Way Forward: Realigning PAC's Approach; Collecting Information from Non-Governmental Sources; and Assessing Outcomes of Programmes/Schemes/Projects; (ii) Implementation of Recommendations of PAC: Adherence to timelines and Mechanism for Strict Compliance; (iii) PAC as a Development Partner: Focusing on Strengthening of Systems and Promoting Good Governance; and (iv) Impact of PAC: Ensuring Citizens' Right to Due Process and Value for Tax-Payers' Money.

Text of Addresses of the Inaugural Function are reproduced:

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT,
SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION
ON 4 DECEMBER 2021**

Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ramnath Kovind ji; Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji; Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla ji; Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh ji, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the outset, let me acknowledge the fact that being the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, the oldest Financial Committee of Parliament which is by all definitions an institution by itself, had set up its odyssey from the year 1921.

It is an honour and privilege to welcome all of you to the centenary celebrations of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament of India. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our respected Rashtrapati *ji*, Shri Ram Nath Kovind *ji*, our respected Up-rashtrapati *ji*, Shri Venkaiah Naidu *ji*. We are indebted to them for their benign presence in our midst today. I also extend a warm welcome to Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh *ji*, the Hon'ble Presiding Officers of State Legislatures and the Chairpersons of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislatures of the States and Union Territories present here with us today.

I convey my gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla *ji* for his untiring commitment for strengthening the working of our Parliament and its Committees. We are indebted to him for his invaluable support in organising today the centenary celebrations programme of the Public Accounts Committee.

It is regrettable to note that many of the Commonwealth countries who were invited to join these celebrations have failed to attend the programme because of the looming threat out of the new Covid variant of concern – omicron virus.

We are gathered here today in this Central Hall of Parliament, a sacred venue in our democracy. Our Constitution was framed in this magnificent domed Hall. These benches were once occupied by stalwarts like Jawaharlal Nehru, B.R. Ambedkar, Abul Kalam Azad, J.B. Kripalani, Vallabhbhai Patel and many others. And it was here that after years of struggle and sacrifice, India was declared Independent.

Prior to Independence, Legislatures in the country had limited powers when it came to Government finances. The first step towards scrutiny of Government's spending took place in 1921 when the Public Accounts Committee was set up in the Central Assembly. Even with its limitation, it establishes a semblance of legislative control over Government finances. The Committee in its very first Report set the tone of accountability of Government functioning. It recommended that if after the accounts for the year are closed and the total grant under any demand has exceeded, the excess ought to be regulated by vote of the Assembly.

When the PAC was set up in 1921, the revenues of the Government were as merely as Rs. 200 crore; when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Committee in 1971, Government of India's revenues were Rs. 4,800 crore; and now, in its 100th year, Government revenues reached to a boggling rate of Rs. 18,00,000 crore. These numbers are an indication of the enormity of the Committee's stature and also the scale of responsibility on its shoulders.

Our first Speaker, Shri G. V. Mavalankar highlighted the importance of the PAC when he said, "The work of Public Accounts Committee is not merely a mechanical work of checking credit and debit entries with the vouchers but to go below the surface and see whether the money spent as the Legislature intended was spent with due economies, and last but not the least, whether a high standard of public morality is maintained in all financial matters."

In 1997, when we were celebrating the golden jubilee of our Independence and the 75th year of the PAC, Parliament had organised a Conference which saw the participation of the Chairmen and Members of Public Accounts Committee from SAARC Parliaments. In his opening address, Speaker, P. A. Sangma, in his

usual style said, “Public spending has been described humorously as ‘the most delicious of all privileges: spending other people’s money’.”

It is a function of PAC to ascertain that the money granted by Parliament has been spent by the Government within the scope of the demand. The Committee examines in detail how voted money have been spent and whether it is spent in the interest of the taxpayers. It satisfies itself that the money so voted are spent prudently and economically to maintain the economy and wisdom of each expenditure.

A report of the PAC was discussed for the first time on the floor of National Legislature in 1966. While allowing the discussion the Speaker said, “The most important thing that I have to bring to the notice of the House is that the PAC is a House in miniature. Its decision should be respected, and its dignity should be enhanced. All parties work together in team spirit and no note of dissent is appended or allowed. They work in the interest of the nation and of the House on behalf of the House.”

The PAC is a macrocosm of Parliament as the parties and groups find representations on it largely in proportion to their strength in the House. The Committee however works on non-party lines with a spirit of dedication and service to the country. This has enabled the Committee to function as a united team and adhere to the healthy convention of submitting unanimous reports which truly reflect the non-partisan spirit of the Committee.

An important event in strengthening the PAC took place in 1967. This year, Shri M. R. Masani became the first Opposition Member to become the Chairman of the PAC. It is a tradition that we have been following ever since. During the 100 years of its existence, the Committee has broken a new ground in many fields, extended the scope of its examination. Over the decades, the examination of accounts by the PAC accomplishes the aim of enforcing public accountability in the transactions of Government business. And in this manner, the Committee contributes towards maintaining the standard of efficiency and financial propriety in the running of the administration.

Since the Committee became a parliamentary committee under the control of the Speaker from January 1950, it has presented 1,699 reports. During the last four Lok Sabhas, around 3/4th of the recommendations of PAC have been accepted by the Government. This depicts the credibility and importance of the PAC in the financial sphere of the administration. Through its steady vigilance and watchfulness, the PAC has sought to ensure financial discipline in expenditure as well as in revenue. The Committee has an important advantage as it has the expert assistance of the Comptroller and Auditor General and its talented team of officers in its examination of various Ministries and Departments.

Here, I would like to acknowledge the valuable help the Committee has received from its present Comptroller and Auditor General, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu. The PAC benefits from the hard work and the advice of the officers of the C&AG. It is the inputs from the C&AG that empowers the PAC to produce its output. Increase in the resource capacity and independence of the C&AG will directly impact the functioning of the PAC.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the endeavours and achievements of State PACs in performing the financial vigil at the State level, with some States like Tamil Nadu having PAC since 1923. At this Centenary celebration, I take genuine pride in the achievements of PAC through the years in strengthening the financial discipline of the administration and being a real bulwark for our democratic polity.

I wish that the Committee continues its pursuit towards holding the Government accountable for its spending of tax payers' money. I hope that its stewardship over public asset, with accountability, responsibility and integrity will continue to function as a beacon of courage and hope for all of us.

With these words, I am concluding my speech.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS OF THE HON'BLE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI OM BIRLA
AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT
HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 4 DECEMBER 2021**

I extend a warm welcome to the Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Vice-President for their gracious presence in this historic Central Hall of Parliament today in connection with the Centenary Celebrations of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. I welcome and thank all the Honourable Presiding Officers of the State and Union Territory Legislatures, the Chairpersons of the Public Accounts Committees of State Legislatures and all other dignitaries for accepting my invitation.

It is an important occasion today for our Parliament and all the democratic institutions of the country when we are celebrating the Centenary Year of the constitution of the Public Accounts Committee of the Indian Parliament. The Public Accounts Committee is one of the most important committees of the Parliament, which, since its inception has worked hard to ensure the accountability of the executive to the democratic institutions.

During the last 75 years, since we got independence, the roots of democracy have only deepened in the country and democratic institutions have become stronger. In these seven decades, the Parliament has been successful in fulfilling the expectations and aspirations of the people. The faith and confidence of the people in the democratic institutions have further strengthened.

These democratic institutions are seen as effective forums to solve the problems of the people and fulfil their expectations. Our biggest achievement has been that despite facing hardships in these seven decades, we have emerged as the largest and most effective democracy in the world.

The first and foremost responsibility of democratic institutions is to make the government accountable, responsive and transparent to the people. Parliamentary Committees have made it possible through their efficient functioning.

A period of hundred years is long enough to assess the impact of an organization and review its functioning. During the 100 years of its existence, the Public Accounts Committee has made a significant contribution to uphold the supremacy of the legislature and the Parliament.

In 1921, when the PAC was constituted, we are not even an Independent nation. But, after Independence, the role of PAC has undergone major changes. For facilitating progress and development and ensure effective parliamentary control over the executive, new practices, procedures and conventions have evolved in accordance with the democratic principles.

The Public Accounts Committee is the only parliamentary committee which regularly gets assistance and guidance of the Comptroller and Auditor General. On the bases of which, PAC has been able to make meaningful recommendations with the aim of plugging financial loopholes in the administration and make better use of the financial resources available with the Government. In a developing country like India, the constructive recommendations of this Committee have not only helped in making optimal use of financial resources but also helped the Government to improve its policies and programs.

To underline our deep faith in democratic system, the convention of offering the post of Chairman of this important Committee to the 'Opposition' was introduced. The practice of the Government usually accepting the recommendations of the Committee also shows the maturity of our parliamentary system.

This convention has enabled the development of the PAC as an independent institution within the parliamentary system where all decisions are taken collectively through discussion and deliberation. In the last hundred years of working of the PAC, there have been many instances when its reports established financial discipline in governance.

I am pleased that the Presiding Officers from different States and the Chairpersons of Public Accounts Committees of the States have joined us in this

function on the occasion of completion of hundred years of this important Parliamentary Committee of our country. I am sure that their rich experiences, views and meaningful discussion will make this two-day conference successful.

There are many issues of common interest between the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament and the Public Accounts Committees of the States. We have common objectives as well as challenges.

The Conference will have four sessions in which various contemporary issues facing the Public Accounts Committees will be discussed. The deliberations would bring forth new ideas which would improve the functioning of the Public Accounts Committee at national and state level and would guide us in formulating action plans to meet the challenges of the future.

I am sure that in the course of the Conference, we will discuss the optimum use of Information Technology in the working of the Committees.

The need of the hour is to link all legislatures with a single national digital portal where we can share our resources, achievements, ideas and experiences and find common solutions to common problems.

In the end, I would like to reiterate that the basic aim of our democratic institutions is to serve the people, to fulfil their expectations and aspirations. With your cooperation and active participation, the Parliament of India will scale new heights.

On this centenary celebrations of Public Accounts Committee and on the occasion of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, let us all take a collective pledge that we will discharge our responsibilities with dedication and commitment and work with the spirit of 'सर्वजन हिताय सर्वजन सुखाय' (Everyone's welfare and universal happiness) for the creation of a better, strong and self-reliant nation.

Once again, I extend my deep gratitude to the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Vice-President and all the dignitaries for gracing this occasion.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU
AT THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT, NEW DELHI ON 4 DECEMBER 2021**

“Mahamahim Rashtrapati Ji, Respected Prime Minister, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Ministers and Members of Parliament and Invitees!

Development that all nations aspire is all about mobilization and availability of precious resources and their effective utilization. What differentiates the developed and developing economies is this capital base and also its best use.

Highlighting the importance of resources, the renowned Kautilya said more than 2000 years ago, in his book ‘*Artha Shastra*’, that “*Koshapoorvah sarvarambhah*” or “All State activities depend first on the treasury”. Hence, he argued, “utmost care should be bestowed on matters relating to treasury” and included a chapter on budget, accounts and audit.

About 35 years back, the then Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi noted that every rupee spent, only 16 paise goes to the people. It was taken as a telling commentary on the management of public finances and since then no such fresh quantification has been made in public.

This brings us to the subject of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament which is now in its 100th year in the service of the cause of the nation. PAC along with the Public Estimates Committee and the Public Undertakings Committee constitute the triad of 'permanent vigilance' over a wide range of governmental activities and the attendant expenditure.

PAC is the oldest and the mother of all Committees of Parliament. Its role and importance could be gauged from the fact that it is the dream of almost every Member of Parliament to be on this Committee. Several leading parliamentarians like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Shri T.A. Pai, Shri R. Venkatraman, Shri N.D. Tiwari, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Mallikarjun Kharge have chaired the PAC in the past.

Since Independence, the complexity of governance has gone up manifold with extension of welfare and developmental commitments on the part of the Government. Correspondingly, the budgetary expenditure by the Central Government has increased from Rs. 197 crore in the first Budget to Rs. 35 lakh crores now, which marks an increase of a phenomenal 17,766 times. This huge order of resources either come from the people as taxes of various kind or through borrowings which have to be repaid again from such collections at the required time and period. People would like to know where and how such huge monies are spent. That is where PAC comes into picture.

Parliament embodies the will of the people who have an abiding interest till the efficient utilization of the valuable resources and also be assured of the same. Ensuring the value for money is a core aspect of the 'oversight' functioning of the Parliament which seeks to ensure the administrative and financial accountability of the Executive to the Parliament in the discharge of its duty and commitment to the people.

Public Accounts Committee is the apex Committee mandated with the significant responsibility of ensuring every rupee that is due to the Government is collected and is further spent for the purpose for which it was sanctioned by the Parliament. In nutshell, PAC seeks to know how wisely, faithfully and economically the amounts sanctioned by the Parliament were spent so as to ensure efficient use of scarce resources.

Since the PAC became a Parliamentary Committee after the adoption of the Constitution of India, there has been a significant change in the nature, scope and functions over the years. Its scope now goes much beyond the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and looks into any irregularity that has been brought into public domain.

In developing economies, management of public finances has been a major issue of concern with allegations of corruption and mis-utilisation resulting in wasteful expenditure. PAC seeks to check this by seeking to ensure accountability, transparency and good governance. Effective functioning of PAC ensures trust of

the people in the management of precious resources which in turn promotes investor's confidence based on integrity of public finances through efficient account keeping and its audit.

One criticism that is held against PAC is that it lives in the past and mostly does a post-mortem job. But that is the nature of the functioning of this Committee as it is mandated to examine the appropriation and finance accounts and reports of CAG to find out loopholes, irregularities, wasteful expenditure, excess expenditure, expenditure of little value (nugatory expenditure), etc. so as to prevent their recurrence. This has a huge deterrent value as the recommendations of PAC acquired the nature of the force of law for respective ministries and departments. The reports of PAC and the messages that flow from there are further amplified by extensive references to the same by think tanks and media. Members of Parliament raise questions and debates based on the same. As a result, the functioning of PAC results in the "fear of scrutiny" on the part of all concerned. The reports of PAC and its constant monitoring of Action Taken Reports results in continuous improvement in the systems.

Sydney Webb, British economist and reformer who founded the London School of Economics and dealt with this post mortem nature of the functioning of PAC said and I quote

"The fact that post mortem examination does nothing to keep the patient alive is no proof that the existence of a system of post mortem examination does not prevent murders." Unquote.

He implied that PAC can prevent murders.

Besides critical examination of the functioning of the Government with regard to spending and management of public finances, PAC is essentially also a partner in improving the systems and financial discipline. Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as Chairman of the PAC, said in 1993 and I quote

"Though it is in the nature of working of the PAC to be critical in its approach, we have struck a balance and functioned as partners with

Government in the common endeavour of bringing out improvements in the existing system." Unquote.

All these years, PAC has detected many financial irregularities, procedural lapses, executive delays and even cases of lack of coordination between different government departments. It has also earned a reputation of impartiality, firmness and grasp for details. By doing so, PAC has enhanced the respect of the people for the 'oversight' function of the Parliament.

To give a brief account of the contributions of PAC over the years: based on its recommendations, the ministries/departments are now furnishing Action Taken Reports on the audit paras not selected by the Committee for examination since 1982 which was not case before; ATRs on audit paras are now required to be submitted within four months, Audit Para Monitoring System (APMS) Portal for real time monitoring has been introduced as the Committee is keen to achieve zero pendency; about 14 lakh *Anganwadi* Centres were made operational during the 16th Lok Sabha; wage ceiling has been increased so as to bring more workers under ESI Scheme, etc.

Acceptance of over 70% of the recommendations of PAC by the Government over the years reflect positively on the robustness of its recommendations and subsequent systemic improvements undertaken.

Based on the experience of the last 100 years, PAC may reinvent itself as required to more effectively handle the complexity of scrutinizing the accounts and audit of expenditure through capacity-building, accessing the inputs of experts and information exchanges for setting higher benchmarks and adoption of best practices elsewhere. Since the audit review is also a core function of PAC, I suggest that it may be re-designated as Public Accounts and Audit Committee (PA&AC).

We are all alive to the present scenario of the Governments indulging in doling out freebees for obvious reasons. While ensuring the welfare and social security of the needy people is an important obligation of the Governments, it is

time that there is a wider debate on harmonizing the welfare and development objectives. Expenditures must be carefully balanced so that both the short-term and the long-term development objectives get equal attention. Since PAC has to examine the effectiveness of resource use in terms of socioeconomic outcomes, it may be in order for the Committee to examine the issue of balancing these two objectives for wider consideration.

It may not be out of place to note on this occasion that the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has over the last seven years undertaken a wide range of initiatives to ensure effective utilization of limited resources. One illustration is the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) which has resulted in substantial savings. Corruption has been substantially eradicated and spirited efforts were launched to improve governance at various levels.

To conclude, I compliment the Chairpersons and members of PAC and the Lok Sabha Secretariat for fostering the evolution of this Committee as a dynamic institution over the last century. On this occasion, all concerned may introspect and do the needful to enable the PAC reinvent itself so as to more effectively discharge its mandate in the ultimate service of the people of our country.

Thank you all !

**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND
DELIVERED AT THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON 4 DECEMBER 2021**

It is with a feeling of joy and pride that I join you in celebrating the historic occasion of the centenary of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament of India. My congratulations to you and all citizens on the completion of a hundred years of a very crucial institution of our democracy !

In a democracy, Parliament is the embodiment of the people's will. Various Parliamentary Committees work as its extension and enhance its functioning. It is a welcome division of labour as they allow the Houses to discuss and debate all issues while select groups of the Members of Parliament can devote more focus on select matters. The importance of the framework thus created cannot be overstated. The Parliamentary Committees in general and the Public Accounts Committee, or PAC, in particular ensure administrative accountability of the Executive towards the Legislature. Without them, a parliamentary democracy would be rendered incomplete. It is through the PAC that citizens keep a check on the government finances.

This day is a landmark in the evolution of our democratic systems. The 'Committee on Public Accounts' was first constituted in 1921 after the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, making it the oldest Parliamentary Committee. In those days, of course, the Committee had a different mandate. After Independence, its role changed, and it continued to evolve. Initially it was headed by the Finance Minister, but after the Constitution of India came into force on 26 January 1950, it became a Parliamentary Committee functioning under the control of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, who appointed a Chairman from amongst the Members of the Lower House elected to the Committee. The change signalled the fact that the Committee would now keep tabs on the State's financial transactions not on behalf of the Government but on behalf of the people. In 1967, a further change was made to make its function more effective and inclusive. Since then, a Member

from the Opposition in the Lok Sabha is appointed as the Chairman of the Committee by the Speaker.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In parliamentary democracy, accountability is central to governance. Therefore, it is obvious that a Committee of people's representatives doing scrutiny of public accounts plays an important role. Professor Peter Hennessy, a noted historian on governance, aptly described the Committee of Public Accounts of the British Parliament as [and I quote]

“the queen of select committees [which] by its very existence exerted a cleansing effect in all the government departments”.

[Unquote]

The Public Account Committee in India, too, right since its inception, has been entrusted with a great responsibility of showing the virtue of prudence. It aids in finding better ways to raise the resources and, more importantly, to spend them efficiently on people's welfare. Since it is the Parliament that grants permission to the Executive to raise and spend funds, it has the duty to assess if funds were raised and spent accordingly or not.

The term 'account' can also mean a report – an account of how things truly are. The PAC in this sense strives to render a flawless account of the treasury. More important yet is another connotation of responsibility, that is, holding someone to account. It is this aspect of holding the Executive to account on behalf of the people, which is at the heart of the functioning of the PAC. This element of accountability defines its true role.

Numbers and figures keep changing, and so do book-keeping methods, but the philosophy of public accounts has not changed from the time of Kautilya. In his great treatise 'Arthashastra', there is not only a chapter devoted to 'Treasury, Source of Revenue, Accounts and Audit', but there is also detailed guidance provided on 'Responsibility of Accounts Officers'. Among other things, for

example, Kautilya says the account officer “must not try to interpolate an omitted entry as if it was forgotten inadvertently”. Then there are further points on ‘Responsibility of Auditors’ and ‘Responsibility of High Officials’. The chapter ends with a long list of punishments for failure to conform to the regulations. The point I wish to underline here is the critical importance of accounts and audit, according to Kautilya, in the functioning of the State.

In more recent history, today’s occasion brings to my mind the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi on this subject. During the *Satyagraha* in South Africa, Gandhi *ji* led a delegation to England to present the demands of the Indian community before the Crown. Needless to say, the delegation’s long journey and stay in England was financed by the donations of the community. And Gandhi *ji* was so careful in keeping accounts of the funds the community had given them that he writes [and I quote]:

“...we preserved even such trifling vouchers as the receipts for the money we spent in the steamers upon, say, soda water. Similarly, we preserved the receipts for telegrams.” [Unquote]

I would like to further share what the Father of the Nation has to say as he expands the theme. [I quote]:

“We are not the sole proprietors of our acquisitions; our family is a co-sharer of them along with ourselves. We must account for our single pie for their sake. If such is our responsibility in private life, in public life it is all the greater. I have observed that voluntary workers are apt to behave as if they were not bound to render a detailed account of the business or moneys with which they are entrusted.” [Unquote]

In essence, Gandhi *ji* considered account-keeping as essential to a clean public life as cleanliness is in social life.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The PAC, I am happy to say, has lived up to such lofty ideals and expectations. Its record over the decades has been commendable and exemplary. Its functioning has been praised by independent experts too. Many luminaries

including one of my predecessors, Shri R. Venkataraman, and three of our former Prime Ministers, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, served on it. Since 1952, it has presented 1,671 reports to the Parliament. It has examined public expenditure not only from a legal and formal point of view to find out technical irregularities, if any, but also from the point of view of the economy, prudence, wisdom and propriety. It has no other aim than to bring to notice any cases of waste, loss, corruption, extravagance, inefficiency. If more paise out of every rupee coming from honest taxpayers are reaching those in need and also for nation-building initiatives, the PAC and its members have played a large role in the process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate Shri Om Birla *ji*, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, for organising this event on the landmark occasion of the centenary of the Public Account Committee. I also compliment Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury *ji* for able leadership in heading this important Committee. And I wish this event a great success. I offer my warm greetings to the delegates in the audience. For the Presiding Officers of legislative bodies in India, PAC Chairpersons of all State Legislatures, MPs, past and present Comptroller and Auditor Generals, former Presiding Officers of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, former Chairperson of PAC, this event, and the conferences to be held along with it, would provide an ideal platform for discussion of ways to make the Executive more accountable and thus to improve people's welfare.

To all of you, my best wishes for all your endeavours.

Thank you.

Jai Hind !

**ADDRESS OF THE HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT, SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY AT
THE VALEDICTORY FUNCTION ON 5 DECEMBER 2021**

Distinguished Delegates, good morning all of you. I think we are all fortunate enough because, in the last two consecutive days, fortune himself is smiling upon us as a result of which we are all basking the dazzling sunshine in Delhi and really enjoying the pleasure of this capital.

As this historic Centennial Celebrations of Public Accounts Committee is now drawing to a close, I would like to thank all those who have shared their perspective on different subjects which we discussed in the last two days. It is gratifying to note that we have been able to achieve a consensus on a host of issues after such extensive discussions.

I am extremely grateful to all the distinguished delegates and others attending the Conference for your kind help and cooperation for the smooth and facile conduct of this Conference. Your presence itself shows the significance of PAC in a democracy and our strong commitment to work towards strengthening it further.

There is a saying in Sanskrit, '*aano bhadra krtavo yantu vishwatah*'. 'Let noble thoughts come from all directions'. India is such a country which always indulges the divergence of values. We always encourage the plurality of our culture. Debate, discussion, dissent, disagreement – all are inherent in our civilisation. Practically, our civilisation is itself an unending celebration of human plurality. Just see, we have inherited four *Vedas*, 18 *Upanishads*, six schools of classical philosophy, two epics and so on which eloquently speak the society we have inherited, which know how to accommodate the divergence of ideas and the dissention also. This is the beauty and nicety of our civilisation. That is why India is called civilisational country where always debate is inspired. See the debate and dialogue in *Mahabharata*. Everywhere, we have been witnessing, since the time immemorial, that question, query, quest, doubts – all are to be ventilated in a free

and unrestricted manner which culminates into the enrichment of our civilisation, our society and our country itself.

After the end of the Second World War, if you see, the world witnessed a wave of democratisation. But the salient feature is that barring a few countries, democracy has not been flourished and thrived in a manner it was desired. But the exceptional feature of our country is that we have been continuing the essence of democracy for the last seven decades. By dint of our democratic resilience, we have been able to curb out a niche in the comity of nations. There, we have always been recognised as a democratic country may be with all its deficiencies and failures. But in Nehru's word, "the mansion of noble institution that is our Parliamentary democracy still is being sustained because of this civilisational cultures we have inherited into our system."

Our former Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"When society becomes more complex, the official apparatus grows tremendously; bureaucracy grows. Bureaucracy means a trained person doing a job. But as trained persons fit into a huge machine, they become cogs and lose initiative and purpose. Any system of government which tends to become passive and static is bad. The parliamentary system of government, with all its failures, has a virtue that it can fit with the changing pattern of life."

Yes, we are able to adapt to the changing pattern of life. There lies the crux of our success, and PAC is such a glorious institution which acts as a formidable fulcrum of the noble Indian democratic system. It exhausts all its resources in order to put in place checks and balances in our political system.

Today, when this memorable Conference concludes, on behalf of all the Delegates and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Respected President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind *ji*, who graciously acceded to our request to inaugurate the Conference. The tone for meaningful debates at the Conference was set by his stimulating Inaugural Address.

We are grateful to the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla *ji* for taking keen interest in organising this programme and providing us with his invaluable guidance and kind support.

We have with us our Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Harvansh Narayan Singh *ji*, who also, once upon a time, remained in the PAC, I think, led by Chandra Shekhar *ji*.

If I recall correctly, the setting up of the first Public Accounts Committee in 1921 was a landmark in the chronicles of our parliamentary system, as it was the first pioneering step towards establishing financial control by the Legislature over the Executive. I would like to pay my tributes to those who contributed to the growth of PAC since its founding year, in particular to those who steered the society in the initial stages. I am pleased to say that PAC, from its very beginning, became a major component in asserting legislative influence upon government.

The Committee achieved another milestone when it celebrated the Golden Jubilee in December 1971 on its successful completion of 50 years of service to the nation. The Golden Jubilee celebration of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament was inaugurated by the then President of India, Shri V.V. Giri. I pay my humble tribute to all the parliamentarians who, in the formative years of the PAC, with their wisdom and great caliber, worked tirelessly towards strengthening of this institution. The caravan of all the democratic institutions of our country has been going on. In the course of their journey, they are extracting the divergent views of millions of people of our country and the world at large, because we never express our parsimonious attitude to accept any divergence of views from anywhere across the globe.

During the last two days' celebrations, we discussed themes on four important Sessions, namely, (1) *“Functioning of the PAC in present times, challenges and the way forward: Realigning PAC's approach; collecting information from non-governmental sources; and assessing outcomes of programmes /schemes/projects”*, (2) *“Implementation of recommendations of*

PAC: Adherence to timelines and mechanism for strict compliance”, (3) “PAC as development partner: Focusing on strengthening of systems and promoting good governance”, and (4) “Impact of PAC: Insuring citizens’ right to due process and value for taxpayers’ money”.

The themes of all the Sessions are of immense topical relevance to all democracies, more so, for a parliamentary democracy like ours, which function through an institutionalised system of checks and balances to secure good governance practices. Still, we have not reached to such a zenith of democracy without any suffering or without any struggle or fight in our journey.

I would like to remind you that the Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore once expressed his grief, anguish and pain to his associate after observing the terror and horror that occurred during the course of World War II. One of his associates replied:

“Mr. Tagore, the course of civilisation has not been determined by the brutal forces. The courses of civilisation have been determined by the forces of humanity. So, the course of history will not be determined by the red shirts or black shirts.” It has become true. The reason is that “Neither the brown shirts of Hitler nor the black shirts of Mussolini are going to determine the course of civilisation in the contemporary period. The course of civilisation is going to be determined by a person, who has not shirt, and he is Mahatma Gandhi. He lives in India.”

It was quoted by one of the associates of Rabindranath Tagore.

As we all know, Executive accountability to the Legislatures is one of the cornerstones on which the edifice of a parliamentary democracy is erected. It is also one of the crucial components of good governance along with securing rule of law, ensuring transparency and combating lack of probity.

The Public Accounts Committee keeps a constant vigil over the Government’s spending and performance. Thus, parliamentary control over public expenditure is not limited only to voting of monies required for carrying on the administration of the country. But it also ensures that the expenditure is incurred

in a prudent manner and that the objectives underlying the policies approved by the Parliament are achieved.

Meanwhile, as far as the overall approach is concerned, I believe that the PAC is desired to find innovative responses to newer and emerging challenges in the present scenario.

The Reports of the PAC are of immense value. Citizens can use these Reports to question their representatives and hold the public servant to account.

We have got, during the exchange of views, a plethora of ideas. Hon'ble participants have shared their treasured experiences in the course of deliberations. We have decided that we will give due importance to those views, opinions articulated by those distinguished delegates during the course of deliberations; and in consultation with our Hon'ble Speaker, we are going to devise ways and means to make the PAC mechanism more stringent, more responsive and more accountable. It will be done not in isolation but in unison of all the PAC Chairmen across the nation.

I now conclude on a note of satisfaction and with the hope that Public Accounts Committee will work with more intent and sincerity in the coming years in delivering democracy and setting high benchmarks for democratic legislatures so as to ensure that democracy delivers as also remains relevant to the people at all times.

Our thanks are also due to the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, for his profuse efforts in organising this event. I would also like to express my deep appreciation of the quiet and dedicated work putting behind the scenes by the officer and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and PAC Secretariat who provide invaluable secretarial assistance to make this function a grand success.

I also take this opportunity to heartily thank the media for taking an active interest and giving wide coverage for the varied activities of the Conference. I would also like to express my deep appreciation for the exhibitions organised by Parliament Museum and Achieves on the *Hundred Years of Historic Journey of PAC*. The exhibition is the attraction of the centenary function. Such exhibitions

have their own importance for they go a long way in creating awareness of the efficacy of Parliamentary institution and structure in strengthening democracy.

The success of this conference shows the dedication of our representatives towards good governance and development. The active participation of delegates in the deliberations on different themes have made the discussions fruitful. It also reflects the sensitiveness of our legislators towards public welfare. All the sessions were very interactive and interesting. Friends, more than anything else, our gratitude is to all whose cooperation at every stage and enthusiastic participation throughout the Conference has made all our efforts a highly rewarding experience for us as the host.

With these words, I heartily congratulate all of you on the Centenary Year of the PAC and for your commitment to continue the good work in the same spirit which motivated its establishment a century ago. Gandhiji once exhorted to us:

“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”

Certainly, we will do something magnificent, something significant, something needful for the country which we all belong to, our great country India.

Jai Hind !

**ADDRESS OF THE HON'BLE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA
AT THE VALEDICTORY SESSION OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
ON 5 DECEMBER 2021**

We have now come to the conclusion of the Centennial Year Celebration of the Public Accounts Committee of our Parliament after two days of extensive deliberations. It is a matter of great pleasure for me that this Centenary Celebration witnessed comprehensive discussions, with all the participants giving their valuable suggestions and sharing insights into issues of contemporary relevance with the Committee.

The current era is of great significance in the history of independent India. The Centennial year of PAC converges with our *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* being celebrated on completion of 75 years of our democracy. This is an opportunity not only to reflect upon our progress so far, but also to set new goals and start upon a new path to make our democratic institutions more meaningful and responsive to the common man.

In the current scenario, parliamentary committees are shouldering the important responsibility of ensuring accountability and transparency in governance. The four sessions of this two day's conference witnessed comprehensive discussions on the relevance of the PAC and its future agenda.

We discussed issues related to the functioning of the Committee in these sessions. We discussed important issues such as the challenges before the Committee and its future action plan, implementation of its recommendations, role of the Committee in ensuring good governance; proper utilization of financial resources and also shared our views thereon.

I feel that the issues discussed here are of relevance not only to the Public Accounts Committee but for all the Parliamentary Committees and democratic institutions.

Hence, after the conclusion of this Conference, we will share the proceedings of the Conference through digital medium with all the democratic institutions with a view to reaching out to a wide audience, so that democratic institutions not only in our country but in other countries are also benefited by the deliberations held here. Only then, these deliberations will be universally beneficial.

Friends,

In the present times, the Parliamentary Committees are playing an important role in strengthening democracy, widening its base and ensuring that the benefits of development reach the last person in line.

Our country is in a transitional phase. The Government is making efforts to formulate effective and transparent action plans for the welfare of the people and ensure their proper implementation. The people also want to avail full benefit of the policies and programmes of the Government. They voice their aspirations to the Government through the democratic institutions.

Parliamentary Committees play an important role in fulfilling their requirements and aspirations. The functioning of Committees is more flexible *vis-a-vis* the House. Committees may meet the people directly to get their views and understand their problems and wants. They also meet the government officials directly to understand their point of view. If required, domain experts are also consulted. The decisions reached by the Committees after all these deliberations are more meaningful and relevant.

Our Parliamentary Committees have established a robust convention of rising above political considerations while discussing various issues. We need to work towards further strengthening this tradition. To fulfil our duties towards the nation and its people, we all need to keep the nation foremost while making collective efforts to work for public welfare.

The strength of any society, any country lies in its unity and collective efforts. Hence, to build a strong nation, we need to inculcate a spirit of unity and

build consensus on issues of national interest. Keeping the interests of the nation first and foremost, this unity should form the core of efforts of each institution of the country. Today, when the country is setting exceptional targets for itself, addressing decades old problems and making resolutions for a bright, new future, these goals can be achieved only through collective efforts.

Hon'ble Members,

The next 25 years are going to be the most important years for our country. We should make a resolution that when the country would be celebrating the Centenary of its independence in 2047, it should emerge as a developed country with its citizens being counted among the most prosperous in the world.

To achieve these targets, our democratic institutions will have to become more progressive. They will have to work with eyes trained not only on the present but also on the future. Our legislatures will have to adopt technological advancements and also cope with the changing needs and demands of the people.

I am happy to note that the Parliamentary Committees, in tune with the changing times, are also widening their areas of examination and study. A big chunk of public funds is being allocated for welfare schemes.

Hence, It is necessary for Parliamentary Committees to accord priority to reviewing and evaluating people-centric flagship programmes.

Today, our nation is on a transformational path. Technology is driving the change. Covid Pandemic has emphasized the growing importance of technology in addressing global challenges. In this scenario, functioning of democratic institutions can be modernized only by making maximum use of technology.

Taking inspiration from our hon. Prime Minister, we are preparing a national e-portal to connect all the Legislatures of the country on one platform. Inputs such as proceedings of the Parliament and all the legislatures, reports of Parliamentary Committees etc., shall be available on this portal. This will help the Legislatures exchange and share their views and also encourage research on parliamentary issues.

Friends,

A suggestion was given in the recently concluded Presiding Officers' Conference, that the Presiding Officers of the State Legislatures concerned should review the work of the State Legislature Committees once a year to make their functioning more effective. A decision in this regard shall be taken after further consideration.

Capacity building of members of all Parliamentary Committees including Public Accounts Committee is the need of the hour. Research support is required to help them to settle upon the issues to be selected for scrutiny, collect information on these issue and present a holistic report thereon. The parliamentary research team is being built-up for this purpose. States should also make efforts in this direction to improve the functioning of the State Committees.

A system needs to be formulated to share the best practices and innovations of Committees of democratic institutions so that we may learn from one another and ensure excellence in our functioning.

Friends,

This is a remarkable occasion when representatives of democratic institutions of the country have gathered here for the Centenary Celebration of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament to deliberate on important issues before the democratic institutions. I am sure that the issues discussed in this Conference will help in making our democratic institutions even more effective.

An event of this magnitude in the midst of the Winter Session of the Parliament has been made possible only because of the support and cooperation extended by the departments and agencies concerned.

I greatly appreciate the cooperation they all have extended to make this programme a grand success.

Before I conclude, I call upon all the Chairpersons of PACs and distinguished participants present here to resolve to dedicate ourselves to make our

democratic institutions more effective so that developmental plans, programmes and allocations made in Parliament and State Legislatures reach our citizens.

Given the enthusiasm and involvement of participants shown over the past two days, I am fully confident that this Conference will give new direction to all the Parliamentary Committees and add a new dimension to their functioning.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.

SHORT NOTE

100 YEARS OF ALL INDIA PRESIDING OFFICERS CONFERENCE

The All India Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India (AIPOC) celebrated its Centennial Year in Shimla, the capital and historic city of Devbhoomi Himachal Pradesh, from 16 to 19 November 2021. Since the first Conference of the Presiding Officers held in Shimla on 14 and 16 September 1921, (then it was called the Conference of the President of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Presidents and Deputy Presidents of the Legislative Councils in the Provinces), it has travelled through 100 eventful years witnessing the evolution of the institutions of democracy in the country.

Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India

Parliamentary democracy, in its modern sense, has struck deep and firm roots in the Indian soil. Parliament and State Legislatures are the best fora to ventilate public grievances and to ensure Executive accountability. In this context, the person who presides over the House has to be an ideal blend of firmness and persuasiveness while conducting the business in the Legislature.

The Presiding Officers of our Legislative Bodies are, in fact, entrusted with the onerous responsibility of ensuring that the aspirations of the people as voiced through their representatives, are fulfilled. In doing so, they come across varied problems and complex situations arising on the floor of the House. Hence, it becomes necessary that the problems confronted by the Presiding Officers in managing the proceedings of the Legislatures are analyzed and discussed periodically so as to develop sound and healthy traditions and conventions. It is in this background that the need for such a forum where Presiding Officers could exchange and share their thoughts and experiences with their counterparts was felt.

First Conference of Presiding Officers in 1921

The first Conference Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held in Simla in September 1921 - the same year in which the first bicameral Legislature, constituted under the Government of India Act, 1919, came into being at the Centre. Sir Frederick Whyte, became the first nominated President of the Central Legislative Assembly, who laid down the foundation of the Conference of the Presidents (now called Presiding Officers) and presided over the first Conference on 14 and 16 September 1921. The Late Shri Vithalbhai J. Patel, who succeeded Sir Frederick Whyte in 1925, was the first elected President of the Central Legislative Assembly.

With the attainment of Independence and establishment of a full-fledged Parliamentary form of Government at the Centre as well as in the States, the discussions at the Presiding

Officers' Conferences acquired greater significance. Late Shri G.V. Mavalankar, the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha, guided the destiny of the Conference from 1946 to 1956.

Till 1946, the Conference was not convened at regular intervals. Recognising its great value, Speaker Mavalankar started the practice of holding the Conference annually. Since its inception in 1921 to the year 1950, the venue of the Conference was either Delhi or Shimla. From 1951 onwards, on the suggestion of the then Speaker Shri Mavalankar, the Conference has been organised at different places in various States.

The Conference of Presiding Officers was institutionalised with the objective of securing coordination of parliamentary procedure throughout India. With revolutionary changes in the powers and functions of the Legislatures of India since Independence, the objects and scope of the Conference also kept on widening with the evolution of responsible Government in the country.

One of the objectives of the Conference is to make the Legislatures as efficient as possible so as to match the demands made on it by the system and the people from time to time. Accordingly, the parliamentary procedures, functioning and infrastructure facilities available with Legislatures are required to be updated regularly so that the Legislatures may keep pace with the changing times.

Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India

A new dimension to the Presiding Officers Conference was added in 1953, when the institution of the Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was created. The objective behind the Secretaries' Conference was to ensure that the Legislature Secretariats in various States do not function at different levels and some sort of uniformity in organization and administration of Legislature secretariats are brought in. Accordingly, the Secretaries met, for the first time, in Gwalior on 23 October 1953. Since then, the Conference of Secretaries has become a regular event usually organized prior to the Conference of the Presiding Officers.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is the *ex officio* Chairman of the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India. The Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha is the *ex officio* Secretary of the Conference and the Lok Sabha Secretariat functions as the Conference Secretariat. In addition to the Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Conference is attended by the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairmen, the Speakers, the Deputy Chairmen and the Deputy Speakers of the State Legislatures in India, including those of Union territories.

100 Years of the All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC)

In the last 100 years of its momentous journey, the AIPOC stands witness to the evolution of our Legislatures as responsible institutions of parliamentary democracy. Till date, eighty-two Conferences have been held (the 82nd Conference held in Shimla in November 2021) which includes six Emergent Conferences of Presiding Officers, organised in between. In the meanwhile, twenty-one Standing Committees of Presiding Officers have also been constituted. In 1953, the Conference of Secretaries was instituted and has been holding regular meetings parallel to the AIPOC. Many significant and landmark resolutions have been adopted over the years by the Presiding Officers.

Since its inception, the Conference has provided a forum for the Presiding Officers of the Legislatures all over the country to discuss matters relating to parliamentary practice and procedure and has thus gone a long way in establishing sound democratic conventions and uniform parliamentary procedure in India. Starting from giving recognition to political parties and groups in the House, issues related to frequent party changing, floor crossing, discipline and decorum in the House, diversifying the Committee System, further tightening of suspension of members from the House, recognizable and effective role opposition parties, etc. Apart from this in the present times in the wake of transparent and responsive governance and democratic system allied with technological development and right to information, etc. the Conference is also discussing increasing capacity-building of members. By holding these Conferences in different State Capitals, it has also promoted a sense of oneness and national unity.

82nd Conference of Presiding Officers, Shimla, 16-19 November 2021

Commemorating the Centennial Year of the Conference, the 82nd AIPOC was organised at the place where it originated in 1921 - Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The Conference, spread over four days from 16 to 19 November 2021, deliberated on two main subjects: - *Journey of a Century: Evaluation and the way forward*; and *Responsibility of Presiding Officers towards the Constitution, the House and the people*.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 82nd All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) -*cum*- Centennial Year Celebration by joining the Inaugural Function virtually. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the 82nd AIPOC, Shri Om Birla; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Jairam Thakur; Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Hon'ble Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar; also addressed the delegates.

Prior to the official inauguration of the 82nd AIPOC, the 58th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was also organised.

After deliberating for two days, the Conference of Presiding Officers concluded with the adoption of a Resolution. (*For the Resolution adopted at the 82nd AIPOC, see the Section on Addresses.*) The Resolution expressing satisfaction over its performance during the 100 years of its journey since 1921, agreed to hold the AIPOC twice a year. It also underlined the need for organising compulsory capacity-building programmes for newly elected MLAs. The Presiding Officers agreed to work towards identifying parameters for selection of best Legislatures and ensuring no interruptions during President's and Governors' Addresses. Acknowledging the role of Parliament in providing leadership to State Legislatures in formulating rules of procedure and conduct of business and incorporating changes required therein, the Resolution agreed to initiate preparation of a draft Manual by Parliament.

To bring all the legislatures under one roof, Presiding Officers also agreed to make the proceedings of Parliament and State Legislatures public on a single digital platform - *One Nation, One Legislative Platform*. During the celebrations marking the '*Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*', the Resolution agreed to launch an awareness campaign from *Gram Panchayats* to State Legislatures and Parliament towards public duties.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The Seventh G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20): The Seventh G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit was held in Rome, Italy on 7-8 October 2021 on the overall theme of *“Parliaments for People, Planet and Prosperity.”*

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, and comprising of the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri Utpal Kumar Singh; and Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. PPK Ramacharyulu, attended the Summit. Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

During the Summit, the participating Delegates deliberated on three sub-themes under the broad ambit of the overall theme. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha participated in Session-I on the theme *“Response to the Social and Employment Crisis caused by the Pandemic”*, during which he made an intervention highlighting India's initiatives for saving lives and livelihoods during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha was the Keynote Speaker for Session-II on the theme *“Rebooting Economic Growth in terms of Social and Environmental Sustainability”*, wherein he emphasized that all countries need to join hands in finding solutions to address the challenge of Climate Change and ensure sustainable economic development.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh participated in Session-III of the Summit on the theme *“Sustainability and Food Security after the Pandemic.”* At the end of the Summit, a Joint Statement was adopted based on the overall theme of the Summit highlighting the solidarity of all G20 Parliaments amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic.

On the side-lines of the Summit, the Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha held bilateral meetings with the following dignitaries: (i) Rt. Hon'ble Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, UK; (ii) H.E. Mr. Reiner Haseloff, President of Bundesrat, Germany; (iii) H.E. Mr. Jan Anthonie Bruijn, President of the Senate of Netherlands; (iv) H.E. Ms. Maria Elisa Alberti Casellati, President of the Italian Senate; (v) H.E.

Ms. Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Indonesia; and (vi) H.E. Ms. Nosiviwe Mapisa Nqakula, Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha also met H.E. Mr. Konstantin Kosachev, Deputy Speaker, Council of Federation, Russia. The Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha also interacted with the members of the Italy-India Parliamentary Friendship Group.

143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union & related meetings: The 143rd Assembly of the IPU & related meetings were held in Madrid, Spain from 26-30 November 2021.

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and consisting of Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Smt. Poonamben Maadam, Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram and Km. Diya Kumari, all the Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha; and Dr. Sasmit Patra, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha attended the aforementioned Assembly and related meetings. Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

During the 143rd IPU Assembly, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member of Parliament and Leader of the Delegation participated in the General Debate on the overall theme "*Contemporary challenges to democracy: overcoming division and building community*". The Assembly adopted an Outcome Document on the theme of the General Debate at its concluding Session. The Assembly also adopted a Resolution on theme of the Emergency item namely, "*Harnessing global parliamentary support for vaccine equity in the fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic*".

The Delegation attended the sessions of other IPU bodies viz. the IPU Governing Council, the Bureaux Meetings and Plenary Sessions of the four Standing Committees of IPU, Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Committee to Promote respect for International Humanitarian Law, and IPU Advisory Group on Health. The Members of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation also attended two workshops organized by IPU on the following themes (i) *Inter-faith Dialogue*; and (ii) *Knowledge exchange on Climate Change*.

Further, on the sideline of the Assembly, Members of the Delegation also participated in the following events: (i) Asian Parliamentary Assembly Coordination Meeting held on 26

November 2021; and (ii) Inaugural Meeting of the Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held on 28 November 2021. During the Assembly, members of the Delegation also met H.E. Duarte Pacheco, President, IPU. The Delegation led by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member of Parliament also held bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Sinzohagera, President of the Senate of Burundi, and Hon. Advocate Jacob Francis Nzwidamilimo Mudenda, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe.

Seventh BRICS Parliamentary Forum: In the year of India's Presidency of BRICS, Seventh Edition of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum was hosted by Parliament of India on 27 November 2021 in Madrid, Spain on the sidelines of the 143rd IPU Assembly. The Forum deliberated on the overall theme '*the Role of BRICS Parliaments in ensuring inclusive and equitable post-pandemic economic recovery*'. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member of Parliament and Leader of the Delegation Chaired the Forum. All Members of the Delegation participated in the Forum.

South Africa was represented by the Speaker of the National Assembly, H.E. Ms. Nosiviwe Mapisa Nqakula. The Delegation from Brazil was led by Hon. Mr. Atila Lins, Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies. From the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Petr Tolstoy, Deputy Chairman of State Duma and H.E. Mr. Konstantin Kosachev, Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council participated in the Forum. H.E. Shen Yueyue, Vice Chair-woman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China participated through recorded video message. On behalf of Indian Delegation, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha delivered a statement on the theme of the Forum, and Smt. Poonamben Maadam, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha expressed views from women's perspective on the theme of the Forum.

National Conference of Law Students: A National Conference of Law Students was organised on 25 November 2021 in the Central Hall, Parliament House on the theme '*Separation of Powers enshrined in the Constitution of India*'. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha; Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Hon'ble Law Minister and the President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) graced the occasion and addressed the gathering of faculty and students from top Law Universities/ Colleges in India.

The inaugural session was followed by a plenary session on “*Separation of Powers enshrined in the Constitution of India*” which was chaired by the Chairperson, Standing Committee on External Affairs and Chairperson, Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.

Function to commemorate ‘Samvidhan Divas’: A function to commemorate ‘*Samvidhan Divas*’ was organised on 26 November 2021 in the Central Hall, Parliament House. Hon’ble President of India; Vice-President & Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Prime Minister of India; Speaker, Lok Sabha and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs graced the occasion and addressed the distinguished gathering. Members of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha attended the function.

On the occasion, Hon’ble President of India released the digital versions of the Constituent Assembly Debates and the calligraphed Constitution of India. Hon’ble President of India also released the updated Constitution of India and inaugurated the online quiz on Constitutional Democracy.

The 82nd All India Presiding Officers’ Conference (AIPOC): As part of Centennial Celebrations of AIPOC, the 82nd All India Presiding Officers’ Conference (AIPOC) was held on 17 and 18 November 2021 at the Council Chamber of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in Shimla.

On 17 November 2021, Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the Conference in virtual mode. Besides, Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson, AIPOC, Shri Om Birla; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shri Jairam Thakur; Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar and Leader of Opposition, Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shri Mukesh Agnihotri also addressed the Inaugural Session of the Conference.

The Conference deliberated on two subjects viz. (i) *Journey of a Century – Evaluation and the way forward*; and (ii) *Responsibility of Presiding Officers toward the Constitution, the House and the People*. The Conference was attended by 27 Presiding Officers of the State / Union Territory Legislatures.

H.E. Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar gave the Valedictory Session of the Conference. Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson, AIPOC, Shri Om Birla; Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri

Anurag Thakur and Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shri Vipin Singh Parmar also delivered their speeches.

The 82nd AIPOC was preceded by the Meeting of the Standing Committee of AIPOC that was held at the State Guest House, Peterhoff, Shimla on 16 November 2021. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla who is also the Chairman of the Standing Committee of AIPOC chaired the Meeting. Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh and 7 Members of the Standing Committee along with some of the Special Invitees attended the Meeting.

On the same day, the 58th Conference of the Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was held at the Council Chamber of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shimla. Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Utpal Kumar Singh delivered the inaugural address. Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri P.C. Mody also addressed the Conference. It was attended by 18 Principal Secretaries/Special Secretary/Secretaries of State/UT Legislatures. The Conference deliberated on three subjects *viz.* (i) *Capacity building of members for enriching debates and discussion in the House;* (ii) *Online Committee Meetings: Need of the House, Challenges and way ahead;* and (iii) *Desirability of having uniform Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.*

Centennial Celebrations of Public Accounts Committee: The Centennial Celebrations of Public Accounts Committee of Parliament of India were held on 4 and 5 December 2021 at Central Hall of the Parliament.

Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind gave the inaugural address on 4 December 2021. He released electronically Centenary Souvenir of Public Accounts Committee and also inaugurated remotely the exhibition on Journey of Public Accounts Committee from 1921-2021. The Inaugural Session was also addressed by Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu; Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla and Chairperson of Public Accounts Committee, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

As a part of the Centennial Celebrations, the Public Accounts Committee deliberated on the following four agenda themes on 4 and 5 December 2021 at Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe:

- i. Functioning of PAC in Present Times, Challenges and the Way Forward: Realigning PAC's Approach; Collecting Information from Non-Governmental Sources; and, Assessing Outcomes of Programmes/Schemes/Projects.*

- ii. *Implementation of Recommendations of PAC: Adherence to timelines and mechanism for strict compliance.*
- iii. *PAC as a Development Partner: Focusing on strengthening of systems and promoting good governance.*
- iv. *Impact of PAC: Ensuring citizens' right to due process and value for tax-payers' money*

On 5 December 2021, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla addressed the Valedictory Session and electronically released the Centennial Monograph on Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India (1921-2021). Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh and Chairperson of Public Accounts Committee, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also addressed the Session.

The Centennial Celebrations were attended by the Presiding Officers of State Legislatures, Members of PAC of Parliament of India, Chairmen and Members of PAC of State Legislatures, Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of Parliament of India, Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, etc.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha Addresses Assam Legislative Assembly: Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman, AIPOC, Shri Om Birla addressed the Assam Legislative Assembly on 24 December 2021. While addressing the gathering, to ensure that parliamentary democracy remains relevant and useful for the common man, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha *inter-alia* emphasized that it is essential for everyone to act in conformity with the traditions and principles of parliamentary democracy and remain committed towards the fundamental values of democracy.

Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Biswajit Daimary; Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma; Leader of Opposition, Shri Debabrata Saikia; Leader of All India United Demoratic Front (AIUDF), Shri Hafiz Bashir Ahmed; Leader of Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) & Minister of Agriculture, Shri Atul Bora and Leader of Bodoland People's Front (BPF), Shri Durga Das Boro also addressed the event.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, and also on the birth anniversaries of former Speakers of Lok Sabha,

functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing the profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are distributed on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2021:

Shri G.M.C. Balayogi: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, a function was held on 1 October 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of the former Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi.

Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, a function was held on 2 October 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, Speaker Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a function was held on 31 October 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Minister of Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh; Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj V. Patil paid floral tributes at the portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a function was held on 11 November 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a function was held on 14 November 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Members of Parliament paid floral tributes at the portrait of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Smt. Indira Gandhi: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Indira Gandhi, a function was held on 19 November 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Shri Rabi Ray: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Rabi Ray, a function was held on 26 November 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Rabi Ray.

Shri G.V. Mavalankar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri G.V. Mavalankar, a function was held on 27 November 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh and others paid tributes at the portrait of former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri G. V. Mavalankar.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a function was held on 3 December 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla and Members of Parliament paid floral tributes at the portrait of Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri C. Rajagopalachari, a function was held on 10 December 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla; Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh; Minister of State in Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Ministry of Culture, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal; Minister of State in Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan; Minister of State in Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Shri C. Rajagopalachari.

Chaudhary Charan Singh: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, a function was held on 23 December 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of former Prime Minister, Chaudhary Charan Singh.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a function was held on 25 December 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi; Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla; Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portraits of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Foreign Parliamentary Delegation Visiting India

Mongolia: A Parliamentary Delegation from Mongolia led by H.E. Mr. Gombojav Zandanshatar, Chairman (Speaker) of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia visited India from 30 November to 5 December 2021.

On 1 December 2021, the delegation called on the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind; Vice-President of India & Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu; Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla; Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Hon'ble Minister of Steel, Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh. A banquet was hosted by the Hon'ble Speaker in honour of the delegation. The Delegation also witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in Session from the 'Special Box' on same day.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation also visited Bodhgaya, Bihar.

Vietnam: A Parliamentary Delegation from Vietnam led by H.E. Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, Chairman (Speaker) of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam visited India from 15 to 19 December 2021.

On 16 December 2021, the delegation called on the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri, Om Birla. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the National Assembly Secretariat of Socialist Republic of Vietnam and was followed by a banquet dinner hosted by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha in honour of the delegation.

On 17 December 2021, the delegation called on the Hon'ble Vice-President of India & Chairman Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar.

On 19 December 2021, the delegation called on the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation also visited Bodhgaya, Bihar and Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Call-on Meeting with the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha

Tajikistan: H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 18 December 2021 in Parliament House.

U.A.E.: H.E. Dr. Ahmed Abdulrahman Abdulrahman AlBanna, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 25 December 2021 at 20, Akbar Road.

PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACIES

(PRIDE)

During the period from 1 October to 31 December 2021, the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) organized the following Events/Courses/Programmes for Members/Delegates/ Probationers/Dignitaries/Officials:

I. Programmes for Hon'ble Members of Parliament/Legislative Assemblies:

In all six programmes were held:

- i. An online Women Health Awareness workshop and Screening Camp on *Prevention of Breast, Ovarian and Cervical Cancer* was conducted on 22 October 2021. Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislatures, Officers of Embassies, Officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats attended the Workshop. The Programme was also viewed by participants through webcasting;

- ii. A Lecture on *"Best Practices in Water and Energy Conservation Management- the Key to India's Sustainability and Prosperity"* was organized on 9 December 2021. Members of Parliament, Officials of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariats and Officials of the concerned Committee attended. The Programme was also viewed by participants through webcasting;
- iii. An Orientation Programme for the newly elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry was organized from 14 to 16 December 2021;
- iv. Another Lecture on *"Sensitization Programme to promote Inclusivity and Accessibility of Divyangjans"* was held on 14 December 2021. Members of Parliament, Officials of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat and Officials of the concerned Committee attended. The Programme was also viewed by participants through webcasting; and
- v. A Capsule Course in *'Cyber Awareness, Cyber Security and Cyber Hygiene'* for the Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislature, Officials of Parliament and State Legislature, Indian Embassies and Family Members was organized on 17 December 2021. The Programme was also viewed by participants from Embassies and State Legislature Secretariats through webcasting.

II. Training Programmes for officials of Ministries/Departments of Government of India: Two Programmes were held :(i) Online Programme on Subordinate Legislation for officials from different Ministries/Departments of Government of India; and (ii) Online Programme on Parliamentary Work Management for Assistant Section Officers undergoing 12 Weeks Foundation Training Programme at ISTM, New Delhi.

III. Training Programmes for International/Foreign Participants:

- i. Two Online Capacity-Building programme were conducted for Officials of the Cambodian Senate : (i) English for International Communication from 11-13 October 2021; and (ii) Parliamentary Studies and Research from 16-18 November 2021; and

- ii. Four Officials, (two officials each from Turkmenistan and Lok Sabha Secretariat) attended the Webinar on Indian Parliamentary and Democratic Traditions in association with Embassy of India, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and Institute of State, Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan on 30 November 2021.

IV. Appreciation Courses: Four Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for the Probationers of: (i) Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) and Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) from 29-30 November 2021; (ii) Indian Police Service (IPS) from 1-2 December 2021; (iii) Indian Revenue Service (IRS) from 6-8 December 2021; and (iv) IRS(C&IT), ICLS and IRAS from 15-17 December 2021.

V. Training Programmes for Media Persons:

Media Persons from Mizoram attended the Training Programme in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures from 09 to 10 December 2021.

VI. Capacity Building Programme for officials of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats: During the period ten programmes were conducted:

- (i) Online Management Development Programme from 5-7 October 2021;
- (ii) Value Addition cum Practical Training Programme for Attendants working in the Offices of Hon'ble Speaker/Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Hon'ble Chairperson of Committees on 29 October 2021;
- (iii) Online Training Programme in Drafting of Committee report and Committee Management from 10-12 November 2021;
- (iv) Training Programme on First Aid from 11-12 November 2021;
- (v) Online Capacity Building Program for officials working in Media related Branches and handling Media related work in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislatures Secretariats from 15-17 November 2021;

- (vi) Training Programme on Interpretation Service for Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly from 16-17 November 2021;
- (vii) Online Training Programme on Noting & Drafting from 17-18 November 2021;
- (viii) Training Programme on Parliamentary Service for officials of Assam Legislative Assembly from 22-24 November 2021;
- (ix) Online workshop on “*Various aspects of Photography*” for the officials handling social media and events on 24 November 2021; and
- (x) Online Programme in Financial Management from 6-8 December 2021.

VII. Study Visit (National)

Six Study visits were organized during the period for: (i) Officers of the ranks of Colonel/Lt. Colonel undergoing Middle Level Commanders & Staff Officers Law Course at Institute of Military Law (Delhi) on 6 October 2021; (ii) Trainee Officers of Indian Air force and Air Force Officers of Friendly Foreign Countries undergoing Training at Air Force Academy, Dundigal, Hyderabad on 25 October 2021; (iii) Newly Appointed AGMs of Food Corporation of India (FCI) undergoing Induction Training Programme at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi on 25 November 2021; (iv) Councillors and Officers of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh on 8 December 2021; and (v) Senior Civil Servants from Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service on 22 December 2021.

MEMBERS' REFERENCE SERVICE

Members' Reference Service caters to the information needs of Members of Parliament, primarily in connection with their day-to-day parliamentary work. The Service brings out Reference Notes and Legislative Notes on important issues and Bills pending before the House. During the period from 1 October to 31 December 2021, a total of 1208 offline and 222 online references were received and disposed of. Seventeen Reference/Legislative Notes were prepared on important topics during this period.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Observation from the Chair regarding Conduct of Members: Maintenance of Dignity: A positive and dignified sphere is necessary for discussion during Parliamentary Proceedings: On 30 November 2021, the Members of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi entered into the well of the House and demanded uniform procurement policy for agricultural produce, thereby interrupting the proceedings of the House. Thereafter, Hon'ble Speaker made the following observation:

"I would like to request all the Hon'ble Members to let the House function in a positive and good environment. There should be positive discussion and dialogue. It is the duty of the people's representative to raise the matter pertaining to the aspirations of the people of their region in the House. I will give enough opportunity to all the Members during the discussion. I urge you all to mutually discuss the matter, if any. I would again request you to let the House function in a positive environment."

II

Observation from the Chair regarding Conduct of Members: Dignity: The decorum and dignity of the House should be maintained: On 1 December 2021 when members of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi entered into the well of the House and interrupted the proceedings, Hon'ble Speaker made the following observation:

"Hon'ble Members, you all are respectable Members of this august House. One senior Hon'ble Member is speaking and you are waving the placards in front of him. What sort of decorum you want to maintain in the House? I had given enough time and opportunity to your leader to speak on your subject. Such behaviour of yours is not justified in the House. The House cannot function in this manner if some Hon'ble Members keep disrupting the proceedings in the House. There has to be decency and decorum in the House to make it function. Yesterday, I had given you enough time to raise the whole matter. Have you come here to raise slogans and show placards? It is inappropriate. I would like to request you all that we need to make collective efforts to check such disruptive behavior in the House. I allowed the subject to be raised yesterday. This behavior is inappropriate. Hon'ble Member please make them understand. This House represents 125 crore people of this country."

III

Observation from the Chair regarding the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulations) Bill, 2020: *Though related to Surrogacy Bill, yet it is not dependent on that and is self-sufficient in itself:* On 1 December 2021, during discussion on the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulations) Bill, 2020, Shri N. K. Premachandran, Member of Parliament raised a point of order under Rules 376 and 66 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Referring to the rules, he stated that a bill which is dependent wholly or partly upon another bill that is pending before the Houses may be introduced in the House in anticipation of the passing of the Bill on which it is dependent; provided that the second Bill shall be taken up for consideration and passing in the House only after the first Bill has been passed by the Houses and assented to by the President. Thereafter, Hon'ble Speaker made the following observation:

"Shri Premchandran has raised a point of order that there is a reference to the Surrogacy Bill in the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulations) Bill, 2020, whereas the Surrogacy Bill hasn't been enacted so far.

The Surrogacy Bill is pending in the Rajya Sabha after being passed by the Lok Sabha. Rule-66 says that a Bill which is dependent wholly or partly upon another Bill, shall be taken up for consideration and passing in the House only after the first Bill has been passed by both the Houses and assented to by the President. As is known to the House, the Surrogacy Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15 July 2019 and was passed by this House on 5 August 2019. The present Bill was introduced on 14 September 2020 after the Surrogacy Bill was passed. Since the Surrogacy Bill is not pending in this House, Rule-66 is not fully applicable in this case. As far as the proviso to the rule is concerned, the Hon'ble Minister has already clarified the position. I would like to say that although there is a reference to the Surrogacy Bill in this Bill, but this Bill does not depend on the Surrogacy Bill. If the technical aspects related to Aided Reproductive Technology of this Bill are seen, then this Bill is complete in itself even without the Surrogacy Bill, so I dismiss the point of order."

IV

Observation from the Chair regarding Covid-19: *A positive discussion on Covid-19 in the House could address many shortfalls experienced during the pandemic:* On 2 December 2021, before Short Duration Discussion on Covid-19 under Rule 193 in the House, Hon'ble Speaker made the following observation :

"Under Rule 193, today we will discuss the situation which has emerged due to Covid-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it.

Hon'ble Members, we are going to deliberate upon the issue of COVID-19. COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the entire humanity during the last two years. It has adversely affected the socio-economic conditions not only in India but in the entire world. India has dealt with this challenge with a collective resolve. During these tough times, we have learnt a few lessons as well. However, the emergence of the new variant Omicron is the cause of world's growing concern. It is, therefore, an apt occasion to analyze the issue in a constructive manner. I would like the House to have a positive discussion on corona. Here, we should share the experiences we gained during Corona times. We should also share the best management practices adopted by the Center as well as the State Governments for combating this disease and we should give our constructive suggestions in this regard as well.

We should give our suggestions and opinions regarding the shortcomings and lapses noticed during this period. I congratulate all those people and especially the Hon'ble Members of Parliament who provided relief to the people and adopted innovative measures and new initiatives in their respective constituencies during the pandemic. I would like you all to share the innovative measures and new initiatives taken by you in your respective constituencies for COVID management, to spread a positive message across all the democratic institutions of our country.

I hope and believe that we will have a healthy discussion today and we will participate in it with due sense of responsibility and would also give good suggestions to the government. We would have a constructive discussion here as to how we can collectively combat corona and how we can contribute in this regard."

V

Observation from the Chair regarding Conduct of Members: Dignity : Members should maintain dignity and decorum of the House: On 3 December 2021, when Members of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi entered into the well of the House demanding uniform procurement policy for the country, the Hon'ble Speaker made the following observation :

"Hon'ble Members, it is my request to all of you that mentioning any other House or the Presiding Officer during the discussion in the House is not in accordance with our legislative business and parliamentary decorum. I urge all of you, that be it this House or the Upper House, we must maintain this decorum not to comment about our Presiding Officers in these Houses as it would not be proper. This is my request to all of you."

VI

Observation from the Chair regarding Conduct of Members: Dignity: Members should maintain dignity and decorum of the House: On 21 December 2021, when members of opposition parties entered into the well of the House demanding dismissal of a Minister of State thereby disrupting the proceedings, the Hon'ble Speaker made the following observation :-

"Hon'ble Members, I am requesting you on the last day. I expect you would let the House function. You should try to ensure that the House functions and every Member gets a chance to speak in the House. I told you this morning that I will give you enough time and opportunity. You must maintain the dignity and decorum of the House. The dignity and decorum of this House is the responsibility of all of you because you all are Members of this House. You all come here for discussion and dialogue. In order to ensure smooth functioning of the House, there should be good discussions and dialogues in the House and you should also raise important issues of your constituencies here. Whatever topic or issue you wish to raise, I will give you ample time and opportunity to do so.

We should try to maintain dignity of the House and fulfil the expectations and aspirations of the people through these Houses.

I would once again request you to take your seats. I will give you enough time and opportunity to place your views on every issue. Balu ji and N.K. Premchandran ji want to raise their issues. Then my lawyer friend here wants to raise an important issue though he has a sore throat these days. Many members want to place their views. I urge you all to go back to your seats. I will give you as much time and opportunity as you want for raising your issues and speaking about all the basic questions and issues of your constituency. You all are members of this House so if you want it to function, I will run the House and fulfil your expectations and aspirations. Would you all like to go back to your seats?"

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 2 December 2021 during the Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 on COVID-19 pandemic and various aspects related to it, the Chair permitted Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 22 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 10 December 2021, during discussion under Rule 193 on Climate Change, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 27 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 14 December 2021, during discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2021-22, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 10 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
(1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2021)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on the information available in the public domain including the Official Websites of Union and State Legislatures, Election Commission of India and also reports appearing in the daily newspapers. As such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Parliament Session: The Seventh Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Fifty Fifth Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 29 November 2021. Both the Houses were adjourned *sine die* on 22 December 2021. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind prorogued both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 24 December 2021.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Member: On 4 December 2021, Dr. Banda Prakash, Member of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi from Telangana, resigned.

Elections to Rajya Sabha: The following members have been elected to the Rajya Sabha during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2021:

| Sl.No | Name and Party affiliation & State | Date of Election | Date of Commencement of term | Date of taking Oath |
|-------|--|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Selvaganabathy (Bharatiya Janata Party) Puducherry | 27.09.2021 | 07.10.2021 | 26.10.2021 |
| 2. | Shri Luizinho Joaquim Faleiro (All India Trinamool Congress) West Bengal | 22.11.2021 | 24.11.2021 | 29.11.2021 |
| 3. | Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala Congress (M)) Kerala | 29.11.2021 | 30.11.2021 | 01.12.2021 |

Death of Rajya Sabha Member: On 27 December 2021, Dr. Mahendra Prasad, Member of the Janata Dal (United) from Bihar, passed away.

Lok Sabha Bye-election: The following members were declared elected in the Lok Sabha bye-election held during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2021:

| Sl.No | Name and Party affiliation | Name of Constituency | Date of Election | Date of Counting/ Declaration of Result |
|-------|---|---|------------------|---|
| 1. | Smt. Kalaben Delkar (Shiv Sena) | Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu) | 30.10.2021 | 02.11.2021 |
| 2. | Shri Gyaneshwar Patil (Bharatiya Janata Party) | Khandwa (Madhya Pradesh) | 30.10.2021 | 02.11.2021 |
| 3. | Smt. Pratibha Singh (Indian National Congress) | Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) | 30.10.2021 | 02.11.2021 |

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Smt. Dasari Sudha of the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu (YSR) Congress Party was declared elected from Badvel Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

ASSAM

Assembly Bye-election Results: Bye-elections to the 5 seats of State Assembly were held on 30 October 2021. The results were announced on 2 November 2021. Following is the list of members elected and their respective constituencies:

| S.No. | Name of the Elected Candidate | Party | Constituency |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Shri Jiron Basumatary | United People's Party Liberal | Gossaigaon |
| 2. | Shri Phanidhar Talukdar | Bharatiya Janata Party | Bhabanipur |
| 3. | Shri Jolen Daimary | United People's Party Liberal | Tamulpur |
| 4. | Shri Rupjyoti Kurmi | Bharatiya Janata Party | Mariani |
| 5. | Shri Sushanta Borgohain | Bharatiya Janata Party | Thowra |

BIHAR

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Sarvashri Aman Bhushan Hajari and Rajeev Kumar Singh both the Members of the Janata Dal (United) were declared elected from Kusheshwar Asthan and Tarapur Assembly Constituencies, respectively, in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

HARYANA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Shri Abhay Singh Chautala of the Indian National Lok Dal was declared elected from Ellenabad Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

Oath of New Ministers: On 28 December 2021, the Governor, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, administered oath of office and secrecy to two newly-inducted Ministers, Dr. Kamal Gupta and Shri Devender Singh Babli.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Assembly Bye-election Results: Bye-elections to the 3 seats of State Assembly were held on 30 October 2021. The results were announced on 2 November 2021. Following is the list of members elected and their respective constituencies:

| S.No. | Name Of The Elected Candidate | Party | Constituency |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Shri Bhawani Singh Pathania | Indian National Congress | Fatehpur |
| 2. | Shri Sanjay Awasthy | Indian National Congress | Arki |
| 3. | Shri Rohit Thakur | Indian National Congress | Jubbal-Kotkhai |

KARNATAKA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Shri Bhusanur Ramesh Balappa of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Shri Mane Srinivas of the Indian National Congress were declared elected from Sindgi and Hangal Assembly Constituencies, respectively, in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

MADHYA PRADESH

Assembly Bye-election Results: Bye-elections to the 3 seats of State Assembly were held on 30 October 2021. The results were announced on 2 November 2021. Following is the list of members elected and their respective constituencies:

| S.No. | Name of the Elected Candidate | Party | Constituency |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Dr. Shishupal Yadav | Bharatiya Janata Party | Prithvipur |
| 2. | Smt. Sulochana Rawat | Bharatiya Janata Party | Jobat |
| 3. | Smt. Kalpana Verma | Indian National Congress | Raigaon |

MAHARASHTRA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Shri Antapurkar Jitesh Raosaheb of the Indian National Congress was declared elected from Deglur Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

MEGHALAYA

Assembly Bye-election Results: Bye-elections to the 3 seats of State Assembly were held on 30 October 2021. The results were announced on 2 November 2021. Following is the list of members elected and their respective constituencies:

| S.No. | Name of the Elected Candidate | Party | Constituency |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Shri Pyniaid Sing Syiem | National People's Party | Mawryngkneng |
| 2. | Shri Md. Abdus Saleh | National People's Party | Rajabala |
| 3. | Shri Eugeneson Lyngdoh | United Democratic Party | Mawphlang |

MIZORAM

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Shri K. Laldawngliana of the Mizo National Front was declared elected from Tuirial Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

NAGALAND

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Shri S. Keoshu Yimchunger of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party was declared elected from Shamator Chessore Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

ODISHA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 3 October 2021, Shri Rudra Pratap Maharathy of the Biju Janata Dal was declared elected from Pipli Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

RAJASTHAN

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Smt. Preeti Gajendra Singh Shaktawat and Shri Nagraj both the Members of the Indian National Congress were declared elected from Vallabhnagar and Dhariawad Assembly Constituencies, respectively, in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

Cabinet Expansion : On 21 November 2021, the Governor, Shri Kalraj Mishra administered oath of office and secrecy to eleven Cabinet Ministers viz. Sarvashri Hemaram Choudhary, Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, Ramlal Jat, Govind Ram Meghwal, Vishvendra Singh, Tikaram Jully, Ramesh Chand Meena, Bhajan Lal Jatav, Dr. Mahesh Joshi, Smt. Shakuntla Rawat and Smt. Mamta Bhupesh and four Ministers of State viz. Sarvashri Murari Lal Meena, Rajendra Singh Gudha, Brijendra Singh Ola and Smt. Zahida Khan.

TELANGANA

Assembly Bye-election Result: On 2 November 2021, Shri Eatala Rajender of the Bharatiya Janata Party was declared elected from Huzurabad Assembly Constituency in the bye-election held on 30 October 2021.

UTTAR PRADESH

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 18 October 2021, Shri Nitin Agarwal was elected as the Deputy Speaker of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

WEST BENGAL

Assembly Bye-election Results: Bye-elections to the 7 seats of State Assembly were held on 30 September and 30 October 2021. The results were announced on 3 October and 2 November 2021. Following is the list of members elected and their respective constituencies:

| S.No. | Name of the Elected Candidate | Party | Constituency | Date of Election | Date of Counting / Declaration of Result |
|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| 1. | Ms. Mamata Banerjee | All India Trinamool Congress | Bhabanipur | 30.09.2021 | 03.10.2021 |
| 2. | Shri Jakir Hossain | All India Trinamool Congress | Jangipur | | |
| 3. | Shri Amirul Islam | All India Trinamool Congress | Samsorganj | | |
| 4. | Shri Udayan Guha | All India Trinamool Congress | Dinhata | 30.10.2021 | 02.11.2021 |
| 5. | Shri Braja Kishor Goswami | All India Trinamool Congress | Santipur | | |
| 6. | Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay | All India Trinamool Congress | Khardaha | | |
| 7. | Shri Subrata Mondal | All India Trinamool Congress | Gosaba | | |

EVENTS ABROAD

AUSTRIA

Resignation of Chancellor: On 9 October 2021, the Chancellor, Mr. Sebastian Kurz resigned.

Oath of New Chancellor: On 11 October 2021, Mr. Alexander Schallenberg was sworn in as the Chancellor of Austria.

BARBADOS

New President: On 20 October 2021, Ms. Sandra Mason was elected as the first President of Barbados.

BULGARIA

Election of President: On 21 November 2021, Mr. Rumen Radev was elected as the President for the second term.

New Prime Minister: On 13 December 2021, Mr. Kiril Petkov was elected as the Prime Minister.

CAPE VERDE

New President: On 9 November 2021, Mr. Jose Maria Neves was sworn in as the new President.

CHILE

New President: On 19 December 2021, Mr. Gabriel Boric was elected as the new President.

CZECH

Appointment of Prime Minister: On 28 November 2021, Mr. Petr Fiala was appointed as the Prime Minister.

GAMBIA

Election of President: On 5 December 2021, Mr. Adama Barrow was elected as the President for the second term.

GERMANY

New Chancellor: On 8 December 2021, Mr. Olaf Scholz was elected as the new Chancellor of Germany.

JAPAN

Appointment of Prime Minister: On 4 October 2021, Mr. Fumio Kishida was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Japan.

SWEDEN

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 10 November 2021, the Prime Minister, Mr. Stefan Lofven resigned.

New Prime Minister: On 29 November 2021, Ms. Magdalena Andersson was elected as the first female Prime Minister.

UZBEKISTAN

Oath of President: On 6 November 2021, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev was sworn in as the President of Uzbekistan.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

[The Section covers some important Bills assented to by the President of India (after the same are passed by Parliament) during the period - 1 October 2021 - 31 December 2021]

The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021: The menace of corruption, black money and international financial crime and its intricate link with drugs, terrorism and other criminal offences pose a serious threat to national security and the stability of financial systems of our country. Further, corruption in public life often has the inevitable consequence of violating economic and social rights of people. The spectre of corruption also erodes the confidence of people in the systems that are meant to provide them good governance. Effectively tackling corruption and financial crimes is, therefore, essential for the realisation of economic and social rights of people and for maintaining their faith in institutions of governance.

In order to obviate such threats, international community has been consistently taking multi-lateral global initiatives over the years. In India, various legislations have been enacted since 1946 to combat corruption, money-laundering and economic offences, amongst other such activities, e.g. the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002.

India is a member of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental international body under United Nations. The FATF has developed recommendations or standards to prevent and combat money-laundering and terror financing. About 200 countries or jurisdictions, with India playing a major role, have committed to implement these standards. The FATF conducts peer reviews of these countries or jurisdictions on an ongoing basis to assess levels of implementation of the FATF recommendations, providing an in-depth description and analysis of each country's system for preventing criminal abuse of the financial systems. The peer review to assess technical compliances of India with the recommendations of FATF is scheduled to be held in the year 2022/23 after a gap of more than a decade.

The FATF has recommended at para 8 as follows:—

“8. Law enforcement authorities and prosecutorial authorities should have adequate financial, human and technical resources. Countries should have in place processes to ensure that the staff of these authorities maintain high professional standards, including standards concerning confidentiality, and should be of high integrity and be appropriately skilled.”¹

¹ FATF; *International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism & Proliferation: The FATF Recommendations* [Updated March 2012 (Adopted by the FATF Plenary in February 2012)] - "Interpretive Note to Recommendation 30 (Responsibilities of Law Enforcement and Investigative Authorities), pp. 105-6.

Therefore, the subject matter of Indian Mutual Evaluation stipulates that India proves its "capacity" and "resources" for financial crime investigation and financial crime prosecution.

India's position requires significant enhancement of capacity and resources. Additionally, under certain circumstances the nation faces certain sensitive investigative and legal processes attendant to important money-laundering cases, requiring extradition of fugitive offenders, which requires a continuum. The Directorate of Enforcement has sole jurisdiction to investigate money-laundering offences in India and co-ordination with global counter-parts. At times it becomes self-defeating to have tenure restriction at supervisory and decision-making position considering that at the level of international co-ordination, it is the personal individual knowledge, information and diplomacy which are required more than just institutional knowledge and information. Considering that the Director of Enforcement and Director, CBI are important part of the concerted global actions against corruption and money-laundering, legal provisions or service rules restricting their tenure may be counterproductive. In certain situations, their tenure may need to be extended beyond the initial fixed terms. At the same time, it is rational to have an upper limit to the tenure of such appointments to maintain independence. The positive outcome in India's mutual evaluation is critical for the financial future of the country. Further, there is every possibility of such global contingencies occurring in the future and therefore, amendments in the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 are necessitated to meet such contingencies whenever it arises, with certain in-built safeguards.

While the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has the sole jurisdiction to investigate the money-laundering cases, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has the primary responsibility to investigate cases of corruption. With the interlinking of persons and groups involved in money-laundering and corruption activities, unravelling the crime and corruption nexus through the ED and CBI becomes not only complex, but also has international ramifications. Thus, investigation of such crimes requires the two investigating agencies to have robust processes and senior personnel in position for sufficiently long tenures. As such, enhancing capacity and resources for continuing oversight by the senior officers, especially the heads of the two agencies, is fundamental to the proposed re-strengthening. It is strongly felt that assured long tenures of the heads of ED and CBI on similar lines would be highly desirable.

Considering that ordinarily, longer tenures are an established practice in major countries, two years tenure ought to be a minimum and that is what is contemplated in the statutory provisions. However, in India's case owing to several factors, including the issues of seniority and hierarchy, two years tenure has in fact become the upper limit with individuals being appointed close to their date of superannuation.

In view of the above, while leaving sufficient room for the competent authority to suitably decide the tenure of the officer heading the important investigating agencies of the Government and

supervising sensitive cases involving public interest depending upon the circumstances, it is essential to provide clear enabling stipulations in the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 in regard to the tenure, and extension of his tenure of appointment and an upper limit of tenure. The said enabling provisions ensure the continuity of tenure depending upon the exigencies of the office at a given point of time and also safeguard the sanctity and independence of the sensitive position occupied by the person in-charge and will remove possibility of any other interpretation.

Keeping the above in view and with the objective to remove any contrary interpretation and with a view to make a specific provision, leaving room for the competent authority, depending on the exigencies of circumstances, in the tenure of the officer heading the important investigating agency of the Government and supervising sensitive cases involving public interest, it is essential to provide clear and unambiguous enabling provision regarding tenure of the officer heading the investigating agency in the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.

The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 was enacted to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The appointment of officers of Directorate of Enforcement is governed by the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003. Clause (d) of section 25 of the said Act provides that - *“a Director of Enforcement shall continue to hold office for a period of not less than two years from the date on which he assumes office;”*.

As the Parliament was not in session and there was an immediate need of legislation in this regard, the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (Ord. 9 of 2021) was promulgated on 14th day of November 2021.

The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which sought to replace the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (Ord. 9 of 2021) was introduced in Lok Sabha on 3 December 2021. The Bill aimed at amending the section 25 so as to insert two provisos therein.

[The Central Vigilance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 3 December 2021, and passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 9 December 2021 and 14 December 2021, respectively. The President of India assented to it on 18 December 2021.]

The text of the above Act are reproduced below:

THE CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

An Act to amend the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-second Year of the Republic of India as follows :--

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 14th day of November, 2021.

2. Amendment of section 25. In section 25 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, in clause (d), the following provisos shall be inserted, namely:-

"Provided that the period for which the Director of Enforcement holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee under clause (a) and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time:

"Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment;"

3. Repeal and savings. (1) The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the provisions of this Act.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021: The Representation of the People Act, 1950 (the RP Act, 1950), *inter alia*, provides for the allocation of seats in and delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of election to, the House of the People and the Legislatures of States, the qualifications of voter at such elections and the preparation of electoral rolls, etc. The Representation of the People Act, 1951 (the RP Act, 1951), *inter alia*, provides for the conduct of elections of the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislatures of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of those Houses, the corrupt practices and other offences at or in connection with such elections, etc.

The electoral reform is an ongoing and continuous process. The Central Government received proposals for electoral reforms from various quarters, from time to time, including the Election Commission of India. Based on some proposals taken up by the Election Commission, it is proposed to amend the provisions of the RP Act, 1950, and the RP Act, 1951. Accordingly, a Bill, namely, the

Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 20 December 2021. The Bill aimed at -

(i) amendment of section 23 of the RP Act, 1950, enabling for the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem to curb the menace of multiple enrolment of the same person in different places;

(ii) amendment of clause (b) of section 14 of the RP Act, 1950 specifying the 1st day of January, 1st day of April, 1st day of July and 1st day of October in a calendar year as qualifying dates in relation to the preparation or revision of electoral rolls;

(iii) amendment of section 20 of the RP Act, 1950 and section 60 of the RP Act, 1951 for the substitution of the word "wife" with the word "spouse" making the statutes gender neutral;

(iv) amendment of section 160 of the RP Act, 1951 to enable the requisition of premises that are needed or likely to be needed for the purpose of being used as polling stations, for counting, for storage of ballot boxes, voting machines (including voter verifiable paper audit trail) and poll related material after a poll has been taken, accommodation for security forces and polling personnel for such period as are notified under section 30 of the said Act.

[The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 20 December 2021 and passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 20 December 2021 and 21 December 2021, respectively. The President of India assented to it on 29 December 2021.]

The text of above Act is reproduced below:

THE ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

An Act further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-second Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021.

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

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1950

2. Amendment of section 14. In the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the 1950 Act), in section 14, in clause (b), for the words, figure and letters "the 1st day of January", the words, figures and letters "the 1st day of January, the 1st day of April, the 1st day of July and the 1st day of October" shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 20. In section 20 of the 1950 Act, in sub-section (6),-

(i) for the word "wife", the word "spouse" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the words "if she", the words "if such spouse" shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 23. In section 23 of the 1950 Act, after sub-section (3), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:-

'(4) The electoral registration officer may for the purpose of establishing the identity of any person require that such person may furnish the Aadhaar number given by the Unique Identification Authority of India as per the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016:

Provided that the electoral registration officer may also require the Aadhaar number from persons already included in the electoral roll for the purposes of authentication of entries in electoral roll and to identify registration of name of the same person in the electoral roll of more than one constituency or more than once in same constituency.

(5) Every person whose name is included in the electoral roll may intimate his Aadhaar number to such authority in such form and manner as may be prescribed, on or before a date to be notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette.

(6) No application for inclusion of name in the electoral roll shall be denied and no entries in the electoral roll shall be deleted for inability of an individual to furnish or intimate Aadhaar number due to such sufficient cause as may be prescribed:

Provided that such individual may be allowed to furnish such other alternate documents as may be prescribed.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this section, the expression "Aadhaar number" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (a) of section 2 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.'

5. Amendment of section 28. In section 28 of the 1950 Act, in sub-section (2), after clause (hhh), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

'(hhha) the authority and the form and manner of intimation of Aadhaar number under sub-section (5) of section 23;

(hhhb) the sufficient cause and furnishing of alternate documents to be provided by the individual under sub-section (6) of section 23."

CHAPTER III

6. Amendment of section 60. In the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (hereinafter in this Chapter referred to as the 1951 Act), in section 60, in clause (b), in sub-clause (ii), for the word "wife", occurring at both the places, the word "spouse" shall be substituted.

7. Amendment of section 160. In section 160 of the 1951 Act, in sub-section (1),-

(i) for clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(a) any premises are needed or are likely to be needed for the purpose of being used as polling stations, for counting, for storage or ballot boxes, voting machines (including voter verifiable paper audit trail) and poll related material after a poll has been taken, accommodation for security forces and polling personnel; or";

(ii) in the proviso, for the words "Provided that", the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"Provided that such premises shall be requisitioned after the issuance of the notification by the Election Commission under section 30 for such election till the date notified under clause (e) thereof:

Provided further that".

SESSIONAL REVIEW

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

SEVENTH SESSION

The Seventh Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha commenced on 29 November 2021 and adjourned *sine die* on 22 December 2021 a day ahead it was scheduled to be adjourned, *i.e.* 23 December 2021. In all, the House held 18 sittings spread over 83 hours and 12 minutes and transacted important Financial, Legislative and other Business. The overall business productivity of the House stood at 82 per cent during the Session. On 2 December 2021, the House recorded 204 per cent productivity.

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

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021: On 29 November 2021, the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar moved that the Bill to repeal the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 and to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, be taken into consideration.

The Bill was passed.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulations) Bill, 2020: On 1 December 2021, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and fertilizers, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya moving the Motion for consideration of the Bill said that this Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill was brought in Parliament earlier on 14 September 2020 and thereafter it was referred by the Lok Sabha to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee after due deliberations submitted its report making many suggestions. Those suggestions were taken into account. Under assisted reproductive technology, ovum from female is developed into embryo in laboratory with the sperm of the male and then embryo is implanted in the female. It was felt necessary to bring this legislation to regulate the IVF clinics functioning in our country. There are several procedures in these clinics wherein at times injection is given for ovarian stimulation which may affect the health of the woman. It also has egg retrieval, IVF and intra

uterine insemination process along with the process of embryo transfer. Embryo banking systems are also there. I have brought in this legislation in the House to regulate this entire process. He requested the House to consider this Bill and also pass it.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Karti P. Chidambaram (INC) said that there are many people who benefit from the assisted reproductive technologies. So, it is essential that this technology is available to all and is regulated also. This Government always says it draws inspiration from Epics. But this law is not inspired by the liberal Hindu Epics. This law excludes many people, rather than it includes. So, do not ever say that you are a Government which is actually propagating Hindu values. This law does not take into account the new realities of India. The LGBTQ population, live-in couples, and single men must also have access to this technology if they want so. This law is discriminatory. The liberty of procreation and choice of family life are an intrinsic aspect of the fundamental right to privacy. This law also is patriarchy. A single woman cannot be a donor. This aspect has to be looked into. There is something which is very troubling in this law. The Minister should address as to why these specific diseases which they want to prevent have not been defined and left a very gaping hole there. He also pointed out that as far as complaint mechanism is concerned, only the Board can complain. An individual cannot complain. So, you are really taking away the fundamental right of a person from going to court. You want the Aadhar card for the donor because you want to identify the donor through that Aadhar card. But the donor has to be anonymous. What if there is a leak of data? What are we doing to protect that because a lot of people are donors, but you do not want their identities to be there? The clinics are not regulated. They are becoming commercial establishments. The IVF is a very expensive procedure. There is no control over their pricing. But there must be some balance. While you are not regulating the medical practice, you are completely regulating the surrogacy part of it.

*Participating in the discussion**, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit (BJP) said that she supports the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, 2020. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had remarked on the importance of developing a strong legislative framework to govern surrogacy which is a common method of assisted reproductive technology in India. Since 2002, studies have reported that India has boomed as a major centre for ART, especially in surrogacy. A report by the Confederation of Indian Industry as early as 2002 estimated that the practice will generate about two to three billion dollars per year till 2012. There has been an increase in the

* **Others who participated in the discussion were:** Sarvashri Anubhav Mohanty, Hasnain Masoodi, N.K. Premachandran, P. Ravindhranath, Kani K.Navvas, Dr. Gautham Sigamani Pon, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Adv. A.M.Ariff, Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana, Smt. Sangeeta Azad, Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule, Smt. Pratima Mondal.

number of foreign couples coming to India to have surrogate children and this has been one of the key reasons for medical tourism in India. This has paved the way for 'Womb on rent' as a concept of earning livelihood for the destitute women with no financial resources to back them. This Bill addresses an array of issues that have been observed in practices prevailing in India. As of 2017, only 20 per cent of the IVF clinics and two per cent of the functional ART clinics were registered under the ICMR. This means that 80 per cent of the IVR clinics were not registered, and 98 per cent of the ART clinics were not registered.

When we are talking of technology, it can be a boon and a curse at the same time. Therefore, to ensure that the technology is used ethically, this Bill expressly prohibits selection at all stages of the procedure. The Bill mandates that the rights of the child born through Assisted Reproductive Technology will have the same rights as that of a biological child. This Bill will certainly ensure that people who are in need, can avail the benefits of ART.

Joining the discussion, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC) said that an exhaustive discussion has already taken place on the ART Bill. The world's second and India's first IVF-led baby, Kanupriya Agarwal *alias* Durga was born in Kolkata. So, we are certainly proud of this kind of an invention and a discovery by an Indian who hails from Kolkata. He urged the Government to reward Dr. Subhash Mukherjee who made the birth of the first test tube baby of India possible. He repeated that single males, unmarried live-in couples, same sex couples and transgender men and women are excluded from the purview of the Bill. For him, this is discriminatory and violates fundamental right to equality under Article 14. Moreover, the egg donors' interests are subordinated in the Bill. The donor receives no compensation or reimbursement of expenses for loss of salary, time and effort. Failing to get pay for bodily services constitute free labour which is prohibited under Article 23 of the Constitution of India. As per the provisions of the proposed Bill, the National and State Boards established under the Surrogacy Act, 2020 are to function as Boards to oversee ART. The Surrogacy Bill, 2019 has only been passed in the Lok Sabha and is yet to become an Act. In this Bill, provisions should be made to protect the interests of women. Also, this Bill will provide a solution to the problem pertaining to grievance redressal mechanism. In addition, a monitoring mechanism should also be established within the National Board to prevent the commercialization of ART services by private service providers. Although the ART Bill and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill regulate ART and surrogacy, respectively, the sphere of influence of both the Bills is closely related to these two subjects. Yet, the Bills do not work in tandem. That's why we want both the Bills to work with coordination. Also, all clinics should have an ethics committee. Similarly, compulsory counseling services should be kept out of the sphere of influence of the clinic.

Under this Bill, all bodies to be bound by the directions of the Central and State Governments in the national interest.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and fertilizers, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya said that this topic is related to motherhood. So it should not be seen as an industry. And, keeping these sentiments in mind we have formulated this Bill. But it became extremely necessary to regulate this area because we had received complaints and information about many unethical practices like sex-selection, unethical preservation and multiple embryo transplant. Also, there are many clinics that have never been registered. Many Hon'ble Members have raised issues related to unethical practices in this area. Many said that they should not be given a prison sentence for doing so. But we can never allow any such immoral behaviour. From this point of view, we have made provision for punishment in this Bill. Also, sex selection, commercialization of womb and embryo can prove to be detrimental to society. He also said that the suggestions given by the respected Members will be suitably incorporated in the Bill. Now every woman could become a mother. Similarly, all women above 21 years of age can use ART. As regards the creation of two Boards, the Hon'ble Standing Committee after deliberating in great detail in this regard had decided that a single Board should be constituted. This board will work on the basis of the opinion of 10 medical experts. Apart from this, provision has also been made in this Bill to regulate ART clinics. Along with this, there is also a need to provide counseling to the couples regarding child adoption in the country. He also said that genetic testing should not be done in all cases.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021: On 6 December 2021, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and fertilizers, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya moving the motion for the consideration of the Bill said that the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) is an important institute conducting research in Pharma sector. Earlier there was only one institute but today its number has increased to seven. This Bill has been introduced to make further contribution, to conduct research and to introduce other different types of educational courses in Pharma sector. The amendments to this Bill have been made with a view to bringing all NIPER institutes at par with other educational institutes of national importance like IITs. The House may consider it.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Abdul Khaleque (INC) said that as an Institute of National Importance, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research plays an important

role in human resource development for the ever growing Indian pharmaceutical industry, which has been in the forefront of India's science base industries with wide ranging capabilities in the important field of drug manufacturing. More so, there is a greater need to pump in extra force in matters related to health and prepare ourselves for future, especially after seeing the present scenario of Covid-19. This will bring clarity in the status of all the institutes. The proposed Bill makes way for any similar institute set up subsequently to be the institute of national importance automatically. Section 4 (3) of the principal Act and Clause 6 of the proposed Bill have brought a drastic change in the composition of the Board of Governors of the institutes. He recommended that the Chairman of the Board of Governors should be a person who is highly qualified in pharmacology. There is a need to increase the number of field experts in the Council. Doing so would ensure planned and coordinated development of pharmaceutical education and research and maintenance of standards across the institutes. But what is more important is that the Government, through the proposed amendment, is trying to make cosmetic changes in the functioning of the institutes. In a country like ours with a huge population and not so good health care facilities available to its citizens, there is a need for research and development in health related sector.

Participating in the discussion[†], Dr. Rajdeep Roy (BJP) said that the Bill was presented earlier in the House and now has come in the present form following the suggestions made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee and incorporating those suggestions. The Bill also seeks to make amendments and grant status of "Institutions of National Importance" to all those institutes. This new status will allow these institutes to exercise greater autonomy by giving them the power to hold their own examinations. He said that the present Act will bring down the number of members in the Board to 12. Stressing on fund utilisation, he said that between 2007 and 2014, the fund utilization was just Rs. 300 crore; however, subsequent to that it has gone up to Rs. 1,300 crore. After 2017, 100 per cent funds have been utilized by the institutes. We are seeking to get an enhanced academia-industry linkage. Indian pharmaceutical market has grown by almost 18 per cent in the last financial year, which is phenomenal during the COVID times. We are not just being the vaccine powerhouse of the world today, but we are also proud to say that we have supplied medicines like Remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine and Paracetamol, etc. to the developed countries like United States and Maldives. By granting the institutes status of

[†] **Others who participated in the discussion were:** Sarvashri Shrirang Appa Barne, Anurag Sharma, S. Venkatesan, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, M. Selvaraj, N.K. Premachandran, Hanuman Beniwal, P. Ravindhranath, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singari, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. Mohammad Jawed, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Prof. Sougata Ray, Kumari Chandrani Murmu, Kunwar Danish Ali, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana, Sushri Sunita Duggal, Adv. Dean Kuriakose.

national importance, these institutions will gain administrative autonomy, functional autonomy to enhance efficiency, quality and accountability. India today is home to 12,000 pharmaceutical industries. If we can supply them knowledge and requisite infrastructure, they can do wonders.

Joining the discussion, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC) said that drugs security is needed in our country. For this, more attention should be paid to API, KSM and active pharmaceutical ingredients. We import about 70 per cent of our bulk drugs requirement from China. We have to think carefully as to how we will tackle the situation in case China will try to harm us. Our country has the capacity but lacks adequate investment. I request the Government to protect the chemical and pharmaceutical industry in Bengal. India is the largest provider of generic drugs globally and provides over 50 per cent of global demand for various vaccines. India ranks third in terms of pharmaceutical production by volume and 14th by value. Despite being in operation for more than 10 years, the six new NIPERs have been functioning from rented premises. There is insufficient permanent staff and also poor student placement rate which is as low as 22 per cent.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya said that the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Bill has been amended to accord the status of Institution of National Importance to all seven institutes. At present, these institutes only give Master and Ph. d. Degree but these amendments have been brought to provide under graduate degree, Academic linkage and to make them self-sustainable. The Third Amendment is about National Council. The National Council is not taking away rights of Board of Governors. The National Council will act as Advisory Body. The representation for SC/ST has not been taken away. The SC/ST candidates in the Governing Body are taken into the Council. As a whole, the amendments in the National Institute of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research Bill have been brought to constitute National Council, grant degrees, introduce undergraduate degrees, to accord the status of Institution of National Importance to all the Institutes and to reduce number of members in Governing Body.

Jan Aushadhi Scheme had been launched in 2008. There were 103 stores in 2014 and less than 300 types of medicines were available in them. Today, there are 8500 *Jan Aushadhi* Stores in the country and more than 2400 types of medicines and more than 56 types of medical devices are available in these stores. About 10 to 15 lakh people take medicine from these *Jan Aushadhi* Store everyday. The *Jan Aushadhi* Stores are run to make awareness about generic medicine. As a result, the share of generic medicine in the country has increased to 8 per cent from 2 per cent earlier. When pandemic started and first lockdown was enforced, India provided

its medicines to 150 countries at that time. As a result, during second wave, in India when we faced difficulties, USA extended help to us. India manufactures vaccines now. India's share in vaccine manufacturing in the world has gone upto 60 per cent. India has never seen medicine as business. It has been the tradition and policy of India to extend help to the world. We extended help to other countries keeping in view our philosophy of “*Vashudev Kutumbham*” - the whole world is a family. That is why, various countries of the world are asking for medicines from us. 29 Ambassadors of American and Caribbean Countries Group have made a demand for vaccine from us. Whenever our industries and manufacturers supply vaccines in the world we feel proud of it.

He proposed four amendments in the Bill. He urged upon the House to pass it unanimously.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021: On 7 December 2021, the Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju moved that the Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Shashi Tharoor (INC) said that this Bill seeks to bring clarity on pension benefits admissible to the Supreme Court and the High Court Judges from the first day of the month of completion of the specified age and not from the first day of his entering the age specified therein. His party supports this measure. However, there are a lot of issues which could have usefully been addressed in the Bill as they are of far greater significance for the democratic foundation of our nation. As of November 2021, there is a shortfall of 41 per cent of the total strength of High Court Judges. By implication, the huge shortfall of judges in various High Courts leads to disastrous consequences for those seeking justice as this leads to inordinate pendency of cases. Between the year 2010 and 2020, pendency across all courts had grown by 2.8 per cent annually. The grim numbers clearly indicate that even if no new cases were to be filed starting from today, the time taken by the Courts to dispose of just the currently pending cases at the current disposal rate, would be 1.3 years for the Supreme Court and 3 years for each of the High Court and not to mention even longer for the subordinate courts. Besides, it is common knowledge that reduction in the number of new cases is highly unlikely. Internationally, the standard retirement age for judges in the countries like Denmark, Belgium, Ireland, Australia is around 70. In other top courts, such as the Supreme Court of the United

States and in constitutional courts in Austria and Greece, Judges are appointed for life. The judge-population ratio in Asia is among the lowest in the world. It is imperative to look at the conditions of service of our Judges, increase their retirement age in order to fill vacancies for longer and at the same time to reduce pendency.

By ensuring the status and conditions of services of our judges, we are giving them the opportunity to increase their productivity and exercise true judicial independence. Moreover, the true success of our efforts today will only come if the Government proposes a larger Bill to increase the age of retirement of judges, fill vacancies, reduce pendency of cases, eliminate post-retirement appointments in Government.

Participating in the discussion[‡], Shri P.P. Chaudhary (BJP) said that so far as the salary part and pension part is concerned, this August House always supports it. It is a fact that if the remuneration part of the judges is concerned, it is less compared to the other countries. That is the reason that even after the retirement or superannuation, they get the employment elsewhere. So far as the conditions of services are concerned, the Parliament is competent to lay down the conditions of service of the High Court and Supreme Court judges. As far as independence of judiciary is concerned he said that not only the salaries of the judges are protected, the tenure is also protected. So, one can say that the independence of judiciary is secured by the Constitution of India.

In 1998 the system of Collegium was created and the judges required to be appointed on the basis of the recommendation of the Collegium. However, it shows that the procedure adopted by the Collegium of the High Court and the Supreme Court is not fool-proof and they do not have any mechanism to know the antecedents of the candidates. On 16 December 2015, a 5-Member Constitutional Bench made scathing comments on the opacity of the present Collegium system and recommended changes in the Collegium system making it more transparent and accountable. So, I request the Government to revisit the Collegium system in view of Article 124. The spirit and object of Article 124 is required to be restored. According to the 1993 judgement, in the area of legal acumen, the Judiciary's opinion should be dominant, and in the area of antecedents the Executive's opinion should be dominant. So far as the

[‡] **Others who participated in the discussion were:** Sarvashri Dayanidhi Maran, Kalyan Bannerjee, Arvind Sawant, Mahabali Singh, Pinaki Mishra, Shyam Singh Yadav, Mohammed Faizal P.P., Kodikunnil Suresh, Rajendra Agarwal, Hasnain Masoodi, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Hanuman Beniwal, N.K. Premachandran, Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu, Balubhau alias Suresh Narayan Dhanorkar, Suresh Pujari, Kunwar Danish Ali, Thomas Chazhikadan, M. Badruddin Ajmal, Arun Sao, Smt. Vanga Geetha Viswanath, Smt. Aparupa Poddar, Dr. D. Ravikumar and Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan.

appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is concerned, both the words “consultation” and “opinion” are required to be defined under Article 366. If these words are defined under Article 366, then there is no need to bring in anything else. Now, so far as the appointment in subordinate judiciary is concerned, this is within the domain of the State Government. The number of sanctioned posts is around 25,000. About less than 20,000 posts are filled and about 5,000 posts are lying vacant in the subordinate courts. That is the responsibility of the High Court and the respective State Government. It cannot be a responsibility of the Central Government. So far as creating the All-India Judicial Service is concerned, initially it came in 1958 and subsequently in 1978. The Standing Committee also recommended in its report in 2006 for creation of an All-India Judicial Services. This move will enable us to attract more talented people and those people can be further appointed in High Court and Supreme Court.

Joining the discussion, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC) said that the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021 are clarificatory amendments to clearly state when retired judges or their families in the case of a Judge's death are entitled to additional quantum of pension in accordance with the scales as mentioned under the respective Parent Acts. An institutional mechanism to have a permanent pay matrix should be explored so far as the salaries and other issues with the judicial system are concerned. It is because we have to have an independent judiciary. There must be some system of fixing the accountability of judges. There is no provision for registering an FIR against a Judge for taking bribe, without taking the permission of the Chief Justice of India. There is huge pendency of cases in courts. To tackle the issue of lack of transparency, RTI Act should be given due priority in our judicial system so that the common people can have the information about the functioning of the Judiciary. Hardship of the undertrials is a well-known. Hundreds of poor, common man and innocent people have been languishing for years together inside the jails because they have been implicated in unbailable cases like the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. A number of cases under the NDPS Act are slapped against those innocent political workers. There should be a mechanism in the judicial system which can provide any kind of succour to those poor and innocent victims of our country. The infrastructure is pathetic in courts. The courts do not have air conditioners. There is no room to even store records. They do not have high-speed internet to upload daily data. The system needs to be revisited and the shortage of Judges and court staff is causing huge pendency. No one is taking care of new research in judiciary at the district level. The salary is not at par with the 7th

Pay Commission. Security of trial court judges also needs to be whipped up. Transparency in policy for transparent posting is urgently required.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju said that though the intent of the Bill was very limited but several Members have enhanced its scope. When the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission were made, it was made clear through an Office Memorandum for the rest of the Government officials and had the Government issued an Office Memorandum in respect of Judges also, this kind of situation would not have cropped up. If we did not resort to pilot this amendment and all the Government officials started to claim for uniformity of age in service, this would mother a host of issues. This is a minor amendment. He requested the hon. Members not to subject it to any sort of controversy and do build a consensus on it lest some wrong message should go across to the masses at large that we are curtailing the benefits admissible to the Judges. It is common knowledge that the lower judiciary accounts for maximum pendency of cases which happens to be more than 90 per cent. He agreed that the pendency of cases in the High Courts and Supreme Court calls for correction. But at the same time it is imperative to have robust infrastructure for the lower judiciary. Sanction of Rs. 9000 crore for the creation of sound infrastructure exclusively for lower judiciary as well as subordinate courts in the recent past is a major step taken in this direction.

He also submitted that the Government does not interfere in the functioning of the judiciary at all. It was in the year 1993 that the Collegium system was expanded which was followed by the creation of a memorandum of procedure in subsequent thereto under which a system was evolved which has since been in existence. He said that the process of appointment is going on smoothly. From the Government side, there is no effort to scuttle or to create any kind of slowdown in the process of appointment of Judges. When someone's name is recommended, they exercise due diligence in forwarding the name of individuals to the collegium of Judges and in turn the collegium of Supreme Court reverts them. There is clearly specified process and laid down procedure of appointment and retirement of Judges. They have left no stone unturned to expedite the process of appointment of Judges. However, a few posts shall continue to remain vacant since it's a long drawn process and essentially consumes fair amount of time. We are largest democracy of the world where everyone has the right to move to the court of law. The e-Court Mission is already in place under the monitoring of the hon. Supreme Court and is very commendable. The Fast Track Courts at several places are also functioning very well. The State of West Bengal is the only State where the provisions of Fast Track Courts and POCSO (The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act are not being implemented at the desired pace. He said that he will follow up those important requests and

suggestions which came up during the discussion. Thanking all the hon. Members who participated in the debate, he requested them to pass this Bill.

The Bill was passed.

The Central Vigilance commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021: On 9 December 2021, moving the motion for the consideration of the Bill, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that ever since this Government came into power, one of the very early declarations was made that this Government will follow a policy of 'Zero Tolerance' towards corruption. It is evident from the fact that the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has been amended for the first time after 30 years. Through this amendment, the bribe-giver was also made culpable along with the bribe-taker and at the same time, good performing and honest officers were given certain safeguards. If any official or head of an organization is investigating the case then it requires a certain amount of continuity and at the same time, besides institutional continuity, there are various such information that needs to be kept secret. Therefore, to that extent, it is just an enabling provision particularly when the FATF has also suggested different nations to improve their law enforcement authorities. Many of the investigating agencies in many countries have the term of office (of the Head of Investigating Agencies) lasting over several years. Thus, this enabling provision has been incorporated in the interest of justice and in the interest of checking crimes in India. It also provides for a term limited to five years.

Initiating the discussion, Shri N.K. Premachandran (RSP) said that the Hon'ble Minister has said nothing to justify the promulgation of the Ordinance. It is a very serious matter of concern regarding the independence of the Enforcement Directorate as well as the CBI. He requested the Hon'ble Minister to inform the House about the exigency, urgency and the extraordinary circumstances prevailing to promulgate this Ordinance to extend the tenure of a particular individual officer and questioned the Government the intent of this Ordinance. He further said that the Government has promulgated this Ordinance just three days before the retirement of a particular officer. So, the Government should extend an explanation and justification for the promulgation of this Ordinance. Moreover, this is a clear case of misuse of Article 123 of the Constitution by this Government. Besides, the Government's action to invalidate the directive of the Supreme Court so as to protect the interest of a particular

individual can never be justified. Similarly, by virtue of the Ordinance, Section 25 of the CVC is amended that the Director of the Enforcement shall continue to hold office for a period of five years in the public interest. Here 'Public Interest' has a wider meaning. Therefore, he submitted that the term 'Public Interest' has to be amended and that the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill' does not correlate with the contents of the Bill. Besides, all the recommendations of the National Police Commission are being violated by the Government. He strongly opposed the Ordinance as well as the Bills.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Manish Tewari (INC) moved the Statutory Resolution for disapproval of the Ordinance which was promulgated to amend both the Central Vigilance Commission Act as well as the Delhi Police Special Establishment Act. He also opposed both the Bills moved by the Hon'ble Minister in order to replace these Ordinances. He said that the reason for opposing these two Bills is primarily because these Bills are arbitrary, capricious and they are a colourable exercise of power. He further said that this Government has made every attempt over the past seven and a half years to dismantle the system of checks and balances which are intrinsic to our Constitutional scheme. The intention of the Jain Hawala judgment was to insulate the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate from the influence of the controlling Executive, which is the Government. But these Bills seek to do precisely the opposite. They seek to subordinate what the Supreme Court had contemplated to be independent organizations. Then, the Supreme Court went on to give directions that the Director of the CBI and that of the ED will have a fixed tenure of minimum of two years, just to insulate them from any Government interference. Be it CBI, or the ED or the Department of Income Tax, these are frontal organization of the government to scare and harass the Opposition. The Bill brought out here today reinforces this contention. The CBI has a very chequered history. He said that he already pointed out in the past that the CBI's existence would be struck down, and that subsequently it happened in 2013. This Government came into power in 2014 and for the last seven and a half years they have never gone and told the Supreme Court that this is an important issue which needs to be adjudicated. The ED administers the Foreign Exchange Management Act. It administers the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and it does not have a legal architecture at all. If you have a pliant Director at the helm of affairs in

* **Others who participated in the discussion:** Sarvashri A. Raja, Kalyan Banerjee, Talari Rangaiah, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Bhartruhari Mahtab, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Ritesh Pandey, Benny Behanan, Brijendra Singh, Kuruva Gorantla Madhav, Asaduddin Owaisi, Hanuman Beniwal, Dulal Chandra Goswami, Thomas Chazhikadan, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Dr. D. Ravikumar, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Prof. Sougata Ray, Adv. A.M. Ariff, Kunwar Danish Ali, Sushri Sunita Duggal, Sushri S. Jothimani and Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule.

hierarchical organizations, there will be a ripple effect down the line. He requested the Hon'ble Minister to take the two Bills back and to restore the position to status quo ante.

Joining the discussion, Col. (Retd.) Rajyavardhan Rathore (BJP) said that the Opposition is talking about maintaining the status quo. But the Modi Government has not come to power to merely to maintain the status quo. This Government believes in bringing about positive and lasting changes in the country. The laws enacted in this House will have the efficacy and effectiveness to shape up the future of the country. He further said that Certain crimes are committed against the individuals and certain other against the nation. The Government elected by the people will fight for them. We need laws with necessary teeth to nab the culprits and criminals of big ticket scams committed in the last few decades. Those who subvert financial and legal system are not such people who do not understand the laws. Therefore, the systems have to be smarter than them. He said that the Government knows that many a stumbling block will be created in the way to frame these laws and it is so apparent. There is an aspect of money laundering involved in the crimes of drugs, terrorism, human trafficking, organized riots, insider trading, frauds and betting syndicates. Such crimes have got international ramifications as well. Therefore, it is necessary that the Government should frame such laws which are well understood and respected by other countries.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh thanked all Members who participated in the discussion. He said that the Prime Minister holds CBI, CVC and all these institutions in very high esteem. Independence of these institutions is the top priority of the Government. He further said that considering the sanctity of these supreme institutions, we have to rise above the political considerations and help each other in order to strengthen the independence and enabling functioning of these institutions. The present legislation is also in the direction of overcoming the problem of delay in disposal of cases. As regards extension of tenure is concerned, he said that the extension is again going to be by the same process by which the appointment has been made. Who is there in the Selection Committee? For CBI, the Selection Committee consists of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of Supreme Court. As regards the stability of the institution, he said that we have gone for having a fixed term of office. The earlier tenure never stated any maximum period of five

years or whatever. The Act clearly mentions that "tenure not less than two years". In order to further strengthen the stability, the Government increased the period upto a maximum of five years besides placing several embargoes and constraints and to prevent its misuse. It will introduce more of transparency. During the discussion it was also said that this act was a contempt of the court as regards maintaining its independence by increasing term of office. He said that let these institutions remain above the administrative control of the Prime Minister and the Government so that independence can be maintained. That is the best thing which the Government can do.

The Motion was adopted and the Bill was passed.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021: On 13 December 2021, moving the motion for the consideration of the Bill, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman said that there is no ground on which this particular Amendment Bill can be objected. She said that the Ordinance that was promulgated was necessitated because of a court order. The content of the Bill and the content of the Ordinance are all absolutely as was decided by the court and as should have been done even otherwise. The Bombay High Court's Goa Bench noticed the anomaly, but allowed it to remain. Subsequently, the same matter came before the Tripura High Court, and the Court felt that correction will have to be effected immediately keeping in line with the intent of the Court. Accordingly, the Ordinance had to be brought in only to the limited extent of rectifying the anomaly. It is exactly the same as the Ordinance which is getting replaced here.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD) said that this provision of Ordinance is a very unique feature in our Constitution, which we have inherited from the British Parliament. But Britain does not have this provision of Ordinance any more. It is high time that we should also do away with the Ordinance mechanism. It is because we have Sessions and Inter-Sessions in between, law-making provision has to be done through Ordinance. He mentioned that this Bill suffers from incongruities and is also illegal. He referred to Article 20(1) which provides for protection in respect of conviction for offences. There is a wide acceptance that amendments to the Taxation Laws are applied retrospectively many a time. He further mentioned that retrospective effect is not allowed in criminal law. This is the Act which came into force in 2014. We came to know about what is called as clerical error after the Goa Bench of Bombay High Court's attention was drawn. The lackadaisical approach of the Ministry is evident and that how they have functioned, especially relating to this important law. How come a mistake has been committed and this mistake is to be corrected after seven years? In

2021, the Government is making this effort. If at all, it becomes an Act, again it will be decided in the court of law. It will have retrospective effect. Retrospective operation is, in fact, an inaccurate term and open to various interpretations. A law passed on 30 September, but an act committed on 1 August cannot be taken to be a law in force on 1 August. So an act committed on 1 August cannot be punished thereunder. Is financing illicit trafficking of narcotics and harbouring offenders no longer a crime in India? To address that question, these amendments have been made. In the Ordinance, it was mentioned 'due to oversight'. It was also said that there was a drafting error. Now, we hear that it is a clerical error. So, why the provision became inoperable? That is the question. Hoping that the Hon'ble Minister will reply to that query, he stressed on the fact that criminal laws cannot be amended retrospectively. He further said that We need a strong law, a law that is implementable and clear.

Participating in the Discussion*, Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre (BJP) said that this Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance which was promulgated on 30 September 2021. The Ordinance is intended to rectify a drafting error. The Ordinance amends the section on penalty to change the reference to the new section. Consumption of Cannabis was not seen as a socially deviant behaviour and was viewed as being similar to consumption of alcohol. Ganja and Charas were considered by the upper-class Indians as poor man's intoxicant although the rich consumed Bhang during Holi. India has a long history of Opium and Cannabis use, especially for medicines. According to the Department of Revenue possession of upto 1 kg is termed as small quantity of Cannabis; and for Charas and Hashish, small quantity is up to 100 gms. The Act takes serious view of repeated offenders prescribing rigorous imprisonment. Repeated offenders are liable to even face death penalty if they are convicted again of a similar offence depending on the quantity of drugs seized. The Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) was set up in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The NDPS Act was brought to make stringent provisions for the control and regulation of operations relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Report states that while several Government agencies are mandated to enforce strict drug control laws and regulations, young generation of today is being addicted of drugs.

* **Others who participated in the discussion:** Sarvashri Kalyan Banerjee, Maddila Gurumoorthy, Arvind Sawant, Rattan Lal Kataria, Kodikunnil Suresh, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, N.K. Premachandran, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Hanuman Beniwal, Janardan Mishra, Thomas Chazhikadan, Balubhau Alias Suresh Narayan Dhanorkar, Haji Fazlur Rahman, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. S.T. Hasan, Dr. D. Ravikumar, Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Adv. A.M. Ariff, Kunwar Danish Ali, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar and Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana.

Joining the discussion, Shri Manish Tewari (INC) said that this Bill represents a pure question of law. The question is can a substantive sentencing provision in criminal law be given retrospective effect by a legislative declaration. Unfortunately, this Bill does not address this question. If this Bill is accepted in the form in which the Government has proposed it, this would mean that Article 20 of the Constitution of India will become redundant and we are going to open the floodgates of misuse. If at any point of time in the future, any law can be brought and can be given effect retrospectively, then no person in this country can ever be safe. It has implications on the confidence which people have in our supreme legislative institutions. This Amendment Act talks about imprisonment from ten years to life and it is a substantive sentencing provision. How will any court allow it to have retrospective effect? Even in case of tax and tax legislations taxes can be collected with retrospective effect, but penal provisions cannot be applied retrospectively. He doubted that this amendment is likely to pass judicial scrutiny and it will be better if it comes into force from the date on which this law gets notified. Synthetic drugs are being manufactured in legitimate pharmaceutical factories. That is something which the Government has been completely unable to come to grips with. He requested the Government to tighten its enforcement agency instead of amending the Act so that the narcotic substances coming to India from Afghanistan and Pakistan are checked.

Replying to the Discussion, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman said that the discussion on the bill was threadbare. We have to act in compliance with the Order of the Court seeking to make necessary correction in the error highlighted by the court in the Bill and the Ordinance. Since the Parliament was not in Session then, and an Ordinance was promulgated which is now to be replaced by a Bill. The concern was rightly expressed by several senior Hon'ble Members that the spirit of Article 20 is getting diminished by bringing this amendment. Although the two amendments brought by us do not diminish the spirit of Article 20, rather uphold it in letter and spirit. She further said that there was doubt in the mind of several Hon'ble Members regarding retrospective amendment, particularly because it is a criminal law and is not permissible. Thus, only clarificatory amendments are being made and they seek to remove an obvious mistake. She explained why there is a need to bring the retrospective aspect to this amendment when it is a clarificatory amendment. With this amendment, the law will be in line with the intent of the Legislation, which was before the 1 May 2014. But in between, when there was a time when the error continued and created a lot of trouble for people, we don't want to have criminal liability retrospectively. Therefore, we have to bring this amendment which is not a substantive amendment, yet with a retrospective effect.

The Bill was passed.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021: On 20 December 2021, moving the Motion for consideration of the Bill, the Minister of Law And Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju said that through this Bill many good changes are to be made in the electoral system of India. There are some discrepancies and shortcomings in the existing legislation so far. To overcome them, this Government has brought this amendment Bill in coordination with the Election Commission. At present, in the existing electoral system, 1 January is considered as the qualifying date for the entire year. And, those who attain the age of 18 years after that qualifying date are deprived of the right to vote. So the Government has made a provision of 4 qualifying dates *i.e.* 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October in a calendar year. Similarly, through this Bill, the word 'wife' mentioned in sub-section 6 of section 20 of the People's Representation Act has been replaced with the word 'spouse'. Along with this, provision has also been made in this Bill for the acquisition of premises related to the conduct of elections. A provision has also been made in this Bill to link the Aadhar card with the voter list. He clarified that this Bill has been brought only after the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC) said that this Bill has been introduced and is being discussed for passing of the Bill on same day itself. If this Bill is so important then what is the need for the government to pass it in such haste?

Participating in the discussion,* Shri T.R. Baalu (DMK) said that the Government has not generated enough public opinion in this regard. So, a public opinion should be generated fully and the Bill should also be discussed in the House.

Joining the discussion, Dr. Nishikant Dubey (BJP) said that the Government has brought a serious reform through this Bill of making a provision to link Aadhaar with the voter list. However, all political parties are opposing this Bill only due to vote bank politics. He further said that this amendment Bill has been brought by the Government to make provisions related to the polling booth premises. He supported the Bill and urged the House that no foreigner should be allowed to become a voter here.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Law And Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju said that the Government has brought the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 with good intent. We

* **Others who participated in the discussion:** Sarvashri Kalyan Banerjee, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu, Ritesh Pandey, Anubhav Mohanty, Asaduddin Owaisi, N.K. Premachandran, E.T. Mohammed Basheer and Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule.

cannot halt the process of electoral reforms as this matter is to be dealt by the Election Commission of India and the Government of India. A process of discussion with the State Governments in this regard has also been constantly going on. A number of parlays between the Election Commission of India and the Law Ministry have also been taken up for the last few years. He further said that the 61st Constitutional Amendment was passed in 1988 in order to reduce the age of exercising franchise from 21 years to 18 years. And in this process, a lacuna happened to be there because of which if a person fails to enrol himself in the voter list till 1 January, then he will not be able to get himself enrolled. Now, the Government is providing qualifying dates according to which no sooner did someone attain the age of 18 years than he would be able to enroll himself in the electoral roll just after attaining the qualifying age and would be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote. The Government has brought gender neutrality there by replacing 'the wife' with 'the spouse'. Thereafter, premises have to be requisitioned to conduct elections and for this purpose the provisions contained in the Section 160 of the People's Representation Act, 1958 have also been changed.

The Bill was passed

C. QUESTION HOUR

The Seventh Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha commenced on 29 November 2021. It was scheduled to conclude on 23 December 2021. The Session was curtailed by a day and the House was adjourned *sine-die* on 22 December 2021. However, the Questions listed for 22 December 2021 and 23 December 2021 were treated as lapsed as no Business was transacted in the House on these days.

A chart showing Grouping of Ministries, Dates of Sittings, Dates of Ballots and last dates of receipt of notices of Questions during the Session was circulated to Members through Members' Portal along with Bulletin Part-II dated 17 November 2021. Notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions for the Session were received *w.e.f.* 18 November 2021. The last date for receiving notices of Questions was 7 December 2021. However, the last date for receiving notices of Questions for the Sitting on 21 December 2021 *i.e.* the last Sitting on which the Questions were taken up in the House was 03 December 2021.

The actual number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions tabled by Members were 23,445 (SQ 11,057 + USQ 12,388). However, as a result of splitting few questions, where two or more Ministries were involved, the number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions increased to 23,595 (SQ 11,132 + USQ 12,463). Eighteen (18) Short Notice Questions (SNQs)

were also received from the Members. The maximum number of notices of Questions included for Ballot in a day was 1,376 (SQ 637 + USQ 739) for the Sitting held on 14 December 2021. The minimum number of notices of Questions included for ballot in a day was 1,033 (SQ 470 + USQ 563) for the Sitting held on 1 December 2021. The maximum and minimum number of Members whose names were included for the Ballot were 331 and 251 for Sittings held on 16 December 2021 and 1 December 2021, respectively.

Notices were examined in the light of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Directions by the Speaker, Parliamentary conventions and past precedents to decide their admissibility. Out of 23,613 notices of Starred, Unstarred and Short Notice Questions received (including split questions), 339[#] Questions were included in the lists of Starred Questions and 3,910* Questions in the lists of Unstarred Questions.

Eighteen (18) Short Notice Question notices were received during the Session and all such notices were disallowed.

The Ministry-wise break-up of admitted notices of Questions shows that the Minister of Health and Family Welfare answered the maximum number of questions (Starred and Unstarred), *i.e.* 287, followed by the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare who answered 243 Questions (both Starred and Unstarred).

Names of 398 Members were included in the Lists of Starred and Unstarred Questions. The maximum number of Questions by any Member admitted/clubbed were 49 against the name of Dr. Sukanta Majumdar.

The maximum and minimum number of Members whose names appeared in the Lists of Questions were 310 and 251 on 14 December 2021 and 1 December 2021, respectively.

One (1) Half-an-Hour Discussion Notice was received during the Session and the same was disallowed.

No Statement was made by a Minister correcting the reply already given to a Question in Lok Sabha.

A total of 91 Starred Questions were orally replied during the Session. The average number of Starred Questions answered orally per Sitting was 5.35. All the 20 Questions in the Starred List were taken up on 20 December 2021. However, supplementary questions were asked and replied on 9 Questions. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally in a single day was 10 on 10 December 2021 and the minimum number of Starred Questions answered orally in a single day was one (01) on 30 November 2021 and 16 December 2021.

[#] Excluding one listed SQ No. 16 dated 29/11/2021 which was withdrawn by Shri Gopal Chinnaya Shetty, M.P.

* Including one USQ No. 507 dated 01/12/2021 deleted from the list.

The average number of Unstarred Questions appearing in the Lists was 229.94 per day during the Session.

4,157 (248+3909) written replies to Starred and Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Obituary References were made in the House to the passing away of 11 former Members viz: Sarvashri B. Senguttuvan; Kalyan Singh; Godil Prasad Anuragi; Shyam Sunder Somani; Rajnarayan Budholiya; Devwrat Singh; Hari Danve Pundlik; Chandra Pal Shailani; Konijeti Rosaiah; Ram Nagina Mishra; and Shri Oscar Fernandes (sitting Member of the Rajya Sabha and former Member of the Lok Sabha).

On 9 December 2021, the Hon'ble Speaker made a reference to the tragic loss of lives of Gen. Bipin Rawat, CDS, Smt. Rawat and other Armed Forces personnel in an unfortunate crash of Military Helicopter on 8 December 2021. On 16 December, the Hon'ble Speaker made reference to the loss of life of Group Captain Varun Singh, the lone survivor of the said IAF Helicopter crash on 8 December 2021.

On 13 December 2021, Hon'ble Speaker also made a reference to the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attack on Parliament House which took place on 13 December 2001.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION*

The Two Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session (Winter Session) of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 29 November 2021. The Session was scheduled to conclude on 23 December 2021. However, the Session came to an early end on 22 December 2021. The Session had 18 sittings, and the House sat for 45 hours and 35 minutes. The Rajya Sabha was prorogued by the President on 24 December 2021.

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

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

Short Duration Discussion on situation arising out of cases of Omicron variant of Covid-19 Virus: Initiating the discussion on 15 December 2021, Shri G.K. Vasani (TMC (M)) mentioned about the health emergency and threat to the lives of people because of Omicron in the Country. He pointed out that several people in many States have lost their lives due to Covid-19 and therefore, he appealed to the opposition parties to stand together and support the Government to help the people in recovering from Omicron. He congratulated the Government and the Prime Minister for doing an efficient work and vaccinating over 134 crore people. However, he informed that with new mutations persistently evolving, the virus has created a constant threat in the country. To battle this transforming virus, he stressed that the Centre and the States should work together, move promptly and rapidly to deal with the threat of Omicron. He also mentioned that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has more responsibility in guiding and managing various aspects of Covid-19. Speaking on the management of Omicron, he made six recommendations to the Government. He stated that all decision-making regarding Omicron crisis should be based on scientific evidence and expert recommendations, and not merely on the bureaucratic management system. He requested the Minister to inform about the plans and preparedness for the booster dose as it represents the best chance of keeping people out of hospitals and medical emergency. Further, he highlighted the need to overcome the shortcomings of the laboratories that can identify Covid-19 positivity irrespective of strains. He also opined that the Government should try to develop indigenous technology. Since vaccines are costly and antibody tests are cheaper he suggested for the identification of frontline workers and encouragement of antibody tests to identify people who genuinely need booster doses.

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

Emphasizing on continued usage of mask and the necessity of following other Covid-appropriate behaviour, he appealed to the leaders and political parties to set an example and keep social gatherings and mega rallies to a minimum. He also spoke on the importance of turning digital to control the spread of Covid-19. He concluded by suggesting that the Government should ensure the complete execution of not only the first and second doses but the booster doses as well.

*Participating in the discussion,*¹ Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla (BJP) stated that in order to protect against Omicron virus in India, the Government has not only intensified RTPCR tests but also made it mandatory for all passengers coming from abroad, to upload their negative reports of RTPCR on the Air Suvidha Portal. He added that the Ministry of Health had also revised the list of such risk bearing countries. He explained that though the Omicron variant spreads rapidly, the symptoms are mild as compared to the rest of the variants. The features of Omicron indicate that it is the result of viral recombination. Scientists in South Africa had previously indicated that Omicron may have developed in humans whose immune systems were infected with HIV or some other disease that weakens the immune system. He underlined the importance of following the guidelines already issued by the Government to deal with the threat of Omicron. Since limited information is available and early evidence suggested the possibility of increased risk of re-infection, he urged the Members to discuss on the issue to find a way to prevent it.

Joining in the discussion, Shri Ram Nath Thakur (JD(U)) said that doctors, nurses and paramedical staff should be engaged in the work of prevention of the epidemic in maximum numbers and arrangements should be made for its early treatment. He appealed to the people to come in maximum numbers and get themselves vaccinated. He also pointed out that not only increasing the number of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff, but educating the people about the disease, its prevention and awareness should also be focussed.

Replying to the discussion, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers addressed Covid-19 as a global crisis and hailed that the country unitedly fought well during the Covid crisis. He also highlighted that the Government encouraged and honoured the corona warriors and health workers. During the Covid crisis, he mentioned that the spread of the virus was prevented by creating containment zones. Referring to vaccine as the most important weapon to fight the crisis, he stated that the country got its indigenously manufactured vaccine in nine months which was the biggest achievement for India. Through vaccination campaigns, he said that most of the population of the country have got significant protection from Covid-19. Speaking on Covid-19 management, he informed that every state in the country has sufficient stock of vaccine and manufacturing

¹ Other Members who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri A. Navaneethakrishnan and Syed Zafar Islam.

capacity has also been increased. He further informed that with the increase in Covid cases, the Government had also declared Covid Package-II to fight Covid-19. It has increased the number of beds, ICUs, separate beds and ventilators for children in the district hospitals. He also added that a buffer stock of Rs 1 crore will be created in each district to manage Covid-19 situation if cases increase in future. With regard to new cases of Omicron, he explained that it is a mutant variant of the previous delta variant which the WHO has declared as a Variant of Concern. He informed that the country is already prepared to fight Omicron. For this, Government has been vigilant enough to identify those countries where this variant is found as high risk countries. Along with this, he also said that the impact on vaccinated and non-vaccinated people is being assessed on daily basis and the capacity of oxygen plants has also been increased. He emphasized that the country has to fight this Covid crisis unitedly. In order to detect the variant, he conveyed that the Government has been doing genome sequencing on time. He added that studies are also going on to know whether vaccine has an effect on this variant in India or not? According to the information available, he pointed out that the protocol of Covid Medicine is the same as for the delta, gamma and all other variants. Based on the lessons learned from the first and the second waves, he assured that the country would be able to counter Omicron well.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Dam Safety Bill, 2019*²: On 1 December 2021, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Minister of Jal Shakti moved the motion for consideration of the Dam Safety Bill, 2019. He said that water is vital to human life and development for any nation. With the development of human civilisation, the demand for water continued to increase which necessitated humans to adopt the method of building dams for storing surplus river water. Speaking on the long history of dam construction, he stated that thousands of dams have been built around the world to meet the requirements of irrigation, supply of drinking water and generating electricity. He informed that in India, out of more than five thousand dams, 80 per cent were 25 years old and around 25 per cent were more than 50 years old. However, he assured that, with proper maintenance of dams, question over their effectiveness does not arise. He further explained that since more than 90 per cent of the dams across India are built on inter-state rivers, the issue of safety and proper maintenance of dams becomes an inter-state subject. When any dam breaks or water is suddenly released into the dam, it affects downstream area, human life, complete flora and fauna, and riverine structure. From the breaking of dam in Morbi, Gujarat in 1979 to the more recent incident in Andhra Pradesh, he stated that there were 42 such incidents in which many lives and property worth crores of rupees had been lost. In order to prevent these incidents, he said that efforts are being made to make a protocol of dam safety in India. He requested all the members

² The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 29 July 2019 and was passed on 2 August 2019. The Bill was laid on the Table of the House on 5 August 2019.

to support the passing of the bill so that some system could be made across the country on safety of dams.

*Replying to the discussion,*³ the Minister expressed his gratitude to all the Members of both the Houses who took part in the discussion on the Bill. While clarifying the concerns of some of the Members regarding the older dams, he stated that calling a dam unsafe only because of increasing age is not right. Dams which are more than thousand years old are still working successfully in many countries across the world. Citing incidents of tragedy in Larji Dam in Himachal Pradesh, Annamayya Dam in Andhra Pradesh and in Kerala, he suggested that all these should be considered from a holistic point of view which would save our country, our people as well as the entire river structure from such incidents. He further argued that it is the responsibility of all sitting in the House, to prevent changes in the eco-systems due to the breaking of a dam. He pointed out that both the Houses had already discussed forty four issues of water and safety of dams. He added that 92 percent of the dams in India are located on inter-state river basins, and therefore, a law is required to fix responsibility. According to the records of the Central Water Commission, 42 dams have broken so far in the country. The first discussion on procedural innovation regarding safety of dams was held when the dam broke in Morbi in 1979. The Committee had held extensive consultations with the States for three years and proposed in 1982 that there should be a protocol and an organized structure for dam safety in the country. He stated that the Standing Committee in its report had mentioned that the Parliament should make a law in this regard, if it is necessary in public interest. Considering the report prepared by the Standing Committee as the backbone, the Bill had been prepared. He informed that the two organizations that work at the Central Government level are the National Committee on Dam Safety and National Dam Safety Authority. Similarly there are two institutions in place in the States. He said that the arrangement proposed and the provisions made at the national level are with respect to the National Dam Safety Authority which is playing only an advisory role like all the other institutions before. To fix accountability of a State or a particular person, the National Dam Safety Authority has been provided with powers to impose a penalty. He further stated that a protocol has been made in relation to operational maintenance through a provision in this law and the dams of all such states, which are located in any other states, have also been given equal importance. In the matter of representation in the National Dam Safety Committee, he stated that the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee have been followed in letter and spirit. Referring to the concerns of Members, he assured that the clauses relating to the Sub-Committee will be included when the rules are framed and the interests of those States with critical structure will be taken care of. He stressed

³ **Other Members who participated in the discussion were:** Sarvashri Shaktisinh Gohil, K.J. Alphons, Md. Nadimul Haque, T.K.S. Elangovan, Prasanna Acharya, V. Vijayasai Reddy, A. Navaneethakrishnan, Ram Nath Thakur, Vaiko, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, Sanjay Singh, Birendra Prasad Baishya, G.C. Chandrashekhar, Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya, Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur, Abdul Wahab, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, Dr. V. Sivadasan and Dr. Fauzia Khan.

the need for a law after the completion of the first phase of the 'Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project' by the Central Government. Regarding the concern raised by some Members on conflict of interest, he clarified that the law had been brought not to encroach upon or interfere in anyone's rights in any way but to make a system that the National Dam Safety Committee (NCDS) should work as a think tank bank of the country. He added that what has been decided at the national and state level should be implemented at the lower level. He concluded with a request to all the Members to put aside their political differences and pass the Dam Safety Bill so that a new chapter could be written on the safety of dams in the country.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted. Clauses, etc. as amended were adopted and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021 and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020⁴: On 7 December 2021, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers moved the motions for consideration of the Assisted Reproduction Bill (ART) and the Surrogacy Bill, and informed the House that as per the recommendations of the Select Committee both the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill and the Surrogacy Bill will be taken together as both the Bills are interconnected and complementary to each other. He stated that 26 recommendations given by the Standing Committee on ART Bill have been accepted and the Bill was passed by Lok Sabha. As regards Surrogacy Bill, he informed that the Surrogacy Bill was referred to the Select Committee during the detailed discussion thereon in Rajya Sabha. The Bill was also referred to the Group of Ministers and the Parliamentary Standing Committee. He further informed that many suggestions given by the Select Committee have been accepted. He was of the view that it is a progressive decision and requested the Members to give their suggestions and pass the Bill. The discussion on both the Bills was held on 7 and 8 December 2021.

Replying to the discussion⁵, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers informed the House that In-vitro Fertilization (IVF) technology and surrogacy have been in practice in the country since 1978 and it was imperative to regulate these services. He stated that this Bill will honour the rights of women to become a mother and rights of couple to have a family. Discussing the ground realities in the surrogacy and assistive reproductive services in the country and related incidents that

⁴ The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14 September 2020 and was passed on 1 December 2021. The Bill was laid on the Table of the House on 2 December 2021. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15 July 2019 and was passed on 5 August 2019. The Bill was laid on the Table of the House on 5 August 2019. The two Bills were discussed together in the Rajya Sabha on 7 and 8 December 2021.

⁵ Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri K.C. Ramamurthy, Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, Ajay Pratap Singh, G.K. Vasan, Lt. Gen. (Dr.) D.P. Vats, Dr. M. Thambidurai, Dr. Amar Patnaik, Dr. Vikas Mahatme, Dr. Ashok Bajpai, Smt. Mamata Mohanta, Smt. Seema Dwivedi and Smt Kanta Kardam.

happened due to lack of regulatory framework in such services, he *inter alia* requested the House to pass both these Bills unanimously.

The motions for consideration of the Bills were adopted. Clauses, etc. as amended were adopted and the Bills were passed.

The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021⁶: On 14 December 2021, Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and the Minister of State in the Department of Space moved the motion for consideration of the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill. He reiterated the commitment of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and his crusade against corruption. He stated that the ramifications of generating black money and criminalizing have assumed new dimensions and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has a very crucial role even in money-laundering cases. He informed that the term of the Enforcement Director has not been made indefinite or at the pleasure of the Government. Further, the Clause 'not less than two years' has been amended 'to go up to five years with one year of a term on each occasion'. He believed that the amendment was in the interest of not only the national security of India but also for the stability of the nation's financial structure.

Replying to the discussion⁷, the Minister thanked all the Members for their valuable views and inputs. He said that over the seven decades, corruption has grown many folds. The ramifications of the entire investigation format have not only got complicated but also have become very intricate. He further added that the country is now facing triple menace of corruption, black money and international offence, which, in turn, is linked to another triple menace, which are drugs, terrorism and crime. All these put together are challenges and threats to the national security and financial stability of the country. Citing the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), he stressed on the continuity, the rapport and also the confidentiality of the information to which the Head of the Enforcement Directorate is privy to. Keeping in view the officer heading the important investigating agencies of the Government and supervising sensitive cases involving public interest depending upon the circumstances, he explained that it is essential to provide clear and unambiguous enabling provision regarding tenure of the officer heading the investigating agency in the interest of arriving at judicious conclusions. He concluded by requesting the House to pass the Bill.

⁶ The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3 December 2021 and was passed on 9 December 2021. The Bill was laid on the Table of the House on 10 December 2021.

⁷ Other Members who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Suresh Prabhu, Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli, Ram Nath Thakur, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, Sushil Kumar Modi, Ramdas Athawale, G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, Rakesh Sinha and Dr. M. Thambidurai.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted. Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

C. QUESTIONS

During the 255th Session, 7,729 notices of Questions (4,350 Starred and 3,379 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 261 Questions were listed as Starred Questions and 2,824 Questions were listed as Unstarred Questions. 57 Starred Questions were orally answered. The total number of Questions received in Hindi was 1,228.

Daily average of Questions: The list of Starred Questions for 01.12.2021 contained 11 Questions and the lists of Starred Questions for 02.12.2021 and 03.12.2021 contained 13 Questions each and the list of Starred Questions for 16.12.2021 contained 14 Questions. Rest of the lists of Starred Questions contained 15 Questions each.

The list of Unstarred Questions for 30.11.2021, 01.12.2021, 02.12.2021, 03.12.2021, 17.12.2021 and 22.12.2021 contained 143, 147, 146, 151, 159 and 158 Questions, respectively. Rest of the lists of Unstarred Questions contained 160 Questions each.

Short Notice Questions: Four notices of Short Notice Questions were received and all were disallowed.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the 255th Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri K. B. Shanappa, Hari Singh Nalwa, Abani Roy, Dr. Chandan Mitra, Shrimati Monika Das, all former Members; Oscar Fernandes, sitting Member and General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff.

The House was adjourned for one hour after obituary reference was made on the first day of the Session to mark the passing away of the sitting Member.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

STATE LEGISLATURES

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Third Session of the Fifteenth Assam Legislative Assembly commenced on 20 December 2021 and was adjourned *sine die* on 24 December 2021. There were 5 sittings in all.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following fifteen Bills were introduced, considered and passed:- (i) The Assam Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (ii) The Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (iii) The Deori Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (iv) The Assam Tribal Development Authority (Repeal) Bill, 2021; (v) The Assam Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Post in Services) (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (vi) The Assam Municipal (Third Amendment) Bill, 2021; (vii) The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (viii) The Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (ix) The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (x) The Assam Cattle Preservation Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (xi) The Assam Police (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (xii) The Assam Direct Recruitment Commissions for Analogous Posts in Class III and Class IV Bill, 2021; (xiii) The Assam Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2021; (xiv) The Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya (Amendment) Bill, 2021; and (xv) The Assam Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operation) (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of leading personalities.

* Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

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APPENDIX – I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION | 29.11.2021 to 22.12.2021 |
| 2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD | 18 |
| 3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS | 83 Hours 20 Minutes |
| 4. TIME LOST DUE TO INTERRUPTIONS/ FORCED ADJOURNMENTS | 18 Hours 48 Minutes |
| 5. HOUSE SITTING LATE TO COMPLETE LISTED BUSINESS | 18 Hours and 11 Minutes |
| 6. GOVERNMENT BILLS | |
| (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session | 06 |
| (ii) Introduced | 12 |
| (iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha | Nil |
| (iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ Recommendation and laid on the Table | 02 |
| (v) Discussed | 09 |
| (vi) Passed | 09 |
| (vii) Withdrawn | Nil |
| (viii) Negatived | Nil |
| (ix) Part-discussed | Nil |
| (x) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation | 01 |
| (xi) Pending at the end of the Session | 09 |
| 7. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS | |
| (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session | 134 |
| (ii) Introduced | 145 |
| (iii) Discussed | 01 |
| (iv) Passed | Nil |
| (v) Withdrawn | Nil |
| (vi) Negatived | Nil |
| (vii) Removed | Nil |
| (viii) Part-discussed | 01 |
| (ix) Pending at the end of the Session | 279 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 8. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184 | |
| (i) Notice received | 25 |
| (ii) Admitted | Nil |
| (iii) Discussed | Nil |
| 9. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377 | 383 |
| 10. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR | 563 |
| 11. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 | |
| (i) Notice received | 52 |
| (ii) Admitted | 03 |
| (iii) Discussion held | 02 |
| (iv) Part-discussed | 01 |
| 12. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 | Nil |
| 13. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS | 50 |
| 14. ADJOURNMENT MOTION | |
| (i) Notice received | 238 |
| (ii) Brought before the House | Nil |
| (iii) Admitted | Nil |
| 15. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED BY WAY OF CALLING ATTENTION | Nil |
| 16. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS | |
| (i) Notice received | Nil |
| (ii) Admitted | Nil |
| (iii) Moved | Nil |
| (iv) Adopted | Nil |
| (v) Negatived | Nil |
| (vi) Part-discussed | Nil |
| 17. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS | |
| (i) Notice received | 06 |
| (ii) Admitted | 06 |

| | |
|--|------|
| (iii) Discussed | 01 |
| (iv) Adopted | Nil |
| (v) Negatived | Nil |
| (vi) Part-discussed | 01 |
| 18. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS | |
| (i) Notices received | Nil |
| (ii) Admitted | Nil |
| (iii) Moved & Discussed | Nil |
| (iv) Adopted | Nil |
| (v) Negatived | Nil |
| (vi) Withdrawn | Nil |
| (vii) Part-discussed | Nil |
| 19. PRIVILEGES MOTIONS | |
| (i) Notice received | 05 |
| (ii) Brought before the House | 04 |
| (iii) Consent withheld by Speaker | Nil |
| (iv) Observation made by Speaker | 01 |
| 20. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITOR PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION | Nil |
| 21. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE PARLIAMENT MUSEUM DURING THE SESSION | Nil |
| 22. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED | |
| (i) Starred | 340 |
| (ii) Un-starred | 3910 |
| (iii) Short Notice Questions | Nil |
| (iv) Half-an-Hour discussions | Nil |

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

| Sl. No. | Name of the Committee | No. of sittings held during the period | No. of Reports presented |
|---------|--|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| i) | Business Advisory Committee | 3 | 3 |
| ii) | Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House | - | 1 |
| iii) | Committee on Empowerment of women | 5 | 1 |
| iv) | Committee on Estimates | 5 | 1 |
| v) | Committee on Ethics | - | - |
| vi) | Committee on Government Assurances | 7 | 6 |
| vii) | Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) | - | - |
| viii) | Committee on Papers Laid on the Table | 4 | 28 |
| ix) | Committee on Petitions | 2 | 3 |
| x) | Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions | - | - |
| xi) | Committee of Privileges | 2 | - |
| xii) | Committee on Public Accounts | 15 | 4 |
| xiii) | Committee on Public Undertakings | 15 | - |
| xiv) | Committee on Subordinate Legislation | 8 | - |
| xv) | Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes | 5 | 4 |
| xvi) | General Purposes Committee | - | - |
| xvii) | House Committee (a) Accommodation Sub-Committee (b) Sub-Committee on Amenities | 1 | - |
| xviii) | Library Committee | 1 | - |
| xix) | Railway Convention Committee | - | - |
| xx) | Rules Committee | - | - |

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE

| 1 | 2 | | |
|-----|---|---|---|
| i) | Joint Committee on Offices of Profit | 3 | - |
| ii) | Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament | - | - |

DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

| | | | |
|-------|--|---|---|
| i) | Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing | 6 | 6 |
| ii) | Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers | 2 | 7 |
| iii) | Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel | 4 | 1 |
| iv) | Committee on Defence | 3 | 3 |
| v) | Committee on Energy | 6 | - |
| vi) | Committee on External Affairs | 3 | 3 |
| vii) | Committee on Finance | 6 | - |
| viii) | Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution | 3 | 4 |
| ix) | Committee on Information Technology | 7 | 6 |
| x) | Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development | 4 | 4 |
| xi) | Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas | 6 | 1 |
| xii) | Committee on Railways | 3 | 2 |
| xiii) | Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj | 2 | - |
| xiv) | Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment | 3 | 4 |
| xv) | Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs | 4 | 2 |
| xvi) | Committee on Water Resources | 4 | 2 |

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIFTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

| | | |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | PERIOD OF THE SESSION | 29.11.2021 to 22.12.2021 |
| 2. | NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD | 18 |
| 3. | TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS | 45 Hours and 35 Minutes |
| 4. | NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD | 01 |
| 5. | GOVERNMENT BILLS | |
| (i) | Pending at the commencement of the Session | 25 |
| (ii) | Introduced | 01 |
| (iii) | Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha | 09 |
| (iv) | Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment | Nil |
| (v) | Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha | Nil |
| (vi) | Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha | Nil |
| (vii) | Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees | 04* |
| (viii) | Reported by Select Committee | Nil |
| (ix) | Reported by Joint Committee | 01 |
| (x) | Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees | 01 |
| (xi) | Discussed | 11 |
| (xii) | Passed | 10 |
| (xiii) | Withdrawn | Nil |
| (xiv) | Negatived | Nil |
| (xv) | Part-discussed | Nil |
| (xvi) | Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation | 01 |
| (xvii) | Discussion postponed | Nil |
| (xviii) | Pending at the end of the Session | 24 |

* Out of 4 Bills, 1 Bill as introduced in the Rajya Sabha and 3 Bills as introduced in the Lok Sabha were referred to DRPRSCs under the administrative control of Rajya Sabha.

| | | |
|--------|---|-----|
| 6. | PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS | |
| (i) | Pending at the commencement of the Session | 82 |
| (ii) | Introduced | 22 |
| (iii) | Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha | Nil |
| (iv) | Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table | Nil |
| (v) | Reported by Joint Committee | Nil |
| (vi) | Discussed | 01 |
| (vii) | Withdrawn | Nil |
| (viii) | Passed | Nil |
| (ix) | Negatived | Nil |
| (x) | Circulated for eliciting opinion | Nil |
| (xi) | Part-discussed | 01 |
| (xii) | Discussion postponed/adjourned/deferred/terminated | 01* |
| (xiii) | Motion for circulation of Bill negatived | Nil |
| (xiv) | Referred to Select Committee | Nil |
| (xv) | Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill | Nil |
| (xvi) | Pending at the end of the Session | 103 |
| 7. | NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of urgent public importance) | |
| (i) | Notices received | 14 |
| (ii) | Admitted | 02 |
| (iii) | Discussions held | 01 |
| 8. | NUMBER OF STATEMENT MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling attention to matters of urgent public importance) | |
| (i) | Statement made by Ministers | Nil |
| (ii) | Half-an-hour discussions held | Nil |
| 9. | STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS | |
| (i) | Notices received | 03 |

* Introduction of Bill was deferred.

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----|
| | (ii) | Admitted | 03 |
| | (iii) | Moved | Nil |
| | (iv) | Adopted | Nil |
| | (v) | Negatived | Nil |
| | (vi) | Withdrawn | Nil |
| 10. | GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS | | |
| | (i) | Notices received | Nil |
| | (ii) | Admitted | Nil |
| | (iii) | Moved | Nil |
| | (iv) | Adopted | Nil |
| 11. | PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION | | |
| | (i) | Received | 09 |
| | (ii) | Admitted | 09 |
| | (iii) | Discussed | 01 |
| | (iv) | Withdrawn | Nil |
| | (vi) | Negatived | Nil |
| | (vii) | Adopted | Nil |
| | (vii) | Part-discussed | 01 |
| | (viii) | Discussion Postponed | Nil |
| 12. | GOVERNMENT MOTIONS | | |
| | (i) | Notices received | Nil |
| | (ii) | Admitted | Nil |
| | (iii) | Moved & discussed | Nil |
| | (iv) | Adopted | Nil |
| | (v) | Part-discussed | Nil |
| 13. | PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS | | |
| | (i) | Received | 04 |
| | (ii) | Admitted | 01 |
| | (iii) | Moved | Nil |
| | (iv) | Adopted | Nil |
| | (v) | Part-discussed | Nil |
| | (vi) | Negatived | Nil |
| | (vii) | Withdrawn | Nil |

| | | |
|--------|---|------|
| 14. | MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE | |
| (i) | Received | 02 |
| (ii) | Admitted | 01 |
| (iii) | Moved | Nil |
| (iv) | Adopted | Nil |
| (v) | Negatived | Nil |
| (vi) | Withdrawn | Nil |
| (vii) | Part-discussed | Nil |
| (viii) | Lapsed | Nil |
| 15. | NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY. | 01* |
| 16. | TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED | Nil |
| 17. | TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS | Nil |
| 18. | MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED | Nil |
| 19. | MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE | Nil |
| 20. | TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED | |
| (i) | Starred | 261 |
| (ii) | Unstarred | 2824 |
| (iii) | Short-Notice Questions | Nil |
| 21. | DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES | Nil |

22. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

| Name of Committee | No. of Meetings held between 1 st October to 31 st December 2021 | No. of Reports presented during 255 th Session of the Rajya Sabha |
|---|--|--|
| (i) Business Advisory Committee | 02 | Nil |
| (ii) Committee of Privileges | Nil | Nil |
| (iii) Committee on Ethics | 01 | Nil |
| (iv) Committee on Government Assurances | 02 | 01 |

* Joint Committee on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, created on 23.12.2021

| | | | |
|--------|--|-----|-----|
| (v) | Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme | 01 | Nil |
| (vi) | Committee on Papers Laid on the Table | 04 | 03 |
| (vii) | Committee on Petitions | 03 | 01 |
| (viii) | Committee on Information and Communication Technology Management in Rajya Sabha | 01 | Nil |
| (ix) | Committee on Rules | Nil | Nil |
| (x) | Committee on Subordinate Legislation | Nil | Nil |
| (xi) | General Purposes Committee | Nil | Nil |
| (xii) | House Committee | 01 | Nil |

DEPARTMENT RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

| | | | |
|--------|--|----|----|
| (i) | Commerce | 08 | 03 |
| (ii) | Health and Family Welfare | 03 | 03 |
| (iii) | Home Affairs | 05 | 02 |
| (iv) | Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports | 03 | 03 |
| (v) | Industry | 04 | 04 |
| (vi) | Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice | 08 | 04 |
| (vii) | Science and Technology, Environment and Forests | 02 | 10 |
| (viii) | Transport, Tourism and Culture | 12 | 03 |

23. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE 04

24. PETITIONS PRESENTED 01

25. NAMES OF NEW MEMBER SWORN IN

| Sl. No. | Name of Members Sworn | Party Affiliation | Date on which Sworn |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Rajani Ashokrao Patil | INC | 29.11.2021 |
| 2. | Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla | DMK | 29.11.2021 |
| 3. | Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar | DMK | 29.11.2021 |
| 4. | Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu | DMK | 29.11.2021 |
| 5. | Shri Luizinho Joaquim Faleiro | AITC | 29.11.2021 |
| 6. | Shri Jose K. Mani | KC(M) | 01.12.2021 |

26. OBITUARY REFERENCES

| Sl. No. | Name | Sitting Member/Ex-Member |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Oscar Fernandes | Sitting Member |
| 2. | Shri K.B. Shanappa | ex-Member |

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 3. | Dr. Chandan Mitra | ex-Member |
| 4. | Shri Hari Singh Nalwa | ex-Member |
| 5. | Smt. Monika Das | ex-Member |
| 6. | Shri Abani Roy | ex-Member |
| 7. | General Bipin Rawat | Chief of Defence Staff |

APPENDIX III
STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

| Legislatures | Duration | Sittings | Govt. Bills [Introduced (passed)] | Private Bills [Introduced (passed)] | Starred Questions [Received (admitted)] | Unstarred Questions [Received (admitted)] | Short Notice Questions [Received (admitted)] |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Andhra Pradesh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Andhra Pradesh L.C.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assam L.A. | 20.12.2021 to 24.12.2021 | 5 | 15(15) | - | 400(400) | 186(186) | 19(7) |
| Bihar L.A. | 29.11.2021 to 3.12.2021 | 5 | 4(4) | - | 771(649) | (107) | 129(3) |
| Bihar L.C.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chhattisgarh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Goa L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gujarat L.A. | - | - | - | - | - | 596(337) | - |
| Haryana L.A. | 17.12.2021 to 22.12.2021 | 4 | 8(8) | - | 274(200) | 185(147) | - |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A. | 10.12.2021 to 15.12.2021 | 5 | 5(5) | - | 388(281) | 188(138) | - |
| Jharkhand L.A. | 16.12.2021 to 22.12.2021 | 5 | 5(5) | - | 79(152) | (36) | 272(105) |
| Karnataka L.A. | 13.12.2021 to 24.12.2021 | 10 | 10(10) | - | 150(150) | 2032(2032) | - |
| Karnataka L.C. | 13.12.2021 to 24.12.2021 | 10 | 9(9) | - | 968(150) | 430(1248) | - |
| Kerala L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Madhya Pradesh L.A. | 20.12.2021 to 24.12.2021 | 5 | 7(7) | - | 825(794) | 753(705) | - |
| Maharashtra L.A. | 22.12.2021 to 28.12.2021 | 5 | 19(24) | - | 5114(299) | 71(34) | 1 |

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------|--------|---|-----------|------------|-------|
| Maharashtra L.C. | 22.12.2021 to 28.12.2021 | 5 | 4(24) | 2 | 1434(358) | 30(25) | - |
| Manipur L.A.* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Meghalaya L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mizoram L.A.* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nagaland L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Odisha L.A. | 1.12.2021 to 10.12.2021 | 9 | 1(1) | - | 786(746) | 1082(1508) | - |
| Punjab L.A. | 8.11.2021 to 11.11.2021 | 2 | 16(16) | - | 230 | 115 | - |
| Rajasthan L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sikkim L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tamil Nadu L.A.* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Telangana L.A. | 24.9.2021 to 8.10.2021 | 7 | 7(7) | - | 154(105) | (19) | 1(1) |
| Telangana L.C. | 24.9.2021 to 8.10.2021 | 7 | (7) | - | 85(66) | - | 2(2) |
| Tripura L.A.* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Uttar Pradesh L.A. | 18.10.2021 to 18.10.2021 & 15.12.2021 to 17.12.2021 | 4(1+3) | 10(10) | - | 145(84) | 218(207) | 25(1) |
| Uttar Pradesh L.C. | 15.12.2021 to 17.12.2021 | 3 | 10(10) | - | 299(290) | 69(69) | 15(5) |
| Uttarakhand L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| West Bengal L.A. | 1.11.2021 to 17.11.2021 | 7 | 1(1) | - | 90(74) | 20(15) | - |
| Delhi L.A. | 26.11.2021 to 26.11.2021 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Puducherry L.A.* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

* Information received from the State/Union Territory Legislature Contained Nil Report

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

**COMMITTEES AT WORK/ NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**

| | Business Advisory Committee | Committee on Government Assurances | Committee on Petitions | Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions | Committee of Privileges | Committee on Public Undertakings | Committee on Subordinate Legislation | Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs | Committee on Estimates | General Purposes Committee | House/Accommodation Committee | Library Committee | Public Accounts Committee | Rules Committee | Joint/Select Committee | Other Committees |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| State/ Union Territory | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Andhra Pradesh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Andhra Pradesh L.C.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assam L.A. | 2(2) | - | 3 | - | 1 | 3(3) | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | 2 ^(a) |
| Bihar L.A. | 2 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 19 | 14 | 11 | 14 | 1 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 1 | - | 125 ^(b) |
| Bihar L.C.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chhattisgarh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Goa L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gujarat L.A. | - | 9 | - | - | - | 6 | 3 | 6 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 15 | - | - | 12 ^(c) |
| Haryana L.A. | 1(1) | 13 | 13 | - | 1 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 16 | - | 1 | - | 24 | 1 | 1 | 38 ^(d) |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A. | 1(1) | - | - | - | 3 | 10 | 2 | - | 8(2) | - | - | - | 6(18) | - | - | 18(3) ^(e) |
| Jharkhand L.A. | - | - | 3 | - | - | 6 | 13 | - | - | 10 | - | 8 | 10 | - | - | 68 ^(f) |
| Karnataka L.A. | 1 | 4 | 3 | - | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | - | 3 | - | 6(3) | - | 4 | 16 ^(g) |
| Karnataka L.C. | 1 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | - | - | - | - | 8 ^(h) |
| Kerala L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Madhya Pradesh L.A. | 1(1) | 4 | 4(4) | 1 | - | - | 1(1) | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 1 | 5(16) | - | - | 11 ⁽ⁱ⁾ |

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

| | Business Advisory Committee | Committee on Government Assurances | Committee on Petitions | Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions | Committee of Privileges | Committee on Public Undertakings | Committee on Subordinate Legislation | Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs | Committee on Estimates | General Purposes Committee | House/Accommodation Committee | Library Committee | Public Accounts Committee | Rules Committee | Joint/Select Committee | Other Committees |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| State/ Union Territory | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Maharashtra L.A. | 2(1) | 5 | - | 1(1) | 1 | 9(2) | 3 | 8 | 13 | - | - | - | 5(1) | 3(2) | - | 35(3) ^(j) |
| Maharashtra L.C. | 2(2) | 4(2) | - | - | - | 9(2) | 3 | 8 | 13 | - | - | - | 5(1) | 3(2) | - | 35(3) ^(k) |
| Manipur L.A. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 ^(l) |
| Meghalaya L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mizoram L.A. | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | 2 ^(m) |
| Nagaland L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Odisha L.A. | 3(3) | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | 55 ⁽ⁿ⁾ |
| Punjab L.A. | - | 5 | 10 | - | 8 | 6 | 11 | 13 | 4 | - | 9 | - | 12 | - | - | 54(2) ^(o) |
| Rajasthan L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sikkim L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tamil Nadu L.A. | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | 2 ^(p) |
| Telangana L.A. | 1(1) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Telangana L.C. | 1(1) | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tripura L.A. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Uttar Pradesh L.A. | 3(3) | 7 | 20 | - | 9 | 23(1) | 6(2) | - | 5(5) | - | 1 | 1 | 19(8) | - | 4(5) | 3 ^(q) |
| Uttar Pradesh L.C. | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 63 ^(r) |
| Uttarakhand L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| West Bengal L.A. | 3(3) | 5 | 5 | - | 5 | 5 | 5 | - | 5 | - | 10 | 5 | 5 | 1(1) | - | 179 ^(s) |
| UNION TERRITORIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Delhi L.A. | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 ^(t) |
| Puducherry L.A.* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

* Information received from the State/Union Territory Legislature Contained Nil Report

- (a) Ethics Committee-1 and Members Amenities and Facilities Committee-1
- (b) Question and Calling Attention Committee-11, Zila Parishad & Panchayati Raj Committee-10, Nivedan Committee-12, Internal Resource Committee-10, Women & Child Welfare Committee-10, Agricultural Development Industries Committee-10, Tourism Development Committee-9, Zero Hour Committee-11, Ethics Committee-10, Bihar Heritage Development Committee-10, Minority Welfare Committee-11 and Environment Conservation and Pollution Control Committee-11
- (c) Members Pay & Allowance Rules Committee-1, Panchayati Raj Committee-5, Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-3 and Papers Laid on the Table Committee-3
- (d) Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions-10, Committee on Public Health, Irrigation, Power and Public Works (B&R)-16 and Subject Committee on Education, Technical Education, Vocational Education, Medical Education, and Health Services-12
- (e) Welfare Committee-10, Public Administration Committee-3(1), Human Development Committee-2 and General Development Committee-3(2)
- (f) Internal Resources Revenue and Central Aid Committee-10, Environment and Pollution Control Committee-11, Woman Welfare and Children Development Committee-4, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe, Minority Backward Class Committee-9, Nivedan Committee-10, Youth Culture Sports and Tourism Committee-2, Zila Parishad and Panchayati Raj Committee-10, Question and Calling attention Committee-12, Anagat Prashn Kriyanvayan Committee-9, Zero Hour Committee-8, Gair Sarkari Sankalp Samiti-8 and Sadachar Samiti-9
- (g) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-3, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-4, Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities-4 and Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions-5
- (h) House Committee Regarding Functioning of Clubs in the State-1 and Ganga Kalyana House Committee-7
- (i) Question and Reference Committees-2, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2, Agriculture Development Committee-5 and Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Accounts Committee-1
- (j) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis & Nomadic Tribes (VJNT)-3, Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-3, Committee on Panchayati Raj-7(2), Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Children-9, Committee on Welfare of other Backward Classes-6(1), Committee on Minority Welfare-1, Committee on Inspection of Private Charity Hospitals-2 and Marathi Language Committee-4
- (k) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis & Nomadic Tribes (VJNT)-3, Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-3, Committee on Panchayati Raj-7(2), Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women and Children-9, Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes-6(1), Committee on Minority Welfare-1, Committee on Inspection of Private Charity Hospitals-2 and Marathi Language Committee-4

- (l) Hill Areas Committee-2, House Committee to enquire into the fraudulent withdrawal of money in the Department of Tribal Affairs and Hills Development-3
- (m) Subject Committee-III-1 and Subject Committee-IV-1
- (n) Ethics Committee-1, Paper Laid Committee-1, House Committee on Environment-2, House Committee on Power Generation-4, House Committee on Women and Child Welfare-3, House Committee on Linguistic-6, House Committee on Rehabilitation-3, Submission Committee-4, and House Committee on Ethics-4, Standing Committee-I-3, Standing Committee-II-1, Standing Committee-III-4, Standing Committee-IV-5, Standing Committee-V-4, Standing Committee-VI-2, Standing Committee-VII-6, Standing Committee-VIII-1 and Standing Committee-X-1
- (o) Papers Laid & Library Committee-3, Committee on Question & References-15, Committee on Local Bodies-11, Committee on Panchayati Raj Institutions-12, Committee on Co-operation and its Allied Activities-13, Committee of the House regarding Shri Dashmesh Link Canal-(1) and Committee of the House to Investigate the Incidents Related to the Torturing of Social Activists and Other People during Farmers Agitation-(1)
- (p) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2
- (q) Question and Reference Committee-1 and Parliamentary Monitoring Committee-2
- (r) Committee on Question & Reference-3, Committee on Financial & Administrative Delay-4, Committee on Parliamentary Study-12, Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of U.P. Legislature-4, Parliamentary & Social Welfare Committee-7, Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Jila Panchayats & Municipal Corporation-8, Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-6, Committee on Regulation Review-4, Divine Disaster Management Investigation Committee-2, Committee on Commercialization of Education-4, Legislative Empowerment Committee-11 and Committee on Prevention of Health Problems of Life due to the Adulteration of Food Items and the Practice of Counterfeit Drugs-3
- (s) Committee on Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa-5, Committee on Local Fund Accounts-10, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-5, Committee on Entitlements of Members-1, Committee on Reforms and Functioning of the Committee System-5, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing and Food Processing Industries & Horticulture-5, Standing Committee on Industry, Commerce and Enterprises-6, Standing Committee on Fisheries and Animal Resource Development-5, Standing Committee on Higher Education-7, Standing Committee on School Education-5, Standing Committee on Environment, Forests and Tourism-5, Standing Committee on Finance and Planning-5, Standing Committee on Food & Supplies-5, Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare-6, Standing Committee on Home, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Correctional Administration, Law and Judicial-10, Standing Committee on Housing, Fire & Emergency Services & Disaster Management-6, Standing Committee on Information & Cultural Affairs and Youth Services and Sports-5, Standing Committee on Irrigation & Waterways and Water Investigation & Development-5, Standing Committee on Labour-7, Standing Committee on Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Development-5, Standing Committee on Panchayats & Rural Development and Sundarban Affairs-6, Standing

Committee on Power & Non-Conventional Energy Sources-5, Standing Committee on Public Works and Public Health Engineering-5, Standing Committee on Information Technology and Technical Education-10, Standing Committee on Self Help Group and Self Employment-8, Standing Committee on Women & Child Development and Social Welfare-6, Standing Committee on Transport-5, Standing Committee on Backward Classes Welfare-5, Standing Committee on Minority Affairs-5, Standing Committee on Land and Land Reforms-7 and Standing Committee on Co-operation & Consumer Affairs-5

- (t) Department Related Standing Committee on Development-1, Committee on Salary and Other Allowances-2, Department Related Standing Committee on Administrative Matters-1, and Committee on Peace and Harmony-1

Joint/Select Committees:

Haryana LA- Select Committee on the Sports University of Haryana Bill, 2021-1

Karnataka LA- Joint House Committee Constituted to Inquire into the Irregularities in Installation and Maintenance of Pure Drinking Water Units in the State-4

Uttar Pradesh L.A.- Joint Committee Relating to Women & Child Welfare-4(5)

APPENDIX – IV

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO
BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**

| Sl. No. | Title of the Bill | Date of Assent by the President |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. | The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021 | 30.11.2021 |
| 2. | The Dam Safety Bill, 2021 | 13.12.2021 |
| 3. | The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021 | 18.12.2021 |
| 4. | The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021 | 18.12.2021 |
| 5. | The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021 | 18.12.2021 |
| 6. | The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021 | 18.12.2021 |
| 7. | The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021 | 18.12.2021 |
| 8. | The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2021 | 25.12.2021 |
| 9. | The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021 | 29.12.2021 |
| 10. | The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 | 29.12.2021 |
| 11. | The Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2021 | 12.01.2022 |

APPENDIX-V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

ASSAM

1. The Assam Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2021
2. The Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021
3. The Deori Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021
4. The Assam Tribal Development Authority (Repeal) Bill, 2021
5. The Assam Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Post in Services) (Amendment) Bill, 2021
6. The Assam Municipal (Third Amendment) Bill, 2021
7. The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021
8. The Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2021
9. The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2021
10. The Assam Cattle Preservation Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2021
11. The Assam Police (Amendment) Bill, 2021
12. The Assam Direct Recruitment Commissions for Analogous Posts in Class III and Class IV Bill, 2021
13. The Assam Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2021
14. The Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva Viswavidyalaya (Amendment) Bill, 2021
15. The Assam Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operation) (Amendment) Bill, 2021

BIHAR

1. *Bihar Takniki Sewa (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*
2. *Bihar Niji Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*
3. *Bihar Bhumi Dakhila Kharij (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*
4. *Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-4) Vidheyak, 2021*

HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. The Himachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2021
2. The Himachal Pradesh Technical University (Amendment) Bill, 2021
3. The Himachal Pradesh Abadi Deh (Record of Rights) Bill, 2021
4. The Sardar University Mandi, Himachal Pradesh (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2021
5. The Himachal Pradesh University (Amendment) Bill, 2021

JHARKHAND

1. *Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankhya-4) Vidheyak, 2021*
2. *Jharkhand (Bheed Hinsa evam Bheed Linching Nivaran) Vidheyak, 2021*
3. *Court Fees (Jharkhand Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*
4. *Jharkhand Vidyut Shulk (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*
5. *Pandit Raghunath Murmu Janjatiya Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2021*

KARNATAKA

1. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021
2. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2021
3. The Karnataka Certain Inams Abolitions and Certain other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021
4. The Karnataka State Ayush University Bill, 2021
5. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Bill, 2021
6. The University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering Bill, 2021
7. The University of Agriculture Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2021
8. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021
9. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2021
10. The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021

MADHYA PRADESH

1. *Madhya Pradesh Kashth Chiran (Viniyaman) Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2021*
2. *Madhya Pradesh Bhu-Rajswa Samhita (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*
3. *Gwaliyar Vyapar Mela Pradhikaran (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*
4. *Madhya Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*
5. *Madhya Pradesh Lok evam Niji Sampatti ke Nuksan ka Nivaran evam Nuksani ki Vasuli Vidheyak, 2021*
6. *Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank-5) Vidheyak, 2021*
7. *Nanaji Deshmukh Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2021*

MAHARASHTRA

1. The SHAKTI Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2020
2. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2021
3. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2021
4. The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2021
5. The Maharashtra Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2021
6. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
7. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2021
8. The Maharashtra Public Universities (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
9. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021
10. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
11. The Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education (Amendment) Bill, 2021
12. The Maharashtra Marine Fishing Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2021
13. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
14. The Maharashtra Public Universities (Third Amendment) Bill, 2021

15. The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2021
16. The Maharashtra Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2021
17. The Maharashtra Stamp (Second Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2021
18. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Third Amendment) Bill, 2021
19. The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2021
20. The Maharashtra Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2021
21. The Maharashtra Village Panchayats and Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
22. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
23. The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2021
24. The Maharashtra State Board of Skill, Vocational Education and Training Bill, 2021

ODISHA

1. The Odisha Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2021

PUNJAB

1. The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2021
2. The Punjab Contract Farming (Repeal) Bill, 2021
3. The Punjab Energy Security, Reform, Termination and Re-determination of Power Tariff Bill, 2021
4. The Punjab Renewable Energy Security, Reform, Termination and Re-determination of Power Tariff Bill, 2021
5. The Punjab (Institutions and Other Buildings) Tax (Repeal) Bill, 2021
6. The Plaksha University, Punjab Bill, 2021
7. The Lamrin Tech Skills University, Punjab Bill, 2021
8. The Punjab Right to Business (Amendment) Bill, 2021

9. The Punjab Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2021
10. The Punjab Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 2021
11. The Punjab Learning of Punjabi and other Languages (Amendment) Bill, 2021
12. The Punjab Affiliated Colleges (Security of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021
13. The Punjab One-Time Voluntary Disclosure and Settlement of Building Constructed in Violations of the Buildings Bye-Laws Bill, 2021
14. The Punjab Protection and Regularisation of Contractual Employees' Bill, 2021
15. The Punjab Fruit Nurseries (Amendment) Bill, 2021
16. The Punjab Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021

TELANGANA

1. The Telangana Housing Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021
2. The Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University (Amendment) Bill, 2021
3. The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research University (Amendment) Bill, 2021
4. The Telangana Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2021
5. The Telangana Goods and Services (Amendment) Bill, 2021
6. The Telangana State Prevention of Touting and Malpractices against Tourists and Travelers Bill, 2021
7. The Indian Stamp (Telangana Amendment) Bill, 2021

UTTAR PRADESH

1. The Uttar Pradesh Industrial Peace (Timely Payment of Wages) (Amendment) Bill, 2021
2. The Uttar Pradesh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2021
3. The Uttar Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2021
4. The Uttar Pradesh Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2021
5. The Uttar Pradesh Sheera Niyamtran (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
6. The Uttar Pradesh State Sports University (Amendment) Bill, 2021
7. The Uttar Pradesh Repealing (Fourth) Bill, 2021

8. The Uttar Pradesh Sugar Cane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
9. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Second Supplementary) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021
10. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) (Amendment) Bill, 2021

WEST BENGAL

1. The Howrah Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021

APPENDIX-VI**ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND
STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**

| Sl. No. | Title of Ordinance | Date of Promulgation | Date on which laid before the House | Date of Cessation | Remarks |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|

UNION GOVERNMENT

| | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1. | The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 14.11.2021 | 29.11.2021 | -- | Replaced by Act No. 46 of 2021 |
| 2. | The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 14.11.2021 | 29.11.2021 | -- | Replaced by Act No. 45 of 2021 |

STATE GOVERNMENTS**BIHAR**

| | | | | | |
|----|---|------------|------------|------------|----|
| 1. | The Bihar Takniki Sewa Aayog (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2021 | 05.10.2021 | 29.11.2021 | 14.12.2021 | -- |
|----|---|------------|------------|------------|----|

KARNATAKA

| | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|----|----|----|
| 1. | The Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 15.11.2021 | -- | -- | -- |
|----|--|------------|----|----|----|

MAHARASHTRA

| | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|------------|------------|---|
| 1. | The Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 02.09.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 09.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation |
| 1. | The Maharashtra Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 23.9.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 23.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 24.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 2. | The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 30.09.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 23.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 24.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 3. | The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 01.10.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2021 | Replaced by Legislation (on 27.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 28.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 4. | The Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 01.10.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2021 | Replaced by Legislation (on 24.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 27.12.2021 Passed in |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | Council) |
| 5. | The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 01.10.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2021 | Replaced by Legislation (on 28.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 28.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 6. | The Maharashtra Public Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 06.10.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 27.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 28.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 7. | The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2021 | 02.11.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 28.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 28.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 8. | The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 02.11.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 28.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 28.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 9. | The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 02.11.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------|------------|------------|---|
| | | | | | 28.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 28.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 10. | The Maharashtra Marine Fishing Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 23.11.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 28.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 28.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 11. | The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 30.11.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 28.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 28.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 12. | The Maharashtra Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 6.12.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 24.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 23.12.2021 Passed in Council) |
| 13. | The Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) | 6.12.2021 | 22.12.2021 | 02.02.2022 | Replaced by Legislation (on 24.12.2021 Passed in Assembly, on 23.12.2021 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|--|--|--------------------|
| | Ordinance, 2021 | | | | Passed in Council) |
|--|-----------------|--|--|--|--------------------|

PUNJAB

| | | | | | |
|----|---|------------|------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | The Plaksha University, Punjab, Ordinance 2021 | 19.10.2021 | 11.11.2021 | -- | Replaced by Legislation on 11.11.2021 |
| 2. | The Lamrin Tech Skills University, Punjab Ordinance, 2021 | 19.10.2021 | 11.11.2021 | -- | Replaced by Legislation on 11.11.2021 |

TAMIL NADU

| | | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | The Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 2. | The Kancheepuram City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 3. | The Sivakasi City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 4. | The Kaur City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 5. | The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 6. | The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Second Amendment Ordinance, 2021 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 7. | The Kumbakonam City Municipal Corporation Ordinance, 2021 | -- | -- | -- | -- |

| | | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| 8. | The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|

UTTAR PRADESH

| | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1. | The Uttar Pradesh Industrial Peace (Timely Payment of Wages) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 27.9.2021 | 18.10.2021 | -- | Replaced by Legislation |
| 2. | The Uttar Pradesh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 09.11.2021 | 16.12.2021 | -- | Replaced by Legislation |
| 3. | The Uttar Pradesh Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 09.11.2021 | 16.12.2021 | -- | Replaced by Legislation |
| 4. | The Uttar Pradesh Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 | 18.11.2021 | 16.12.2021 | -- | Replaced by Legislation |

APPENDIX-VII
A. PARTY POSITION IN 17TH LOK SABHA (STATE/UT-WISE) (AS ON 31.12.2021)

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | No. of Seats | BJP | INC | DMK | AITC | YSRCP | SS | JD(U) | BJD | BSP | TRS | LJSP | NCP | SP | CPI(M) | IUML | JKNC | TDP | AD(S) | AIMEIM |
|---------|------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) | (10) | (11) | (12) | (13) | (14) | (15) | (16) | (17) | (18) | (19) | (20) | (21) | (22) |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 25 | - | - | - | - | 22 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3. | Assam | 14 | 9 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4. | Bihar | 40 | 17 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 16 | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 11 | 9 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6. | Goa | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 7. | Gujarat | 26 | 26 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8. | Haryana | 10 | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir \$ | 6 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 14 | 11 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 12. | Karnataka | 28 | 25 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13. | Kerala | 20 | - | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 29 | 28 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 48 | 23 | 1 | - | - | - | 18 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 16. | Manipur | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18. | Mizoram | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 19. | Nagaland | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20. | Odisha | 21 | 8 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 21. | Punjab | 13 | 2 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 25 | 24 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 23. | Sikkim | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 39 | - | 8 | 24 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25. | Telangana | 17 | 4 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 26. | Tripura | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 80 | 62 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 29. | West Bengal | 42 | 17 | 2 | - | 22 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 30. | A & N Islands | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 31. | Chandigarh | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 32. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli # | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 33. | Daman & Diu # | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 34. | NCT of Delhi | 7 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 36. | Puducherry | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | TOTAL | 543 | 301* | 53 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 19 | 16 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

\$ Bifurcated into Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh
Merged into one Union Territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
* including Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | CPI | SAD | AIADMK | AAP | AIUDF | AJSU | NPF | MNF | JD (S) | JMM | VCK | SKM | KC (M) | NDPP | NPP | RSP | RLP | Ind. | Nom. | Total | Vacancies | |
|---------|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| (1) | (2) | (23) | (24) | (25) | (26) | (27) | (28) | (29) | (30) | (31) | (32) | (33) | (34) | (35) | (36) | (37) | (38) | (39) | (40) | (41) | (42) | (43) | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 25 | - | |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | |
| 3. | Assam | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 14 | - | |
| 4. | Bihar | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 40 | - | |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | - | |
| 6. | Goa | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | |
| 7. | Gujarat | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 26 | - | |
| 8. | Haryana | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir \$ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | |
| 11. | Jharkhand | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14 | - | |
| 12. | Karnataka | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 28 | - | |
| 13. | Kerala | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 20 | - | |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 29 | - | |
| 15. | Maharashtra | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 48 | - | |
| 16. | Manipur | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | |
| 17. | Meghalaya | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | |
| 18. | Mizoram | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| 19. | Nagaland | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| 20. | Odisha | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 21 | - | |
| 21. | Punjab | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | - | |
| 22. | Rajasthan | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 25 | - | |
| 23. | Sikkim | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 39 | - | |
| 25. | Telangana | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 17 | - | |
| 26. | Tripura | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 80 | - | |
| 28. | Uttarakhand | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | |
| 29. | West Bengal | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 41 | 1 | |
| 30. | A & N Islands | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| 31. | Chandigarh | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| 32. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli # | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| 33. | Daman & Diu # | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| 34. | NCT of Delhi | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | - | |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| 36. | Puducherry | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| | TOTAL | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | 542 | 1 |

\$ Bifurcated into Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh

Merged into one Union Territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

Abbreviations Used For Parties:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); Indian National Congress (INC); Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK); All India Trinamool Congress (AITC); Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP); Shiv Sena (SS); Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)]; Biju Janata Dal (BJD); Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP); Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS); Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJSP); Nationalist Congress Party (NCP); Samajwadi Party (SP); Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]; Indian Union Muslim League (IUML); Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC); Telugu Desam Party (TDP); Apna Dal (Soneylal) [AD(S)]; All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMEIM); Communist Party of India (CPI); Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD); All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK); Aam Aadmi Party (AAP); All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF); Ajsu Party (AJSU); Naga Peoples Front (NPF); Mizo National Front (MNF); Janta Dal (Secular) [JD(S)]; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM); Viduthalai Chairuthaigal Katchi (VCK); Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM); Kerala Congress (M) [KC(M)]; Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP); National People's Party (NPP); Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP); Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) & Independents (IND).

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 17 FEBRUARY 2022)

| Sl. No. | State/ Union | Seats | INC | BJP | SP | CPI(M) | JD(U) | AIADMK | BSP | CPI | *Others | IND. | Total | Vacancies |
|---------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-------|--------|------|------|------------------|------|-------|-----------|
| | Territory | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | [2] | [3] | [4] | [5] | [6] | [7] | [8] | [9] | [10] | [11] | [12] | [13] | [14] | [15] |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 11 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 ^(a) | - | 11 | - |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 3. | Assam | 7 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 ^(b) | 1 | 7 | - |
| 4. | Bihar | 16 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 5 ^(c) | - | 14 | 2 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - |
| 6. | Goa | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 7. | Gujarat | 11 | 3 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | - |
| 8. | Haryana | 5 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 | - |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 6 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 ^(d) | - | 6 | - |
| 11. | Karnataka | 12 | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 ^(e) | - | 11 | 1 |
| 12. | Kerala | 9 | 1 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 ^(f) | - | 9 | - |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 11 | 3 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | - |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 19 | 3 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 ^(g) | - | 19 | - |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------|---|----|---|
| 15. | Manipur | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 ^(h) | - | 1 | - |
| 17. | Mizoram | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 ⁽ⁱ⁾ | - | 1 | - |
| 18. | Nagaland | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 ^(j) | - | 1 | - |
| 19. | Odisha | 10 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 ^(k) | - | 10 | - |
| 20. | Punjab | 7 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 ^(l) | - | 7 | - |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 10 | 3 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | - |
| 22. | Sikkim | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 ^(m) | - | 1 | - |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 18 | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | 13 ⁽ⁿ⁾ | - | 18 | - |
| 24. | Telangana | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 ^(o) | - | 6 | 1 |
| 25. | Tripura | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 26. | Uttarakhand | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 31 | 1 | 22 | 5 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | 31 | - |
| 28. | West Bengal | 16 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 13 ^(p) | - | 16 | - |
| Union Territories | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29. | The NCT of Delhi | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 ^(q) | - | 3 | - |
| 30. | Jammu & Kashmir | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| 31. | Puducherry | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 32. | Nominated | 12 | - | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 12 | - |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|-----|---|
| TOTAL | 245 | 34 | 97 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 77 | 5 | 237 | 8 |
|--------------|-----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|-----|---|

Others

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

- (a) TDP-1, YSRCP-6
- (b) AGP-1
- (c) RJD-5
- (d) JMM-1
- (e) JD(S)-1
- (f) IUML-1, LJD-1, KC(M)-1
- (g) NCP-4, SS-3, RPI(ATWL)-1
- (h) NPP-1
- (i) MNF-1
- (j) NPF-1
- (k) BJD-9
- (l) SAD-3
- (m) SDF-1
- (n) DMK-10, MDMK-1, PMK-1, TMC(M)-1
- (o) TRS-6
- (p) AITC-13
- (q) AAP-3

C. PARTY POSITION IN THE STATE/ UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

| State/Union Territory | Seats | INC | BJP | CPI (M) | CPI | NCP | BSP | Janata Dal (U) | Janata Dal (S) | Other Parties | Independent | Total | Vacancies |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Andhra Pradesh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Andhra Pradesh L.C.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assam L.A.# | 126 | 27 | 62 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 34 ^(a) | 1 | 125 | - |
| Bihar L.A. | 243 | 19 | 74 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 45 | - | 99 ^(b) | 1 | 242 | 1 |
| Bihar L.C.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chhattisgarh L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Goa L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gujarat L.A. | 182 | 65 | 111 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 ^(c) | 1 | 180 | 2 |
| Haryana L.A. | 90 | 31 | 39 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13 ^(d) | 7 | 90 | - |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A. | 68 | 22 | 43 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 68 | - |
| Jharkhand L.A. | 82 | 16 | 25 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 38 ^(e) | 2 | 82 | - |

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

Information as received from State/Union Territory Legislature

| State/Union Territory | Seats | INC | BJP | CPI (M) | CPI | NCP | BSP | Janata Dal (U) | Janata Dal (S) | Other Parties | Independent | Total | Vacancies |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Karnataka L.A. | 225 | 69 | 119 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 32 | 2 ^(f) | 2 | 225 | - |
| Karnataka L.C. | 75 | 28 | 32 | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 1 ^(g) | 1 | 73 | 2 |
| Kerala L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Madhya Pradesh L.A. | 230 | 96 | 127 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 ^(h) | 4 | 230 | - |
| Maharashtra L.A. | 288 | 43 | 106 | 1 | - | 53 | - | - | - | 71 ⁽ⁱ⁾ | 13 | 287 | 1 |
| Maharashtra L.C. | 78 | 10 | 23 | - | - | 11 | - | - | - | 17 ^(j) | 5 | 66 | 12 |
| Manipur L.A.# | 60 | 18 | 24 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 ^(k) | 3 | 55 | - |
| Meghalaya L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mizoram L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nagaland L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Odisha L.A. | 147 | 9 | 22 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 113 ^(l) | 1 | 146 | 1 |
| Punjab L.A. | 117 | 80 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 33 ^(m) | - | 115 | 2 |
| Rajasthan L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

Information as received from State/Union Territory Legislature

| State/Union Territory | Seats | INC | BJP | CPI (M) | CPI | NCP | BSP | Janata Dal (U) | Janata Dal (S) | Other Parties | Independent | Total | Vacancies |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Sikkim L.A.** - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tamil Nadu L.A. | 234 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 208 ⁽ⁿ⁾ | - | 234 | - |
| Telangana L.A. | 120 | 6 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 110 ^(o) | 1 | 120 | - |
| Telangana L.C. | 40 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 36 ^(p) | 3 | 40 | - |
| Tripura L.A. | 60 | - | 36 | 16 | - | - | - | - | - | 8 ^(q) | - | 60 | - |
| Uttar Pradesh L.A. | 404 | 7 | 303 | - | - | - | 15 | - | - | 65 ^(r) | 5 | 395 | 9 |
| Uttar Pradesh L.C. | 100 | 1 | 36 | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | 55 ^(s) | 1 | 99 | 1 |
| Uttarakhand L.A.** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| West Bengal L.A. | 294 | - | 75 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 217 ^(t) | 1 | 293 | 1 |
| UNION TERRITORIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Delhi L.A. | 70 | - | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 62 ^(u) | - | 70 | - |
| Puducherry L.A. | 33 | 2 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 19 ^(v) | 6 | 33 | - |

- a) AGP-9, UPPL-7, AIUDF-15 and BPF-3
b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-75, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)-12, Hindustani Awaam Morcha (Secular)-4, Vikasheel Insaan Party-4 and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen-5
c) Bharatiya Tribal Party-2
d) Speaker-1, Jannayak Janta Party-10 Indian National Lok Dal-1 and Haryana Lokhit Party-1
e) Speaker-1, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-29, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (P)-3, AJSU Party-2, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)-1, Rashtriya Janata Dal-1 and Nominated-1

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

- f) Speaker-1 and Nominated Member-1
- g) Chairman-1
- h) Samajwadi Party-1
- i) Shivsena Party-56, Peasant's and Workers Party-1, Bahujan Vikas Aghadi-3, All India Majalis-A-Ittehadul Muslimin-2, Prahar Janshakti Party-2, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena-1, Samajwadi Party-2, Rashtriya Samaj Party-1, Swabhiman Party-1, Jansuraj Shakti Party-1 and Krantikari Shatkari Party-1
- j) Shivsena-14, Lokbharti-1, Peasants and Workers Party of India-1 and Rashtriya Samaj Paksha-1
- k) National People's Party-4, Naga People's Front-4, Lok Jan Shakti Party-1 and All India Trinamool Congress-1
- l) B.J.D.-113
- m) Aam Aadmi Party-17, Shiromani Akali Dal-14 and Lok Insaaf Party-2
- n) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-132, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-66, Pattali Makkal Katchi-5, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi-4 and Speaker-1
- o) Telangana Rashtra Samithi-101, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen-7, All India Forward Block-1 and Nominated-1
- p) Telangana Rashtra Samithi-28, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen-2 and Nominated-6
- q) I.P.F.T.-8
- r) Samajwadi Party-49, Apna Dal (S)-9, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party-4, Rashtriya Lok Dal-1, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Humara Aam Dal-1 and Nominated-1
- s) Samajwadi Party-48, Apna Dal (S)-1, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal-1, Shikshak Dal (Non-Political)-2 and Independent Group-3
- t) All India Trinamool Congress-216 and Rashtriya Secular Majlis Party-1
- u) Aam Aadmi Party-62
- v) All India N.R. Congress-10, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-6 and Others-3