

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Fifteenth Series, Vol. XII, Fifth Session, 2010/1932 (Saka)]

No. 21, Saturday, August 21, 2010/Sravana 30, 1932 (Saka)

| SUBJECT | COLUMNS |
|--|---------|
| SUBMISSION BY MEMBER | 3—9 |
| RE: Need to implement directions of Supreme Court in regard to salaries and remuneration of Imams of Mosques | |
| PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE | 17 |
| MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA | 17 |
| LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE | 18 |
| FINANCIAL COMMITTEES - A REVIEW | |
| STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | 18—19 |
| 13th and 14th Reports | |
| STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY | 19 |
| 10th and 11th Reports | |
| BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE | 19—22 |
| BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE | |
| 20th Report | 23 |
| PERSONAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010 | 23 |
| Motion to Consider | 23 |
| Shri M. Veerappa Moily | 23 |
| Shri Chandu Lal Sahu | 23—24 |
| Dr. Girija Vyas | 25—28 |
| Shri Shailendra Kumar | 28—29 |
| Dr. Baliram | 29—30 |
| Shri Arjun Charan Sethi | 30—31 |
| Shri T.K.S. Elangovan | 31 |
| Shri S. Semmalai | 31—32 |
| Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh Naik | 32 |
| Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh | 32—34 |
| Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar | 35 |
| Clauses 2 to 4 and 1 | 37 |
| Motion to pass | 37 |

| SUBJECT | COLUMNS |
|--|---------|
| MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2010 | 38 |
| Motion to Consider | 38 |
| Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal | 38—39 |
| Shri Hansraj G. Ahir | 39—44 |
| Shri V. Kishore Chandra Deo | 44—49 |
| Shri Shailendra Kumar | 49—50 |
| Dr. Baliram | 50—51 |
| Sk. Saidul Haque | 51—55 |
| Shri B. Mahtab | 55—59 |
| Shri Pralhad Joshi | 59—63 |
| Shri Adhir Chowdhury | 63—65 |
| Shri Sharad Yadav | 65—70 |
| Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh | 70—72 |
| Shri Govind Prasad Mishra | 72—74 |
| Clauses 2, 3 and 1 | 83 |
| Motion to Pass | 83 |
| MOTION RE: NINTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS | 83 |
| PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS | 84 |
| (i) Identification of families living below poverty line and welfare measures for them | 84 |
| Shri Adhir Chowdhury | 86—90 |
| Shri B. Mahtab | 90—95 |
| Shri Nishikant Dubey | 95—99 |
| Dr. Baliram | 99—100 |
| Chaudhary Lal Singh | 100—103 |
| Shri S. Semmalai | 103—105 |
| Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal | 105—106 |
| Shri Satpal Maharaj | 106—107 |
| Shri Sushil Kumar Singh | 107—109 |
| Shri Jagdish Thakor | 109—110 |
| Shri Ramkishun | 110—113 |
| Shri Pradeep Jain | 113—118 |
| Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh | 118—122 |
| Resolution Withdrawn | 122 |
| (ii) Special status to the State of Bihar | 122 |
| Dr. Bhola Singh | 122—123 |

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Saturday, August 21, 2010/Sravana 30, 1932 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Please listen to him.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, I am very thankful to you that you have allowed me to speak for two minutes. Today, we met hon'ble Pranav Babu the leader of the House.

There was very much tension in the House on two-three questions. Meeting was convened by the leader of the House. Hon'ble Mulayam Singh ji, Hon'ble Lalu ji, Hon'ble Dara Singh ji, Hon'ble Gopinath Munde ji and leader of the other House Hon'ble Arun Jetaly ji also attended the meeting. Besides, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of State and Hon'ble Chavan ji were also there and MCI Bill was passed with the concurrence of all and that cannot be withdrawn. Hon'ble Pranab Babu suggested that a discussion will take place under rule 193 and solution will come out according to the suggestion given by the members of the House. Another question which causes tension in the country as well as in the House in regarding salary of MPs. Gopinath Munde ji, Mulayam ji, Lalu ji, Dara Singh ji and Arun Jately ji have given their suggestion on this and it was decided that Pranab Babu may consider on it. Lalu ji and Mulayam ji and Gopinath Munde ji have put forward their feelings of all the MPs. I was not present here so I said little and you all people have put forward your feelings in a very comprehensive manner. We have come to a conclusion and I think all the leaders deserve to be congratulated.

All the MPs were in tension and today's meeting was held with their goodwill and with your kindness we have decided for a debate under Rule 193 on Bill of

MCI which you have agreed to. It will be on some another day when you will decide. With these words I thank all the leaders, all the Hon'ble Members of the House, especially Pranab Babu, Bansal ji, Swami ji and all those present there. The whole House think it should run smoothly and in a better way.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Shripad Yesso Naik—not present.

Shri N. Peethambara Kurup.

[*English*]

SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP (Kollam): Respected Madam, I may kindly be permitted to raise the following matter of urgent public importance today. The National Highway No. 47 is one of the most important Highways passing through the middle of Kerala touching the capital city Trivandrum and then to Tamil Nadu border.

MADAM SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. If it is not 'Zero Hour' matter, you may raise it later. Shri Lalu Prasad.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you stating something about 'Zero Hour'? Please raise it.

SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP: The Highway authorities have legally acquired sufficient land to construct a bypass from Mevaram to Kavanad in Kollam District. Few kilometres of the road has been completed. The other portion remains in the unfinished form. The situation is so grave that it leads to a number of road accidents in Kerala.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government to direct the National Highway authorities to complete the above-mentioned bypass work at the earliest to save the precious lives of thousands of people.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with Shri N. Peethambara Kurup about this important matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right.

11.06 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Need to implement directions of Supreme Court in regard to salaries and remuneration of Imams of Mosques

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD YADAV (Saran): Madam Speaker, this is the judgement of Supreme Court in the year 1993. All India Imam organization approached Supreme Court in support of Ilyasi ji that salaries and remuneration will be given to the Imams of Government aided and non government—aided mosques. The Government should enact a law within 6 month in this regard and implement it. But it is very sad that the Government have not paid any attention towards the Imams who deliver the messages of the lord Almighty. We want that the Government should to as per the judgment of Supreme Court. We do not want to go in details of that. This law should have been made within 6 months. Through you I request the Government to implement the judgment of Supreme Court in 1993 to give salary to the Imams of Government aided mosques and remuneration to other Imams in this context. I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam this is very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Shailendra Kumar and Shri Abdul Rehman associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Lalu Prasad.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down and keep your voice low.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM SPEAKER: If you want to associate, you send your names at the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Semmalai says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me an opportunity to raise an important public issue. I would like to bring, through you, to the attention of hon. Railway Minister that in Tamil Nadu, Salem city is the busiest one in all aspects. Within the city, Railway line crosses the roads at a few places. Particularly the railway line, crossing at the point of Anaivedu, poses greater difficulty to vehicular traffic at the either side of the road. This point is an important traffic junction connecting many offices, schools, hospitals, banks and commercial establishments. More particularly, this road leads to National Highway 68.

Due to the frequent movement of trains, the railway gates are closed causing traffic jam and putting vehicular movement to great difficulty. So the public are not able to reach their work spots in time. Much hardship and inconvenience is experienced by vehicle users. There is a long-felt need for the construction of Railway over-bridge at this point.

Many representations have been received urging me to take up the matter with the Railway Ministry. Definitely a railway bridge will ease the traffic congestion and enable free movement of traffic.

I request the hon. Minister to kindly arrange for the construction of Railway over-bridge at Anaivedu in Salem town. The State Government may also be approached for their financial contribution as per the norms and the Ministry may also provide sufficient funds for the task.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu does not evince any interest in this matter. Therefore, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to initiate suitable and immediate action in this regard.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Pratap Singh Bajwa.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam, I also want to associate myself on this issue raised by Shri Laluji.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. Send your name in a slip to the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (Gurdaspur): Madam, this is a very important issue, which is agitating a lot of Ex-servicemen throughout the country...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do you want to say something?

[Translation]

Bajwaji, Now you please sit down.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Madam, we are conscious of this issue. This matter came up.

[Translation]

We are aware of the fact that Lalu ji has tried to bring to our notice. People have different opinion in this regard. Many people do not want that Imam should do Government job or get salary from the Government. Keeping in view the opinion of all the people we will put forward the appropriate situation before the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD All India Imam organization approached Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*. There is judgment in this regard. It is upto them to accept it or not. Remuneration and salary is being given to other mosques. In this way we cannot neglect such things. Who is not interested is getting salary. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: This is the common demand of the Imams of the country. There is no doubt about it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Imamns of the whole country want that they should get salary from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, please keep quite.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except whatever is said by Shri Pratap Singh Bajwa ji.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Let us consider it. ...*(Interruptions)* You please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): What is this, Minister is replying even in zero hours but you are still speaking and not listening to the hon'ble Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Pratap Singh Bajwa.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Mr. Bajwa says.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you have anything to say, please address the Chair.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam, may I inform the hon. Members that we are conscious of their concern. But we have to consider it; we, at least, have to talk to the people concerned. This is normally the Wakf Board. The State Wakf Boards are responsible for this and the Central Government is not responsible. Therefore, they must allow us, at least, to consider the entire matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Bajwa, please speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Mr. Bajwa says.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Madam, on the issue of One Rank— One Pension, there is a lot of confusion that is prevailing, and I, therefore, wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Defence and also the Government to this very important issue...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not disturb when an hon. Member is speaking.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Vijaya Chakarvarti ji, please sit down. Zero hour is going on, please let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: It is an important issue which is the sore point.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: It is a very important matter. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: How you are standing. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: If they speak in this way about judgement then it will be problem. If you want to speak

*Not recorded.

something then you may go to court. Why are you speaking like this? ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam Speaker. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Dr. Sahib, this is very important matter, this is the matter of the ex-servicemen of the country. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Who are you speaking so loudly. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Lalu Prasad ji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: What is this? Why cross talking is there? What are you doing in the House? Please take you seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri) Madam Speaker, the Leader of the House should say something in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please to your seat. Shrimati Bijoy Chakravarty ji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Yogi ji, why are you so angry? Please have seat. You please take seat.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: What is wrong with these people?

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please take your seat. Nothing is going on record. Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Bijoy Chakravarty ji, why are you standing? Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu ji, please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The leader of the House want to speak. Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The order of the Supreme Court is quite clear, and the Government will take note of the order, direction of the Supreme Court, which is very clear, which has been stated in paragraph six of the judgement, "in the circumstances, etc.," which they have delivered. The operative part is that 'the Union of India and the Central Wakf Board will prepare a scheme within a period of six months in respect of different types of mosques, some details of which have been given.' So, the Government is fully aware of it and it will take appropriate action.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (Gurdaspur): Madam, I am thankful to you and I request to the House that the issue in the zero hour relates to Ex-servicemen. Please, howsoever you may manage but please give me five minutes.

[English]

It is agitating the minds of Ex-servicemen throughout the country.

On the issue of one-rank-one-pension there is a lot of confusion prevailing. I, therefore, wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Defence and also of the Government to this very important issue which is a sore point pestering the Ex-servicemen as many other categories of personnel are getting OROP for lesser service to the nation. The demand of the Ex-servicemen has been that there should be one-rank-one-pension irrespective of the date on which a soldier retired. The existing difference should be completely removed and one should get the same pension.

However, the Government on its part has stated that it has accepted four out of seven recommendations made by the Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary. It has substantially improved the pensionary benefits of the Armed Forces pensioners known as parity in pensions for the personnel below officers rank and has ignored the officer cadres completely. On the specific issue of one-rank-one-pension the Government has made it clear that it would not be able to meet the demand of the Ex-servicemen due to administrative, financial and legal implications, which is very unfair.

In this context, it is pertinent to mention here that the All India Ex-servicemen Welfare Association, Chandigarh, extended legal help in the case of two Ex-servicemen who approached the Chandigarh Bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal on this issue. While deciding the two cases, that is, of Babu Ram Demang *versus* Union of India and Sohan Singh *versus* Union of India, in its judgment the Tribunal said the grant of unequal pay in the same rank was a violation of the article 14 of the Constitution. It has further stated that the State cannot lay down different criteria for grant of pensions for the same rank officers on the basis of cut-off dates of retirement. The Ex-servicemen feel that whenever successive Pay Commissions enhanced the salaries and subsequently pensions, these are given effect to only

prospectively and the gap between the past pensioners and their younger equivalents keep widening with every successive Pay Commissions recommendations. They feel that the disparity has been uncomfortably stark after the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission. Therefore, they reiterate that the demand of the OROP is a demand for equity and justice.

I quote the following examples of the unequal pensions prevailing in the Armed Forces personnel even after the so called parity in the pensions given to PBOR. Firstly, a soldier who retired before 31.12.2005 with parity in pension, with effect from 1.1.2006 will get Rs. 5523 and arrears are being given with effect from 1.7.2009. A soldier who retires after 1.1.2006 with the same length of service gets Rs. 8700 per month. A Havaldar who retires before 31.12.2005 with parity in pension gets Rs. 5690 per month, that is, for the same length of service he gets less pension than that of a soldier who retired after 1.1.2006.

In this backdrop, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Defence to kindly reconsider the Government's decision in regard to the OROP and do justice to the Ex-servicemen without comparing them with their civil counterparts as the two are not comparables, be it in terms of service conditions or the risks that they face in everyday life while discharging their duties with pride and honour.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Shri Surendra Singh Nagar, Shri P.L. Punia, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Shri Kamal Kishor, Shri Manicka Tagore, Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, and Shrimati Santosh Chowdhary wish to associate themselves with the point raised by Shri Pratap Singh Bajwa.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh — Not present.

Shri Sushil Kumar Singh — Not present.

Shri Takam Sanjoy — Not present.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Madam Speaker, I am very grateful to you that you have given me a chance to speak. I wish to draw your attention as well as that of the House towards a serious issue. Recently there was a news item published in some news papers that there is resentment in the Army that the report of CAG is violating the confidentiality of the army. It has two aspects — first aspect is that the procedural transparency of CAG

should not be avoided in the name of national security and along with that there is second aspect which is more sensitive and serious that if there is even a slight concern in the army in respect of CAG report, as it is laid on the Table of the House and after that Public Accounts Committee examines it if the confidentiality of the army is being violated in any manner or their operational readiness is being compromised in any way, then I would like to request the Government and Minister of Defence, who is here, that a way out should be found so that neither transparency is avoided nor their operational readiness is compromised nor confidential aspect is violated.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Madam Speaker, I am thankful you that you have given me a chance to speak on the problems of single women. In order to improve literacy rate among women in the country provide health facilities, improve their economic condition and to improve the condition of women by giving them reservation from Gram Panchayat to the highest level, and also empowerment them a number of steps have been taken and schemes have been formulated for which I would like to congratulate the Government.

Single woman is a separate category among women and their problems are also different and serious to which no heed has been paid so far. Livelihood of a single women is very difficult. No separate scheme has been formulated by the Government for welfare of single women and if there is any, we are not aware of that. If we are not aware, others may also be unaware as well. There is always a challenge before single women of maintaining their honour and dignity besides that of earning their livelihood and bringing up their children. There should be a separate scheme to enable them earning and provide employment to their adult children so that their prestige increases and the burden of responsibilities of life on single women is lessened at the earliest.

I would also like to draw attention of the House towards exploitation of domestic woman workers and will suggest for their registration and making stringent laws for preventing their exploitation and strict monitoring of the same. I demand a separate policy for single women and specific schemes for their welfare may be accorded highest priority.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Chittorgarh): Madam, I associate with this matter.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Madam Speaker, many families are stranded in Leh, especially

2500 labourers from Jharkhand, due to recent cloud bursting. Jharkhand government has taken an initiative in this regard. I would request the Government of India to show concern about rescuing stranded labourers and bring them back to Jharkhand. In future if labourer go from one state to another then they must be registered and their complete details should be kept. At present every affected family should be given economic aid, compensation and be rehabilitated. Central Government should take effective steps for sending labourers to their home state including Jharkhand from Leh. I would request the Government to consider this matter since they belong to tribal families and migrated from Jharkhand to Leh.

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON (Unnao): Madam Speaker, I Thank you for giving me opportunity to express myself. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude towards UPA Government, HRD Ministry and this august house for passing a historical bill like Right to Education. Her excellency Madam President has also talked about Right to Education in her address, for which the biggest and important need is of teachers. We all know that country's development can only take place with spread of education. But I would like to bring one important point to the fore that is, in the whole country, and I can cite example of Uttar Pradesh since I belong to that state, where on the one hand under Sarv Shiksha Abhryan 3 Lakh 25 Thousand posts of primary teacher are vacant and on the other hand about 4 Lakh trained B.Ed teachers are there. When selection process is conducted, intermediate passed teachers are selected whereas B.Ed holder 4 Lakh trained teachers are sitting jobless. This is an important issue because recently their association protested at Jantar Mantar and a memorandum was submitted to officials of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. But no action has been taken on it yet. I request through you to the Ministry that if the need is of quality education then priority must be given to selection of trained teachers. By this unemployment of teachers can be eradicated.

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to the chair for giving me a chance to speak. In Zero Hour I would like to invite attention of this sovereign House towards a very serious problem. Even after 63 years of independence half of the human population i.e. women have not got facility of safe toilet. About 25 Crore women are still forced to defecate in open. Seven out of Ten women are raped during defecation in open. The situation of Dalit, Maha Dalit, Backward, Most Backward, Minorities and weaker section women is more worrying, painfull. The arrangements made by the Central Government in various states for providing

them toilet facilities are not proper and hence targets are not being achieved due to corruption. Such women are always helpless and hapless and such helplessness has put a question mark before society. In words many similes are given women but practically they are being badly exploited. Even today society has not provided any protected place of their own to live. They are most neglected, exploited and ill treated.

So, I request the Central Government to initiate a movement across the country and make arrangements for safe toilets for women.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Rajender Agrawal and Shri Ashok Argal associate themselves to this matter.

DR. JYOTI MIRDHA (Nagpur): Madam Speaker, I would like to attract the attention of this House towards a headline published in a newspaper few days ago, in which it was written about lancet magazine that it's a New Delhi superbug. New Delhi superbug is a Beta-lactamase bacteria which is resistant to antibiotics. That's why it is called superbug. If I say that I am not hurt by this then I would be wrong. Many reactions came from many people of this country.

ICMR gave a very strong reaction about this that if a resistant bacteria is found in Delhi, then why do you name that bacteria on the name of the city? One more weekly news magazine had written article, that we should not feel bad about it, as it has happened before also that if any resistant bacteria is found then it is named on the name of the city. Beta lactamase is the same class of that bacteria about which example was quoted. He said that a bacteria was found in Verona, Italy, it was named VIN-1, a bacteria was found in Saupaulo, Maxcico, it was also named on its name. This is right. I want to say that there are many technical classifications for Beta — lactamase bacterium, which is a ambler classification. There another Jacoli — Midirus classification. Sometimes we use more common language, we call them Extended spectrum Beta — lactamase. If we do not classify in this manner and we name them after the name of cities, if we don't have sensitivity and do nomenclature, then is a big example. The most prevalent Beta — lactamase strain, was found in North Carolina. It was named clabsila Nimoni Betalecta mase. I want to ask that if you want to have a uniform system, then why didn't you name it North carolina beta lactamase? An international code is followed, its Nomenclature should be according to the International code of nomenclature of procarriots. I agree with ICMR that it is necessary to have sensitivity in nomenclature.

Besides this lancet magazine conducted this study so that the flourishing medical tourism in India can be curtailed. This view point has also emerged...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JYOTI MIRDHA: I may partially agree with this because the place to which Lancet belongs to, there is cashless transaction under national health service. If a patient visit to a doctor then doctor does not charge any money. If only 10 patients will visit to a doctor instead of 15 patients then doctor will be more happy with the feeling that he has to examine less number to patients. But we should look at it positively because the productive. Thing comes out of this is that all the advance antibiotics are given over the counter in our country. If I want to purchase clavulanic acid or carbapenem or cephalosporin then anybody can buy that if one take its half course he gets recovered. Due to this resistance is increased for the bacterium. I would like to say that Health Minister also issued are statement...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JYOTI MIRDHA: I am concluding in two minutes. He issued a statement in which he said that this is not very credible because this study was funded by an International Pharmaceutical company.

I have one more question that there are around 1350 such studies in the country as on date, MNCs are conducting trials what in the issue of their credibility? I would like to oppose highest authority that if a name has to be given to superbug, then keep it universal and maintain sensitivity.

[English]

DR. PRABHA KISHOR TAVIAD (Dahod): Madam, I would like to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Jyoti Mirdha.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Goa North): Madam, I would like to put a very important matter to you about Goa. There are two rivers in Goa...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down and have patience.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Madam, there are two rivers in Goa and National highway — 17 passes overhead these rivers. The bridge constructed at Jwari river for the last several years, is said to be not fit for heavy traffic, so heavy traffic is restricted on that bridge. This bridge connects North Goa and south Goa. This bridge also connect North India and South India. Airport is situated in South Goa, Marmuan Goa port trust is also situated there and due to ban of heavy traffic on this bridge going from North Goa to south Goa, is causing heavy loss and wastage of time so, it is my demand that immediately a new bridge should be constructed and heavy traffic should be allowed on this.

MADAM SPEAKER: Zero hour is getting over. Remaining matters will be taken in the evening.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, time is only given to member of BJP and Congress Party...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Don't level much allegations.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Don't level such allegations. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: This is not fair to level such allegations. Please take your seats. Let the proceedings be continued.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, I am not leveling any allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I am taking my words back. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, please take your seat.

11.43 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Prasar Bharati, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Prasar Bharati, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3006/15/10]

11.44 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 2010, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th August, 2010 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

11.45 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Second Report presented to the House on 20th August, 2010 have recommended that leave of absence from the Sittings of the House be condoned/granted to the following members for the period mentioned against each:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Shri Madhu Koda | 19.11.2009 to 21.12.2009) 22.2.2010 to 16.3.2010) and) condoned 15.4.2010 to 7.5.2010) |
| 2. Shri Ijyaraj Singh | 26.7.2010 to 21.8.2010) granted |

Is it the pleasure of the House that as recommended by the Committee, absence be condoned in respect of one Member and leave be granted to another Member?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

11.45¹/₂ hrs.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEES — A REVIEW

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam, I beg to lay on the Table Hindi and English versions of the "Financial Committee (2009-10) – A Review".

11.46 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

13th and 14th Reports

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI (Chatra): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English

versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2009-10):—

1. Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Sixty-second Report of (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Management of Funds by the Department of Posts through Banking and Insurance activities' relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).
2. Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Sixty-seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Television Audience Measurement in India' relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

11.46¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

10th and 11th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy:—

- (1) Tenth Report on "Availability of Gas and Coal" for Power Sector.
- (2) Eleventh Report on "Renewable Energy for Rural Applications".

11.47 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): With your permission Madam, I rise to announce that Government Business for the remaining part of the current Session, will consist of:-

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

2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:-

- (a) The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill, 2010;
- (b) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2010;
- (c) The Orissa (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2010; and
- (d) The Constitution (One Hundred Thirteenth Amendment) Bill, 2010

3. Consideration and passing of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2010, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Rajya Sabha:-

- (a) The Nalanda University Bill, 2010;
- (b) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2010; and
- (c) The Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2010.

5. The Educational Tribunals Bill, 2010.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Madhu Koda—not present.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Madam Speaker, you are requested to kindly include the following items in the list of business for the next week for consideration:

- (1) The numbers of cases are continuously increasing due to slackness and negligence in dealing with the cases of appointment on compassionate ground, Union Government should launch a special recruitment drive to dispose of all the cases related to the delays in this regard.
- (2) Need to take immediate steps to start telephone calls again from landline from rail stations of central railway keeping in view the problems being faced by the passengers due to closure of local calls facility.

SHRI MAROTRAO SAINUJI KOWASE (Gadchiroli-Chimur): Madam Speaker, kindly include the following

items in the list of business for the next week for consideration:-

- (1) Regarding chalking out a programme to provide higher education/technical education to the students of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes who have passed 12th class from Navodaya Vidyalaya particularly situated in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe predominant areas in the country.
- (2) Regarding employment to the local people alongwith ensuring their share holding in the private companies that are engaged in mining work in the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe predominant areas.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Madam Speaker, kindly include the following items in the list of business of the next week:

- (1) Need to establish Kendriya Vidyalaya at Dumari block of Giridih district (Jharkhand) and Tundi block of Dhanbad district.
- (2) Need to ensure the compliance of new Right to Education Act in all the Kendriya Vidyalayas of Bokaro, Giridih and Dhanbad districts.

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Madam Speaker, kindly include the following two subjects in the list of business of the next week for consideration:

- (1) Regarding initiative to be taken by the Union Government for the opening of aromatic factory from the naphtha of Barauni Refinery.
- (2) Ministry of Railways should complete the construction of Munger-Khagaria rail cum Road Bridge in the financial year 2010-2011.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): Madam Speaker, kindly include the following subjects in the List of Business of next week for consideration:

- (1) Action should be taken by the Union Government to immediately start the proposed Central Agriculture University in Bundelkhand under Tikamgarh Parliamentary constituency area.
- (2) Prompt action should be taken for the conversion of Jhansi Chhattarpur Panna Satna Rewa road into four lane express highway to attract the foreign tourists at Orchha and Khajuraho tourist spots.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri A.T. Nana Patil—not present.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Madam Speaker, kindly include the following subjects in the List of Business of next week for consideration:

- (1) Regarding proposal for revision of CRF/NCCF rules for water logging in unauthorized colonies and collapse of Kuchcha houses due to heavy rains, as floods word has been mentioned in the rules. While explaining this, officers do not include heavy rains in floods and do not provide assistance under CRF/NCCF rules. Therefore, this subject should be included in the List of Business of the next week in Lok Sabha.
- (2) Tehsil is considered as an unit in Agriculture Insurance Scheme, therefore, I propose that the arrangement should be made to provide benefits of agriculture insurance scheme to the farmers while considering village as a unit instead of tehsil. Therefore, this subject should be included in the List of Business of next week in Lok Sabha.

MADAM SPEAKER: Lai Singh ji, you have given two subjects for the next week.

[English]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Madam, kindly include the following two subjects in List of Business of the next week:-

- (1) Regarding delay in establishment of 1000 MW Ujh Thermal Power Project at Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir.
- (2) Non-implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in some parts of the country.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal you speak on other issue only.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North-East Delhi): Madam Speaker, kindly include the following subjects in the List of Business of the next week:

Regarding the demand of giving status of a full-fledged state to the national capital territory of Delhi which has been demanded since long, but still status of a state has not been given to Delhi. Therefore, need for giving the status of a state to the national capital territory of Delhi.

11.52 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

20th Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, I beg to present the Twentieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

11.53 hrs.

PERSONAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL,
2010*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 8.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

Madam, though it is a simple Bill, yet it is a very important piece of legislation seeking gender equality in the matters of adoption and guardianship. This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee and the Committee has unanimously adopted this Bill without any amendment. So, I place it before the hon. House for consideration.

MADAM SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU (Mahasamund): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I support amendment of Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956. First of all I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill and also thank the hon'ble Minister for bringing such a good Bill which is related to women's rights.

Madam Speaker, this Bill is for strengthening the rights of women and for giving them equal rights. It will certainly give rights to the women, whereas exploitation, harassment and atrocities on women talk has not stopped even after 63 years of independence. For the development of any country women should be given equal rights as men. The Bill should be passed unanimously. This Bill would strengthen the rights of women and would have far going results as well. In this Bill a woman having sound-mind and wants to adopt a child, can adopt a son or daughter with the consent of her husband. Constitution gives equal rights to husband-wife and this Bill supports this.

Madam, women have been subjected to exploitation and harassment since ages. Atrocities on women is still continuing and women are still lagging behind. This Bill will give respite to some extent. 50 percent reservation has been provided in three-tier Panchayati Raj in the state to which I belong to, as a result women have 50 percent shareholding in every sector there. To further mobilize this effort, Women Reservation Bill should be introduced in this House as well as it was presented and passed in Rajya Sabha. This country cannot develop unless men and women are given equal rights. It has also been said in Manusmriti that "Yatr Naryastu Pujayante, ramante tatra devta." Certainly peace comes where women are respected. Woman is the first teacher of children. Only a mother gives sanskar, education to their children and nurtures them. If we deprive women of their rights, country cannot develop in an appropriate manner. I support the amendments required in Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act.

Today, we are living in 21st century. But, are womenfolk actually capable to go in 21st century. The reply would be 'No'. Therefore, equal rights should be given to women. For this purpose, a separate law should be made so that women are not subjected to atrocities anywhere. Today we see women are shown as front-runners in advertisements. They are used in the form of a good attractive salesman. The use of women in such a way should be banned. The rights of women and the respect given to them in the scriptures should be reinstated and thus women will come forward definitely. Otherwise too, capable women are coming forward on their own, but the women who are really tortured by their husbands are unable to come forward. The amendment to how brought forward should, therefore be welcomed and I support it.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Chittorgarh): Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble minister and the UPA Government for bringing this bill in Lok Sabha around the birthday of Rajiv Ji. Definitely, keeping in view the gender equality, rights were given in the Constitution even before the independence for fulfilling the dream of Gandhiji. Our Constitution contains Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39, 42, 51A and E which provide for equality of women. Besides this, Parliament has passed special legislations at times which include Immoral Trafficking Act to Dowry (Prohibition) Act, Indecent Representation of Women Act, Commission of Sati Prohibition Act, Domestic Violence Act etc. I would surely like to thank the Government and the Parliament for this. But, another story is also there that despite all this, women have not been given rights completely. Hence, I agree with hon'ble minister that though it is a simple bill, it is a small bill but its consequences definitely would be far reaching. It is a big leap and it may be called an historic bill. If there would have been no rights to women in guardianship and adoption, which include their individual liberty, then it would have been a big question mark on our Constitution and fundamental rights provided for in the Constitution. Gradually, the Government is assuring us regarding all those rules and Madam, here I would like to say that surely this bill has been brought to end the discrimination and also to bring gender equality as there is an increase of 13 percent every year in atrocities against women. If we take last five years' figures, then definitely we would see a rise and not a fall in those figures. I would also like to submit that with this view only, Rajivji had said that the reservation for women in politics is necessary because if they sit in decision making process, then definitely they will have an effect on the decision and it would result in change in the bills being passed regarding them. But I regret to say that in tenth Lok Sabha, our percentage was 7.7 only, in Eleventh Lok Sabha it was 7.36 and by fifteenth Lok Sabha it reached only 10.12 percent.

1200 hrs.

For this, we, the women, rather whole of the country and Parliament wish that women should enter the politics completely. Same situation is there in Rajya Sabha where so far we reached 12.1 percent only. Freedom to choice is an important basis and the thrust in this Bill is that along with the process of decision making, they could also take decision in this regard as well. On this issue therefore, I agree that I am equally in agreement with hon'ble minister. If we look around, if we talk about any religion, any sect of the country or any other country, we

find that there are atrocities on women everywhere. Hence, the law is necessary and certainly there is a gap in justice doled out from the law so far. Five pillars are necessary in law. First, the existence of law; second, execution of law, third, awareness about law; fourth, role of civil society and politicians in it and fifth, the role of media. If all these five act together, the atrocities on women will fall certainly.

If I see, the history is witness that Dr. Ambedkar, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Phule, Mahatma Gandhi and after that, our Government, particularly Rajivji whom I am mentioning because at that time, he saw that which was the statement of Gandhi ji that our independence would mean the equal rights for all the people standing in a queue and pausing there, Gandhiji said that when I say equal rights for all it means also to women but when I look back, I find that women have neither full political rights nor economic rights. Even there are gaps in the fundamental rights provided for in our constitution and these need to be filled. So, creative plans thereafter actions plans were formulated. After that, a change came in this direction and I thank the Chairperson of UPA, successive governments and to one and all that the efforts in this direction are still going on. But, here I would like to submit that the Government has made a lot changes and UPA-I and UPA-II regime brought in such legislation. NCW has also sent the 34 clauses and 8 bills in amended form. This bill has been brought on the basis of 83rd Law Commission Report. I thank that this bill, which focuses on women in the society, will surely bring a change. But the Government will have to take decision regarding the issues covered in the State and the Concurrent lists as the State Governments are not much sensitive and as a result of delay, if we see the figures of the states' they remain unaware of the atrocities being committed on the women and the bills being passed here. A committee, therefore, may be formed or you say, hammering becomes necessary for the State Governments. Here I would like to submit that this is a comprehensive bill that takes us to a new direction. Civil court is also talked much in this regard. But the dialogue made in course of bringing this bill, is a must and certainly everyone will have to come forward and the Government will have to take decisions regarding other related bills such as Compulsory Registration of Marriage Bill etc.

Madam, this bill has been brought on the basis of 23rd report. Though the minister has assured in the other House that 133rd report of Law Commission will also be taken into consideration but here, I would like to submit that consideration of 135th report is also necessary.

Articles 6 and 19 also cannot be overlooked in this regard as unless they are included completely, no justice can be delivered to women. I would like to request the minister that sections 6 and 19 should also be considered in the context. Keeping in view the time constraint, I welcome the steps taken by the Government in relation to the two aspects viz. gender development index and gender empowerment/employment measures stated with regard to gender sensitives in the United Nations development programs.

Along with this, the Government has ensured that the most important thing in empowerment measures is that the laws be amended, years old laws should be reviewed in newer contexts. For this, I congratulate the hon'ble minister. I would like to submit that the laws related to women come through various ministries, and a nodal point should be there so that all these could be passed simultaneously. I would also like to submit that women are attacked due to gaps in laws. There are laws but they have gaps and specific laws are needed. The way decisions were taken by Panchayats, definitely point towards gaps. Regarding the Sati Prevention Bill Two-three days ago I had raised the issue in the House that this requires to be brought as a separate bill. Similarly, a separate bill is required to check the deaths taking place in villages. I am happy that the minister has assured in this regard. Regarding the rape victims, I would like to submit that the number of rape cases is increasing continuously. Every year they increase by 15 to 16 percent. The Government must make effort as early as possible for making provision of compensation in Rape Victims Revolution Bill. I would like to request Hon'ble Minister not to leave Compulsory registration of Marriage to State Governments alone but to look into this at ministry level also so that all State Governments can pass it. This will curb child marriage. Also it will deter those NRI persons who after marriages run away.

In the end, I would like to say that the Government has made the Budget Gender Budget for adequate development of women. On this basis not only the economic, social, political development of women has taken place, especially the decisions which have been taken by linking ends of amendments to law, which is appreciable. This has to be continued. To fill this gap, an appropriate group consisting of all ministries which will pass bills regarding women on the basis of reports received either from Law Commission, National Commission for women or SC/ST Commission should be formed and can help in getting passed the bills. Still there are so many gaps. When we talk about atrocities

we find that we are still at the same position after having so many constitutional rights. I would like to recite a couplet:

“Jaaney kyon hum wahin khade hain, tej kadam to hum bhi chale hain.”

Madam Speaker, you yourself, her Excellency. President, UPA Chairperson, Leader of opposition in our country and as well as in many other countries, Chief Ministers in many States are women. Women have come forward to such an extent that they are leading in the army and the bill introduced for the rights of village women is commendable. We must march forward in this direction.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, I am grateful to you for providing me the opportunity to speak on Personal Law Amendment Bill 2010. Hon'ble Law Minister has presented this Bill in the House and I fully support this and emphasize on it. This is a fact and it has been seen that when no child is born in a Hindu family, whether boy or girl, a child is adopted from family itself or from child protection home to continue lineage and traditions of the family. But the matter entangles so much in the family that when parents grew old the boys and other relatives of the family create trouble for family. The Bill which has been brought in the house today is a very good Bill in my view and it will bring relief not only to the family but also to the society as a whole. Dr. Girija Vyas has explained in detail about women empowerment. The worst suffers are women of the family. She is so much harassed that she is deprived of the property and thrown out of the village. Especially a widow has to suffer most. But this Bill will empower her and her family will also be able to move forward.

Madam, Girija Vyas Ji expressed her thoughts about women empowerment. This is a fact the today women are holding almost every post whether it is related to space or his Excellency President of India or the post you are holding, has given a loud message and women feel happy about it. Just now Dr. Girija Vyas said about women reservation, I would like to have reservation for them not only in Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, but at every level, and I think in panchayats more than 50 percent reservation should be provided in all the states. But in addition to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies, it should be provided in Rajya Sabha and Legislative councils too. Then only empowerment of women will be completed.

I would like to add one more thing in this about providing 33 percent reservation to women...(Interruptions), I am coming on that only. I would like to say that

33 percent reservation should not only be provided in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies but fifty percent participation of women should also be ensured in all non-governmental and government organizations and in educational institutions too. Whether it is in recruitment, or in promotion or in any other matter. Till the time you do not provide them 50 percent reservation, our objective cannot be achieved.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I am concluding. Our hon'ble members have just pointed out that, they were referring to the stand of their party on women reservation. Today I would like to clarify again that our party from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia to our present Chief Hon'ble Mulayam Singh Yadav, under them Samajwadi party has always believed that not only, 33 percent, but you give them 80 or 50 percent reservation to women, we have no objection. As Dr. Girija Vyas has just said if her Excellency President and you are holding this post then women in villages are feeling joyous, and happy. But the women living in villages, whether they are Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes, Backward Classes, Minorities or Muslim category, they also must be provided reservation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Your party's time is over.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, if we see there are 12 such states where male member of Lok Sabha has not won. Then if male are not winning then how women will win. Therefore our party has a clear stand and we support it. But SC, ST, OBC and Muslim women should also be given reservation in this.

With these words I conclude by supporting this Bill.

DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for providing me the opportunity for speaking on Personal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2010. My party and I support this bill. This is really a Bill which was lacking in the society. We have a tradition of adoption for continuing lineage if no boy or girl is born in family. When the person making adoption grew old and is on the verge of death, the family is very concerned regarding usurping his property. Sometimes murder and fighting used to take place. Even today such cases are pending in courts. Now this Bill has been brought by which such quarrel will be stopped. In reality the person who serves for whole life, he or she should have right over the property. If someone has no son and has only daughters, then fighting used to take place now such possibilities will no longer remain.

Madam Speaker, I fully support this amendment Bill.

[*English*]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Thank you Madam for giving me a chance to speak on this particular Bill being brought forward by the hon. Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Veerappa Moily.

This is no doubt a progressive piece of legislation and on behalf of my Party Biju Janata Dal, I support it wholeheartedly. While supporting the Bill, I would also like to point out that in the State of Orissa our revered Leader Late Biju Patnaik was the first person to direct the authorities to write the name of the mother of child – father's name will also be there – in all the certificates being issued by different educational institutions. Not only that, when he was in office, he had also directed that the name of the mother or the wife should be included in all the legal documents relating to land records. So, I certainly have to support this Bill.

At the same time, I must draw the attention of the hon. Minister, as he has stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, to the fact that only 48.2 per cent are women. So, this is no doubt a concern for all of us. We read many things now-a-days being published in the media that female child is being discriminated against not only that she is killed before she is born. These cases have come to our notice. We should also try to ensure that female population does not decrease further. Similarly, I would like to point that he has also given all the details. This has already been examined by the Departmental Standing Committee constituted by this House. He has given all the reasons. He has also indicated that many progressive measures are being taken by the Government. Certainly this will be implemented in due course of time. But, I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister, he is no doubt a very progressive and erudite Minister, and also in his approach he is quite effective. Madam Sonia Gandhi ji was here when this Bill was piloted by the hon. Minister. I appreciate the feelings expressed by our friend Shri Shailendra Kumar and also other hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill. But, at the same time, you must see that the Women Reservation Bill, that is pending before the House, should be passed immediately. On behalf of my Party, Biju Janata Dal, I strongly demand that the Government should at least come forward and get this legislation passed.

The hon. Minister has mentioned what our esteemed President of India had said in her Address to the Joint Session of Parliament. She has also mentioned that this

piece of legislation should be passed. Why not? This is the assurance not given by me or any other hon. Member but by our esteemed President of India, who is now in office. So, every effort should be made to solve the particular problem that we have now. That should be solved. It should be brought before the House without any delay. With these words, I conclude and I thank you for giving me the chance to speak.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): Madam Speaker, at the outset, I welcome this Amendment Bill as introduced by the hon. Law Minister. Tamil Nadu was the first State in the year 1989 which had brought in a legislation to give equal share to male and female of the ancestral properties hitherto which was enjoyed by only the male children of a family. Madam, 30 per cent of Government jobs are for women in Tamil Nadu. Only lady teachers were appointed in all the elementary schools in Tamil Nadu. So, Tamil Nadu has pioneered in helping women and enforcing women's rights in the State. On those lines, this Bill also gives rights to the women, and, hence, I welcome the Bill.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. The Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2010 is the most welcome step. On behalf of my party, I whole-heartedly support the Bill.

It helps to make the law gender-neutral and equal to both sexes. The Constitution of India guarantees equality of status and equality of opportunity to all citizens irrespective of the fact that whether they are men or women. It directs that women shall have equal rights and privileges along with men. So the Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2010 seeks to achieve the above objects. The Bill is an important legislation introduced for strengthening women's right since the Personal Law cannot be excluded from the principles of gender equality and gender justice.

By the Amendments both in the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and in the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, the mother should also be placed on an equal footing with the father in the right of guardianship in taking adoption.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude. Your time is up.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI: I am just concluding.

Before I conclude, at this juncture, I wish to point out that my revered leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi J. Jayalalithaa is the pioneer and frontrunner in championing the cause of women and in providing gender equality in the society. During the AIADMK regime, my leader had initiated steps and issued GOs permitting sons and daughters in each family to prefix as initial of mother's name also. This is the revolutionary step. Likewise, my leader is the first initiator to set up separate police stations exclusively for women and women commando force. This is the classic example of my leader's foresight.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Now, Mr. Sanjeev Naik.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Mr. Naik speaks.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: It is not going on record. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK (Thane): Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak. I am thankful to hon'ble Minister that at last this Bill has been introduced. I am very happy that when Shri Sharad Pawar was Chief Minister he was the person who for the first time introduced 33 percent reservation for woman and tried earnestly to bring women in the main stream. I am thankful that you introduced the Bill for adoption which will help those women who do not have children remain in mental tension. There are so much problems in the country and there are so much problems in the court that other people of the family were getting benefit of this. Today I shall be thankful that this will benefit all. I shall thank to the Hon'ble Minister on behalf of my party and would like to say that all the members should co-operate to get this Bill passed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, hon. Members have appreciated the Government for women empowerment on very large scale. In the era of Buddha when Lord Buddha came to Vaishali, women empowerment started there only. I came from the same region therefore I have the right to say

*Not recorded.

that. At that time women were permitted to go to Baudh Sangha, his mother Gautami, his wife and other women attended Baudh Sangha. But now he is calming women empowerment which is being appreciated by hon'ble members. In past, there has never been so much injustice and atrocities against women as we see these days. My first question is about the comment of vice chancellor, Shri V.N. Ray of Mahatma Gandhi International university against the women writers. It is very shameful to repeat here what he has said ...*(Interruptions)* 150 writers demanded to remove him, dismiss him. Why the Government have not dismissed him? What expressions have been used for women writers? A vice chancellor has done such an act why any action has not been taken against him? This is our first question. They say that they are doing women empowerment and giving high post to women. We want to know from the Government why he has not been removed, he is the person who has expressed such words against women writers, made unreasonable comments against her honour. He has written an article against women writer. All the writer, artists composers of the country are demanding action against his but no one is paying heed to it. This is the question I want to raise.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I would like to raise two points.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time allotted to your party is over.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am speaking on behalf of party itself.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: My second question is that injustice has been done to widows. It is mentioned in the widow remain that person will not be given to the widows up to the age of 40. No one is listening ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Your time is over.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, I will speak two points only.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time allotted to your party is over. So please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, my second question is that injustice has been done with widows. It is said widows pension will not be given to

the widow upto the age of 40 years. No one paying heed to it. If you will not reply to any of my question then I will not speak ...*(Interruptions)* The Government has said that widow pension will not be given to widows upto the age of 40 years. When a woman becomes widow it is very painful to her only ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The time allocated to your party is over. So, you please sit down.

Shri Prashant Kumar Majumdar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam I will conclude in a minute.

MADAM SPEAKER: You have only one minute left. You please conclude. You are taking so much time.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam I am concluding. My second question is why pension of widow below 40 years of age is not given pension. My third question is that there are seven lakh Asha workers who do not get remuneration. Whereas it has been pension in National Rural Health Mission ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Madam, there is no limit for widow pension.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Why remuneration is not given to the workers of Asha? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Only the speech of Mr. Prasanta Kumar Majumdar will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

*Not recorded.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Speaker Madam, I take the floor to support this Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill as it is a very progressive Bill.

However I would like to raise a few points in this august House in this regard. Firstly, when the Government of West Bengal has implemented the land reforms act and distributed land deeds to the poor, marginal farmers, it gave equal rights to the women of the state. They have been given property rights along with the men in order to empower them. But certain other steps must be taken by the Government to improve the condition of the women. For instance in the tribal dominated areas, there is absence of girl schools. In other areas of the country you will find various girls schools but in places where tribal population is more, there is not a single school for girls' education in as far as my knowledge goes. So the Government must look into this.

Even today, the women of our country are tortured and exploited. This practice must stop. We should remember that when we ride a bicycle, both the wheels should move. If the rear wheel remains static, the cycle will not go forward. Similarly if the women of the nation do not progress, real development of the society will never be achieved. They have to be educated and made more and more aware.

We have large number of women who are still in darkness. They must be brought to the mainstream of the society – otherwise the country will lag behind. The ratio of men and women in India is almost equal. So the women folk can no longer be overlooked. In the panchayats, the provision of 50% reservation for women has been implemented, it is true. But in the assemblies and in the Lok Sabha the reservation policy must be implemented speedily by passing the Women's Reservation Bill. This is my humble request on behalf of my party RSP and the entire Left. With these words I thank you for allowing me to speak on this Bill and conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Madam Speaker, I am highly grateful to all the hon. Members, cutting across party lines, for having given full support to this Bill.

I do not say that in the regime of equality for women this is exhaustive. This is only a sample out of some of the measures which we have started.

In fact, I agree with the hon. Members including Dr. Girija Vyas, the Chairman of the National Commission for Women. She said that a number of measures – as many as 52 proposals – have been made by the National Commission for Women, to create gender equality. We are really looking into this matter. I think, not a single week passes – in the Legislative Department – without looking into many aspects of women, which includes gender equality and also putting down the atrocities on women. So, we are at it.

In fact, this is the core theme of the UPA Government. The idea is to have complete equality for women in all spheres and make it a practical reality especially by removing discriminatory legislation and conferring equal rights to women. I do agree that a comprehensive approach will have to be made; sometimes it may be difficult to bring all the legislations together because of the technical and logistic reasons, but I can definitely say that in the years to come, we will ensure that all spheres of activities will be definitely dealt by the Law Department and various other administrative Departments of the Government. In fact, there is a growing demand for making laws free from gender bias, which includes changing the social and economic content of law. Mere law is not enough; we need to inject the new regime of human psyche, a new regime of mindset of the people.

But I must tell you many histories where great social reformers fought for freedom of women with all difficulties. But I find that our society had evolved itself into a mature society where they are prepared to absorb laws relating to equality. When that is the fertile ground for making a law, I think, in this tenure of the Parliament itself, I would ensure that we would take advantage of that and bring a comprehensive law on women equality.

All the hon. Members vociferously supported this Bill. I must say that even in the legal mission which we have brought about, we are going to have a classification of the cases and also the prioritization of the cases in relation to women and children so that those cases are taken up first, right from the munsif court to the Supreme Court. We are getting into that area so that they will not wait for justice.

Justice delivery system will be very much tuned up so that they will not wait in queue to get justice in the courts of law. I do not want to say much on this. But the discrimination does exist; we need to bring in greater changes definitely.

Many issues are raised here; even Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh raised an issue; we would like to address that, but I do not have the facts before me. I do not think, that is also very much relevant to speak on those things now.

Many hon. Members have suggested solutions; there are some of legislations, which are gender-neutral; we need to bring them. The day will not be far off, when under the august Chairmanship of the hon. Madam Speaker, Women's Reservation Bill will be a reality in this House. That is a major step and a major reform which we can bring here. I am hopeful; whatever may be the reason, let the Bill be passed. If any amendment is required at subsequent stage, we will definitely go in for that. But, at the same time, this House should not reflect the male chauvinistic attitude to the country and to the world. That is the perception we need to correct.

With this, I thank all the hon. Members, particularly hon. Madam Speaker for having given time for passing this great historic Bill, though simple.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI VEERAPPA MOILY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.43 hrs.

MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2010

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri B.K. Handique, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation Act, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Coal Mines Nationalisation Act 1973 allows Private Companies engaged in generation of Power, Production of Iron and Steel and such end users as may be specified by the Central Government by Notification, to carry on coal mining for their captive end-use.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (BHADRAK): Is it Mines and Minerals Bill that the Minister is moving?

MADAM SPEAKER: It is the same. He has taken my permission.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: In order to allocate coal blocks to private companies for captive mining of coal, a Screening Committee was set up in the Ministry of Coal, through an Administrative Order, to consider applications made by various companies. The Screening Committee is an Inter-Ministerial and Inter-Governmental Committee, with representatives from various administrative Ministries/Departments concerned of the Central Government, the State Governments where the coal blocks are located, coal companies etc.

With the progressive allocation of coal blocks, the number of coal blocks available for allocation is declining, while the number of applicants per block is increasing, as the demand for coal keeps increasing. This has made selection of an applicant in respect of a block difficult and vulnerable to criticism on the grounds of lack of transparency and objectivity.

The Government is making steady efforts to increase its exploration to increase the availability of coal blocks. However, it is also necessary to bring in a process of

selection that is not only more objective but also transparent.

Hence, a selection process by auction through competitive bidding for allocation of coal blocks to private companies, replacing the Screening Committee approach is sought to be introduced through an amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

At the same time, realising the importance of coal minerals to the nation, competitive bidding shall not be applicable in respect of allocation of coal blocks to Government Companies and power projects selected on the basis of tariff based competitive bidding.

The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 17.12.2008 and was considered by the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel. In its Report dated 19.02.2009, the Committee recommended that further consultation should be held with the States and other stakeholders before any further action is taken on the Bill. Further consultations with the Mining and Geology Ministers of the States were held accordingly on 10.08.2009 by me. Accordingly, the Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August.

The proposed amendments will improve the efficient utilisation of our coal resources. I, accordingly, commend the Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha, and move that it be taken into consideration.

MADAM SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Madam Speaker, I would like to support the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill introduced by the Government and say that this Bill should have been introduced very early. In view of the prevailing situation I would like to say to the Government that they have deliberately delayed in introducing this Bill in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

The coal reserve identified in India till today is about 269 Billion Tonne. This coal reserve is the property of the 120 crore people of the country. Whatever mineral

reserves are there in the country, cannot be the property of any industrialist. But the Government have allocated maximum coal blocks, identified by them, in the form of captive blocks to private sector and after allocating all the blocks the Government have introduced this Bill in Lok Sabha.

Through you I would like to say that earlier also mining was done on, but in 1971-1973 first it was nationalised, then the then Prime Minister, Late Indira Gandhiji took this step. A step was taken to include all the coal mines of private sector in favors of the Government, which was welcomed by all the parties. But in 1996, the same Government, which has full faith on Indiraji, have made a policy to allocate these blocks to private sector resulting in the loot of this precious wealth.

Through you I would like to submit that this is so precious wealth that if it is estimated. I have tried to estimate the prices of the captive blocks allocated till today with an expert company, and I came to know that blocks more than worth 49 Billion tonnes have been allocated to private sector and state power sector in the country till date. In this about 28 Billion tonne of coal has been given to private sector. When we estimated its cost it come to more than Rs. 25 lakh cores. I would take the responsibility to submit Lok Sabha that so precious mineral wealth of our country is distributed in such a corrupt manner. The have distributed the wealth of 120 crore people among 120 people. I would like to ask the Government what was the need of distributing such precious is distributed in such a corrupt manner.

When Indiraji had done nationalisation of coal sector in the country the approach was that this wealth should be utilized to create employment in the country and coal could be made available to power plants in every sector. But, all these facts have been disregarded and violated and they have distributed around 218 blocks in the country. Now they do not have any such blocks in their hands for auction. Presently, I am on the committee on coal and steel, officers of Coal India say that captive blocks should not be given to private sector now.

We need them, but despite that, this process has not stoppedit138 more blocks have been identified which they are trying to put for auction. I would like to tell the Government through you that the solution of increasing unemployment of this country lies in the natural resources and agriculture sector. Situation of agriculture sector is very bad, but we can given employment to youth of this country on the basis of natural resources. I am sure that

except this there is no other means to give employment to the youths. Not only for coal, there are many other natural resources as well like iron ore, bauxite. They do not look into the pros and cons before allocating them to the private sector companies. Whosoever has given application for all these things, what they take in lieu of it? Price of coal is Rs. two thousand per tonne whereas Rs. 45 to Rs. 180 is charged as royalty for coal. Such a precious mineral resource is being looted. They distribute coal free of cost. It has not been auctioned till date. Now the Government has woke up after allocating so many blocks and now it is going to auction it. I would welcome this, but the Minister may give an answer here for the default committed by the Government while allocating such a huge resource otherwise, if coal blocks were given to the Coal India it would have been earmarked for them only. Then employment avenues might have increased. In today's scenario, only three lakh ninety six thousand employees are working in Coal India, whereas ten years back more than seven lakh employees had been working there.

12.51 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Today production is increasing there. They have reduced the employment too and wasted the precious resource of the country. They have specified certain conditions for people to whom coal blocks have been allocated, in which they needed the bank guarantee. The companies which were required to give the bank guarantee, were supposed to renew the same every year. They are allocating these blocks since 1996 and they have not renewed bank guarantee from any of the private company. Block was allocated to these companies on this condition that where coal block is situated, if there is forest land, then the period of 48 months was given to them, but where there is no forest land, production of coal should be started there within 36 months. When we ask question, they reply that there is a need of coal in the country, Coal India cannot meet this huge demand of coal, therefore it has been given to the private sector. The private sector did not start mining after the allocations am saying this before you with full responsibility that most of the companies which have been allocated coal block are trying to sell them. Most of the companies who have obtained the coal blocks at different places are changing the management at the block and selling it to the other companies. Thousands of crores of rupees are being received from their selling. In this manner the Government has wasted this mineral resource of the country. I would

like to say through you that they are talking of the captive blocks, they are not allocating only captive blocks, but the commercial blocks as well. By allocating commercial blocks they are giving to the private sector to take the coal reserves as free and sell them to others as commercial block. I have many such example and would also present them before you. In this way they are wasting such a precious resource of the country. It would certainly put a break on the drive continued till today by the manner in which the UPA Government has considered this resource as their own, but I would like to submit that all the blocks allocated so far and mining of coal done by these private companies should be taken back in control again while cancelling all these blocks. The people who are presently in the process of auction and the amount that would be received after the auction, its average should be calculated and the same average rate should be charged from the people of whom these coal blocks have been allocated so far as free. You are a Minister, there is a Government in the country, that was not your personal property. You will have to listen to me here because you have distributed the property of 120 crore people of this country among 120 people. It is very necessary to reconsider this matter. The Government of the country, a Ministry of coal is giving the coal blocks to private sector and they want to do so in future as well, whereas they go to place like Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia for the purchase of block.

The Government has committed corruption therein, I have not witnessed it, but there is a scope of put an allegation that here they allocate the block free of cost and they also take blocks from Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia and South Africa. This way they get commission here and from abroad as well. I can surely say that corruption on such large scale might not have happened in any sector of the country so far, the way corruption committed by this Government in coal sector, while adopting dual norms. I am saying this with assurance because I am also a responsible Member of Lok Sabha, I have not been elected for the first time. What is the reason behind allocating such precious coal to people in such an easy manner. Chairman, Coal India says that keep the blocks for us/ve will do the mining work of all the blocks. In 1999, 8 lakh people were engaged in Coal India, today 3 lakh 96 thousand employees are working there. The population of the country is 120 crore. Who will give them employment? Education youth of this country are moving to America, Australia, they do not get employment here. They have given blocks to private sector. I will tell you about a block in my area. Which has been given to Karnataka Power Corporation in private sector.

Amta Company is doing the mining work there. They have production and a mine of WCL in Durgapur, their production is alike. Production of the both is two lakh million. 1200 employees work in the WCL mine that comes under Coal India and production is same in Ermta Mines, but 370 employees work in there. Employment is being reduced. Right of the unemployed people is being snatched. If the matter is considered upon keeping in view the various norms, the Government has distributed such precious resource while pulling wool over the eyes of the unemployment people of the country.

I would like to give an example. Four blocks have been given to the Mining Corporation of Maharashtra. They have taken all four blocks as commercial blocks and Maharashtra Government has auctioned all these four blocks. They have taken these as free and the state government has auctioned them. They have sold one block to the Indian Boost Power Company of Palam Chekh and by which they got Rs. 280 crore. Second block is at Agarzadi which has reserve of 137 million tonne coal. It has been sold to Adani Enterprises in which State Government had asked for the return of Rs. 232 crore per year as royalty. In spite of that, share of the State Government would be 49 per cent and Adani Group would have the 51 per cent share. Another block of 73 million has been sold to Gupta Coal Limited by the State Government. This resource belongs to the Ministry of Coal. They got the annual return of Rs. 116 crore from it. One more block has been sold to Sunil High-tech through which they will get yearly profit of Rs. 74 crore for thirty years. If the State Government gets this much profit after getting blocks as free then you can make an estimate of how much profit might have been gained by the private sector. Therefore, in such scenario, we would welcome this Bill, but, there is a need to reconsider about the blocks allocated before. I agree that we can give employment to the educated youth of the country on the basis of the mineral resources. The manner in which such precious resource of the country has been allocated, it needs to be cancelled and an amendment should be brought in this regard. The amount to be received after the auction and the people who have started extraction now, average rate should be charged from them. This is patriotism. I would like to say to the leaders of the ruling party that whether the nationalization of coal mines done by Indira Ji in 1971 and 1973 was wrong, that you have encouraged the private sector. If it is correct that the policy of Indira ji was wrong, then you do not even have the right to put her picture. I am saying this because when Indira Ji had nationalized the coal mines while ending the private sector, all the national parties had welcomed this step at that time.

13.00 hrs.

While welcoming this step all the labour unions of the country had said that this is a good decision. You have disregarded that bill on well by violating the same and you have been doing fraud with the nation till date. The Bill you have introduced today has been delayed. This Bill was pending since the year 2004, but you are introducing the same in the year 2010. I allege the meanwhile, you have allocated all the blocks to the private sector. I want that the Government may consider upon some of my suggestions to eradicate unemployment in the country. If you auctioned such precious resource of the country, then I may surely say that crores of Rupees might have been given to Coal India and Coal India might have progressed even more. Now Coal India has said that they have identified 138 coal blocks, they should not auction them. Coal India itself says that we will do the mining work as we need these blocks. The Government may also give reply thereon. They have not mentioned anything about the captive block and the policy of captive block alongwith the commercial block so far. Hon'ble Minister should answer this. So far as coal royalty is concerned, the royalty given to state governments. ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that since when the royalty is given, royalty is not given on the coal price, not on tonnes. I would like to submit that Union Government should give royalty on coal price instead of giving royalty on tonnes to State Governments. Government should consider on this issue.

With these words I am thankful to you and support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO (Aruku): Thank you. I rise to support this Bill and the amendment that is sought to be brought, by the hon. Minister.

But I must say that I am rather disappointed at the scope of the Bill, which is very limited. What is being amended is a section in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957, which deals actually with all the minerals including coal.

What is the amendment which is before us? It deals with coal – coal, basically in relation with the production of iron and steel, and also generation of power. While introducing the Bill, the hon. Minister stated that actually preference will be given to public sector undertakings, to other Government organizations, which require coal.

Besides that, the Bill actually seeks to bring in a system of bidding for coal blocks. The private companies will be allowed to conduct reconnaissance as far as availability of coal is concerned; they will also be allowed to bid and have a stake in that.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the Minister, through you Mr. Chairman, that even today, there are some Government public sector undertakings, which are starving due to lack of supply of coal. In my State, in my district – I am not trying to be regional, but I am aware of this fact – Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Vishakapatnam, is there, which is a PSU, but still it does not have a coal block. Coking coal which is required, is given not according to their choice; it is given by the State Governments where the coal lies; they are not given open cast mines, but in mines which have severe difficult conditions, the gaseous mines, some of them are still burning within; it is very difficult to mine over there. Due to this, many of the PSUs are suffering. But he said that they would be given a preference. This is something which has to be given top priority and it has to be implemented also.

I would like to remind this august House about one thing. When did the public sectors come in? It is after Independence, when the colonial rulers left us; we had no infrastructure in the country at that time; ours is an agrarian economy; the basic activity is agriculture. We needed to build projects, but at that time, there was not a single bag of cement that we produced.

We did not have steel in the country. So, to develop the agrarian sector, to have irrigation project we first had to have cement. We first had to have steel. With this in mind, these public sector industries were built up. I would like to remind the entire House that this was done at a time when no private player was willing to set up industries. Maybe, there was Tata Iron and Steel Company, some players here and there. But had the Government not done this, today we would not have this infrastructure which we have built up.

We must remind ourselves that these PSUs are built on public money, the money of the people of this country. Therefore, whether it is for coal or iron ore, I think the top priority should be given to private sector undertakings. PSUs were started not to be sent to BFIR but to make our country strong; to see that our economy progresses and to see that we are self-sufficient as far as these industrial products and produce are concerned.

I would have expected a comprehensive Bill regarding this. You have said that Section 11 (a) is being amended for production of iron and steel. Let us go into the production of iron and steel. Production is done in the plants but your Ministry controls the mines and minerals. There was a long discussion in this House about illegal mining. I am not going to repeat all that has already been said. I was going through this Act of 1957 and the Schedule. I was amazed to note here that the royalty for the best quality iron ore is just Rs. 24 or something like that. It ranges from quality to quality but for the highest quality of iron ore, I think the royalty is Rs. 24.50 per tonne.

The first question we should ask ourselves is whether it is iron ore, coal or bauxite – since minerals come under you – are they national wealth or not. Recently, even the Supreme Court had said in some judgement related to gas that mineral resources are natural wealth. It may be related to gas but these are mineral resources of the country. Are these national wealth or not? Can we fritter away this kind of national wealth and minerals to some few private people or sell them away for almost nothing to countries abroad? These are very-very serious questions that we need to ask ourselves and answer.

This is in the Concurrent List. The States have a stake there. I am not saying that the States should not get the share. States, of course, will get their share but what is happening now? You are giving private lease and most of these iron ores are being mined. The States are doing it. Ultimately the transportation, royalty everything would come to about Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1500 and sell the ore at Rs. 3,500 or Rs. 4000. I am not talking of the illegal part, even the legal part of it. You are getting profit of Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 per tonne or iron ore. What is the royalty that is being paid for bauxite? It is 0.35 per cent of the rate that is quoted in the London Metal Exchange. Is it necessary for us to review the entire Mineral and Mining Policy of our Government; to review the entire Act which was passed by this House way back in 1957? Is there a need to regulate the use of our minerals? I think this is the primary question which should be foremost in our minds.

Today, if we look at the global scenario, though many advanced countries of the world have rich reserves of minerals, they are preserving them. There are Western countries which have oil to last them for hundred years.

But still they are buying oil. Why is that so? It is because they want to preserve their own mineral resources for their use at a later date. Our country, at a very nascent stage of development is just taking off. At this time, if we frittered away, all our resources, ultimately when we need it for our domestic use, maybe, to be used for our defence purpose, to be used for our industrial purpose, where in the world will we go around begging or asking for minerals? A time will come when you will not get it if even you are prepared to pay for it. So, I think, before it is too late, it is very much necessary that we should start thinking on these lines.

Therefore, even as far as coal is concerned, it was nationalised. After it was nationalised, it was repealed and coal was privatised. What worries me is that in many of the coal-bearing areas, the conditions of the mines are not being properly looked after. Are they being properly looked after by the private people who take it on lease? First, they mine one portion. The moment it becomes difficult for them, then, they abandon that and go somewhere else. Is this not a destruction of the national resources and wealth? So, I think, it should be the endeavour of the Government to see that while bringing in the private players, while giving them these auctions that you seek to do, you must take abundant care and caution to see that the mineral wealth is not destroyed or it is not frittered away.

Next, you have said that the private foreign companies also can come in and bid. It is all right that is the policy of the Government. At what cost do they come and bid? At what limit or level is it is the question that has to be decided taking into consideration the needs of our country, the needs of our industry and the present reserves and supplies that we have with us. I think, today, the necessity is more than ever before to ensure that the use of natural resources are regulated and guided through a national policy by the Central Government. I am sure the State Governments will have no problem as far as this is concerned. This has nothing to do for or against the rights of the various States. This is only to ensure that a few people do not benefit or do not misuse the national resources and minerals that we have.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I would take this opportunity to appeal to the hon. Minister sitting here to give thought to these points. After all, in the discussion we have, many Members made demands from various sides of the House. I think it is high time that you have a Commission of Inquiry to go into the aspect of illegal

mining. I think it is also time for us to assess the quantum of minerals that we have – whether it is coal, whether it is iron-ore or bauxite. We have to find out how much we have used out of it, how much has been mined illegally. If there is any way to find that out, I think that could be found out by the resources that we have, by the royalty that you receive and the gap is apparently what has been taken away by the illegal miners. The national resources, especially minerals including coal, cannot become the exclusive preserve of a handful of freebooters. We are not following a *laissez faire* policy. It is not a free for all. Therefore, it is necessary for us to evolve the National Mines and Minerals Policy.

I would also like to caution the hon. Minister about the minerals including coal which are located in forest areas, in the tribal areas. It was a flagship programme of the UPA Government to have introduced the Forest Rights Bill to give rights to the traditional forest dwellers and the tribals. In such areas, if you start mining, establishing the rights, even before surveys are conducted, it will defeat the very purpose for which this very enactment was made.

In such areas, I think rampant exploitation by people who are associated or indulging in this kind of illegal mining has led to a situation where thousands of people have become homeless. They have been thrown out of their original habitats. I dare say that this is one of the main reasons why many of the tribals and forest dwellers feel helpless and feel that there is nowhere else for them to go. With the result, they had to, as a last resort, go into unconstitutional acts and go into the arms of extremists. You must remember that we should not create a situation where we will be driving our own people and that too poorest of the poor to activities which are not desirable. In a situation like this, you really cannot blame them. We also have to own up responsibility, give them their rights or stakes or share in this mineral wealth of our country and regulate use of these valuable national resources that we have with us.

As far as this Bill is concerned, you have brought it specifically to do with coal and through an amendment you have added Clause 11(a). But this is only for the production of iron and steel, generation of power, and washing of coal for a mine. But you must ensure that when any public sector undertaking requires it or any other Government undertaking requires it whether it is of the State or of the Centre, they must be given priority before any private and other players.

With these words, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister to come out with a comprehensive legislation with respect to the use and regulation of mines and minerals in our country. I hope he will do it at the earliest available opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Hon'ble Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Mines and Mineral, Development and Regulation Amendment Bill, 2010. Recently this week we had a detailed discussion on illegal mining under Rule 193. In that discussion, I had said that the nature has blessed India with immense natural resources. All the Indian citizens have equal share over these resources. We had a detailed discussion about mineral mafia. We had discussion about Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh states. We had detailed discussion about our natural resources like iron-ore, coal, sand and stone. This is a fact that this wealth is in the clutches of private players or mine mafia. At few places, State Government and big leaders are also involved in illegal mining, but I won't discuss it here. But this has an adverse impact on environment.

It is observed after year 2000 that temperature is rising every year. Even low intensity earthquakes keep occurring. In Kaushambi, earth cracks every year. Many hon'ble Members had discussion regarding coal mining. I have information that in the coming 50-60 years, this illegal mining will have very negative impact on our coal based projects. Today this is matter of concern, Government has to consider over it seriously. We have to do research on other natural resources also.

In Jharkhand 75413 thousand tonnes of coal is extracted every year. There is plenty of production of coal, bauxite, abhrak and copper in Jharkhand. Since Jharkhand has become a new state, there is political instability. There are vast natural resources in Jharkhand. If mined properly, it will develop the state and generate employment for youth. I would like to say that if we evaluate the situation of the last 5 years in Jharkhand, 1500 coal miners have died in the mines. Government should think seriously about the situation, as well as coal miners families and their health. Government has made efforts about the lease allocation, but no mining has taken place. There is Electro Steel Casting Limited Company, where coal block has been allocated in Parwatpur. If we see coal mining made during two years, we can see that

it is brought to Haldia port and then it is sent abroad. If we face scarcity of coal it will become difficult for us to run coal based industries and other big industries. We need to preserve our coal reserves. There is a power plant at Penam Dumka and to run the plant, half of the sanctioned amount of coal is sent to the plant and coal is being pilferaged, on a large scale. The Government should take cognizance of these matters. I was going through the booklet and found that on 20 July, 2009 to revive the endangered 18 coal mines, Government is considering to give them to ten big companies.

We need to think sincerely and we have to calculate, how much reserves we have and ensure its proper mining and utilization.

I would like to conclude by saying one thing. In Shamsabad in district Kaushambi there is a thriving metal related industry, where utensils of brass, copper and other metals were manufactured. My father Late Dharmveer Ji was Minister of labour in Government of India, he had opened a small research centre there, so that the products manufactured there can be brought to Muradabad, a big centre for manufacturing of brass utensils, and the products are exported to different countries also, but the centre is closed till date. Today traders are on the verge of starvation and no production is taking place. I put it before Vigilance Monitoring Committee also that by providing all the facilities for production there, the production can be revived and thus the living standard of people living there can be improved. Today people from outside come there to take advantage. We have plenty of natural resources by which we can increase the production and develop our country by doing export and collecting foreign currency, if we do proper mining and undertake research of that natural heritage.

DR. BALI RAM (Lalganj): Hon'ble Chairman, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on Mine and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Bill, 2010. In olden times India was called the golden sparrow. It was because of the colossal amount of mineral wealth found here. No other country in the world has as much natural resource as we have. As far as Jharkhand is concerned, only Jharkhand has 17 types of minerals. So, I would like to say through you that this Bill should have been introduced early because this mineral wealth is being misused which should immediately be checked. This mineral is used to generate electricity coal can generate sufficient amount of electricity for our country.

Today our country is facing acute shortage of electricity. People of every state are concerned for electricity. We can generate sufficient electricity with coal for our country. I belong to Uttar Pradesh, where 12 coal based projects have been set up to supply required amount of electricity regularly. But, till now, the central Government has not given coal to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. So we were forced to give two projects to the private players and goodness knows, from where the coal started pouring in for these projects, while the coal was not provided at Government level.

Sir, there is unemployment, starvation and poverty in our country. If we will utilize our natural resources in right way, we can control unemployment. There is plenty of coal in Jharkhand. There has been a fire for 40-45 years in coalmines of district Dhanbad, Jharkhand. Coal is burning, the coal reserve is depleting but Government is not concerned about it. Coal is being pilferaged and deaths also happen. In Government mines, contractual system is practice. After extracting coal, the ditches should be filled with sand or soil but it is not done. These ditches catch fire somehow or the other which cause immense damage to both life and property, in the surrounding areas.

This Bill has been brought. Now there is a need for protecting our reserves. We have to look for the future as to whether our national resources will be available in future or not, if we keep offering our resources to other countries also throw away pices then within no time our entire resources will be depleted and we will have to depend on other countries. With these words I strongly support this Bill.

[English]

Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE (Bardhman-Durgapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak on this Bill, which proposes to amend Section 11 of the the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

This Bill was first introduced by the Ministry of Mines, but later on it went to the Ministry of Coal. That is not the problem.

At the very outset, I oppose the basic objective of this Bill because we are offering coal blocks to the private parties, including the foreign ones. There is every possibility of it being misused. We have Coal India Limited. So, this kind of job could be entrusted to the Coal India Limited so that they could explore all these

unexplored mines. The Coal India Limited should be entrusted with this kind of job without giving it to the private investors, including the foreigners. What is your experience? We have already given coal blocks to the private players. So far as I know 228 coal blocks have been offered to the private investors, but nearly 200 blocks have remained unexplored.

So, again, this thing will happen here. What happens is that after so many years, overwhelming majority of the coal blocks allocated for captive use remained unexplored.

Now, coal mines were nationalised in 1972 and 1973. The Central Public Sector Undertaking was given the authority to explore the coal which was unexplored. In the case of steel which was unexplored and un-mined reserves should be done through the Public Sector Coal India Limited. But without doing that, we are giving it to the private investors and to the foreign players. Now, there might be a reversal of the nationalisation policy which the Government is going to adopt now.

Another point is the health hazards. It will have some negative phenomenon because the private players or the foreign players will not think about the rehabilitation of the dislodged people. They will not think about the environment problems. They will not think about the conservation of the precious national resources and minimising the wastage by using the up-to-date technology.

Naturally, there will be open cast colliery. That will create a kind of health hazard. It will be again be a challenge for climate change and global warming. What might happen is that the private players will give it to another party. There will be rise in the illegal mining. The Supreme Court has to interfere in the case of Aravali in Rajasthan and Garhwal in Utrakhand because there is rise in the illegal mining there causing soil erosion and other environmental problems. So, the Supreme Court should interfere into that and stop mining in these two regions.

There is another paradox which was created by the private sector. Virgin coal blocks are being offered for private exploitation whereas the Coal India is rushing to bring coal from Australia and other countries. One may argue that that is done because the quality coals are not available. But that is not tenable or acceptable because we do not know in totality what is our coal reserves. If we do not know that, then how shall we

know what is our quality status? So, the Government should give a serious consideration on all these aspects.

13.37 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

I would like to touch another point about the role of the States. In the bidding process the States are not involved. If the States are not involved, then the States will not be entitled to get some coal from these bidders. The States are the owners of the national resources. So, it will dilute the rights of the States and also have a serious bearing on the Federal structure of the country. So, the role of the States should be kept in mind in the bidding process. When the State wants coal — for example in our State of West Bengal, there is a demand for some coal blocks for the thermal power generation — then the States should be given that. In the case of iron ore, if the States have some say, then why not in coal, the States should have some say that they should be consulted before giving them a lease by bidding process.

There is one other important thing. The Standing Committee of Coal and Steel has submitted its 39th Report on this matter to the Parliament on 9th February, 2009. Now, one year has elapsed. The Standing Committee had made two great and important recommendations. I would like to quote the first one:

“The Ministry of Coal should have brought out a comprehensive White Paper giving details of coal reserves available, the minable coal, coal blocks allotted so far with the present status, reasons for delay in the development of such blocks with the contingency plan to develop them in a time-bound manner so as to achieve the envisaged coal production target before starting the auction of such blocks.”

This is the great and important recommendation made by the Standing Committee, that has not been taken into consideration while preparing this Bill.

There is another recommendation which was given by the Standing Committee that coal blocks in reserve forests and protected forests should not be allotted to save forest, environment and local population. This clause should be incorporated in the Bill; otherwise it will cause damage to the forests and also to the local people. It is because this Bill tells nothing about rehabilitation,

resettlement and protection of livelihood of the project affected people. Who are the most affected people? It is the tribal people.

I would like to mention one more thing. The Report of the Committee on State Agrarian Relations and Unfinished Task of Land Reforms by hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in 2008, tells that nine per cent of the population is tribals, but the land they are giving for such mining is 40 per cent. The data shows that 7,50,000 land has been taken from the tribals for such kind of mining. So, the tribal people will be very much affected. The private player or the foreign players will not bother about the rehabilitation, resettlement, compensation and employment opportunities to the tribal people. That should also be taken into consideration.

My next point is that in the bidding process, it is told that the Government company will not come to the bidding process. But, in the Bill, nowhere it is told that the Government company will be given priority. What is happening? SAIL is still being denied the right of the Chiria iron ore mines which was developed by SAIL itself. The Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, has been knocking from door to door to get the captive iron-ore mines and also the appropriate coking coal blocks. That was not still offered. Whatever coal area is allotted to them, all are non-economical mines. That is why, the SAIL, the RINL, the NTPC and the Coal India, all the Navratna companies, have to form the joint venture to acquire coal assets from outside the country while in our country, there is unexploited reserve. It should be done by the Coal India Limited.

My next point is that the private companies will be allotted coal blocks through a competitive bidding process. The point is that they themselves will not mine. They will give the mines on a contract basis. If this is so, then, mining is the most hazardous and dirty one. Who will be the worst sufferers? The poor workers are the worst sufferers. The private players, the foreign investors, will not bother about the coal mine workers. So, my concrete proposal is that when the Government auctions coal blocks, the Auction Document must include the conditionality of payment to the mine workers, the wages as per the benchmark set by the Coal India Limited through their National Coal Wage Agreement. That thing was not spoken of in the Bill. So, that should be kept in the Bill. The Bill is totally unmindful of that thing.

My last point is that we have to rely more on the non-conventional sources of energy because only three

per cent of the energy is from non-conventional sources and renewable energy. We should exploit more.

With these words, I urge upon the Government to give due consideration to these aspects because we should not push through this Bill. I again reiterate my objection to his Bill and conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to participate in the discussions on the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2010.

As we are all aware, this Bill was initially moved in the year 2008 and subsequently the amended Bill was moved in the Rajya Sabha. It was discussed in the Rajya Sabha. It was passed by the Rajya Sabha. Now, this Amended Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, is before us for deliberation.

Before going into the details of the Bill, I would like to mention here that this Bill is a concise form of the Bill which was earlier circulated. It is confined only to coal and lignite. The earlier Bill was very much alarming in the sense that most of the mineral-bearing States, their Chief Ministers and even the respected Governors had objected to that. Our Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik had repeatedly written to the Prime Minister of India, met him in a group and also raised objections to the idea that was being formed relating to the mineral policy and the Bill that was being contemplated.

Now, I would come to the limited aspect of this Bill which is confined to granting reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence, mining lease in respect of an area containing coal or lignite and this will be selected through the auction by competitive bidding on such terms and conditions that are prescribed, to a company engaged in the production of iron and steel, generation of power, washing of coal obtained from a mine or such other end use. I do not know why this "or" is here. The other one is an expanded idea: "such other end-use as the Central Government may, by Notification in the official Gazette, specify."

So, this is the limited issue which we are deliberating today. But it is not a limited issue. The reconnaissance permit is going to be provided to whom? Who is seeking this? It is the private players. Who are these private players? Are they indigenous or are they foreigners? We would like to understand this from the hon. Minister. Are they getting any claims or suggestions from foreign

players to do reconnaissance relating to coal and lignite? This idea was earlier in the other Bill.

Do we not know, in our country, where the coal mines are and how much of coal is there; how much of lignite is there? It was not available for bauxite, it was not available for iron ore, and it was not available for other minerals. That is why this word was mentioned there. Why have they put it here? If it is necessary, is it confined to our indigenous players, our local players, Indian companies or is it also open for foreign bidders?

Relating to prospective licence, mining lease, etc. these are technical terms and I think, the hon. Minister understands and many of us who are involved in those activities also understand this. But here I would say and we are reminded of the hon. Member from the Treasury Benches also mentioned about the Act of 1957 and the Nationalisation Act as was mentioned by the major Opposition Member who initiated the discussion here relating to the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act of 1973.

It is a Nationalisation Act, but this Act allows private companies. It is not that it does not allow. It allows private companies engaged in generation of power, production of iron and steel, washing of coal, etc. All those aspects are allowed in the Nationalisation Act. It is not that Mrs. Gandhi totally wished away all private players. They were allowed. It is there in the Act and that has also been incorporated here, 'obtained from mines and such other end uses may be specified'.

I would say, this Bill amends the Mines and Minerals Development Regulation Act of 1957 which regulates mines and development of minerals. The 1957 Act states that prospecting or mining operations can be undertaken only after obtaining a prospecting licence or a mining lease. It specifies rules for granting licences on leases. This Bill seeks to allow the State Government to grant a prospective licence or mining lease for coal and lignite to private companies through auction by competitive bidding.

In the Bill itself, it says, 'the State government shall grant such reconnaissance permit, prospective licence and mining lease in respect of coal or lignite'. The State Government shall grant. This word 'shall', Mr. Chairman very well understands, means it has to, the state has no other option. It becomes mandatory. It has no other option. Here the power of the State, the wisdom of the State has been given a go by. The State Government has no role to play. Once the Central Government

decides, the State Government has to follow. You have to sign on the dotted lines to which I object.

This is not the way. Who is the owner of the minerals? Here it was said, it is national wealth. Especially, who says this? I do not want to offend any one, but those States who are not mineral based States say it is a national wealth. But who is the custodian of this wealth? The custodian of the wealth are those States where those minerals are and without consulting them you are going in for bidding. You are going in for reconnaissance licence; you are going to allot everything and ask the State Government that they 'shall' sign on the dotted lines. We are in a federal structure. The Constitution has given certain rights to different States, to all the States. Is this the way?

Rajya Sabha has passed this Bill. On a weekend, we are sitting here to deliberate on this Bill, and this Bill also will be passed. But I want to put it on record here that this is just a beginning of the greater Bill that is going to follow. This is my concern here.

The companies that can bid should be engaged in production of iron and steel and all those aspects have been mentioned here. This Bill also seeks to allow the State Government to grant a prospecting licence. But I strongly believe that the States are the owners of mineral resources and the Government should consult them before adopting a new policy.

Coal blocks that have already been allotted but not been developed according to the time frame that has been set by the Ministry, they should be disposed of through a new law. New blocks may be allotted through competitive bidding. I have no qualms on it. But I have strong reservation relating to the manner in which blocks were allotted in different States, especially in Orissa. I think the Minister is aware about it. A number of State Governments have been allotted coal blocks who have very little to do with coal. They are not going to set up any captive power plant in their States in the near future by five or ten years' time. They do not have any plan. But coal blocks have been allotted in their names. Whereas NTPC and other public sector undertakings are insisting that we should go in for establishment of mega plants in Orissa. In Orissa, a number of industries are coming and they need power. We are unable to get power from the Eastern Grid or from the Central Grid. Their one of the major interest is that we can get coal. Coal is available in Orissa in plenty; it is available in Jharkhand; it is available in West Bengal; it is nearby;

and we can utilise that coal for our power generation. But today very little coal is available in Orissa. That is the problem where major industrial units which have gone in for MoU with Orissa Government are facing difficulty. I think the Chief Minister has apprised the Coal Minister about this.

Repeated objections have been raised by Orissa State Government and many other mineral-based States. A general perception is that the Union Government seems to have a covert intention of usurping the rights of the State Government in matters of allocation of coal blocks.

You had a Screening Committee through an administrative order, to consider applications made by various companies. It was an inter-Ministerial and inter-Governmental body. Respective State Government's representative also were there. But with this huge allocation of coal blocks, the availability of allocation is declining while the number of applicants per block is increasing as demand for coal also is increasing. That is why you have adopted this new bidding idea.

Allocation of coal blocks needed to have been transparent and objective. It was not done earlier. Are you going to review those decisions? It is a difficult job but it needs review. Of course, better late than never. Now you are going in for bidding. Selection process by auction through competitive bidding for allocation of coal blocks to private companies is sought to be introduced through this amendment.

This Bill was moved in the other House by his predecessor Shri Sis Ram Ola in the year 2008; and I would like to quote from the Statement of Objects and Reasons of that Bill, which says:

"While the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973, besides providing for nationalization and associated provisions, specifies who can and who cannot undertake coal mining in India, the entities permitted to carry on coal mining under the said Act follow the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder, for acquiring mineral rights, mining lease and other matters related to mineral administration."

I have certain suggestions to make. Does the hon. Minister propose to have a technical regulator? I do not want the present Minister to soil his hands because he

is heading the Ministry of Coal and he is a good friend of mine. But why not have a technical regulator. Why does he not have one? I was told that this idea was mooted while the Amendment Bill was being prepared, but for some reasons or the other, that was killed. Would he throw some light on it? It would have worked like a Tribunal outside the Ministry and composed of independent people.

Today, the Indian Bureau of Mines is the current technical regulator for the sector and we all know what type of loot took place in respect of iron ore and bauxite, and very little action has taken place.

My suggestion would be to form a technical tribunal where even the Ministry's order would be subject for review and that will also act as a quasi judicial body. If it is not done today, one will be bound to do it tomorrow because that is the way how the world is running now.

Irregularities and delays in clearances were on the rise in the country's mining sector that has seen rapid growth in the past few years. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Coal is going to engage a reputed consultant for the bidding process. I do not think they would again ally themselves with their ally relating to telecom sector. But is he going to have a reputed consultant? Is he going to conduct a feasibility study report? Would mine valuation and financial modelling be done before each block is auctioned because unless it is known to everyone, how can you enhance the rate? Who would document the selection process of coal blocks? Is it the Ministry or someone else?

Sir, I would like to get an assurance from the Government regarding preventing allotment of coal blocks from reserve or protected forests. There is a need to categorise block based on reasonable quantity and quality; and the exact requirement of coal should be determined prior to allotment.

Lastly, I would urge upon the Government that the resettlement and rehabilitation plans, which is a major concern in most of the mineral based States; and community welfare plan should be clearly determined. Unless this is done, there would be serious trouble and discontentment in the coal bearing areas.

With these few words, I conclude.

14.00 hrs.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad): I am thankful to you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. In

fact, I had asked to give me the opportunity to speak during the discussion on illegal mining under Rule 193. But I have been given the chance to speak on this Bill.

Whatever it is, once a chance is given, I am thankful for that.

This is basically for bringing transparency in the allotment process of coal.

14.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I have to say very briefly certain points. Basically, I have got one question in my mind, that is, about the question of auctioning. Both the steel producer and the power generator are participating in the auction process. This question has been raised even in the Standing Committee also. As far as I am concerned since I have gone through the report of the Standing Committee, that also is not satisfactorily replied. One is regulated one and the other one is not regulated. In this context, I would only request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to give a proper clarification on this because power is the most required one. If at all we have to do the coal mining, it is basically for the power generation. The country needs more power. Power is the damn necessity of the day. That is why, priority has to be given to the power sector. I am not either favouring this side or that side. Basically, power is the need of the hour. That is my concern and my request, through you, to the hon. Minister also.

The second point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government is that before bringing this amendment, this limited piece of legislation, whether they have considered the problem of environment because as far as we know, though we are in need of electricity and that is the need of the hour, at the same time, the protection of the earth is also our foremost priority and the utmost responsibility. To use the electricity generated, we should be alive in this world, we should be alive in this earth.

Why I am raising this point is that in the first 45 years of Independence, as reported in the *Front Line* in July, "We have diverted 1.64 lakh hectares of the forest land for mining"—and it is an admitted fact also—"and mining of the mineral has generated 1.4 billion tonnes of waste in just one year, in 2006 and iron ore mining in India has used in just one year, 77 billion tonnes of water, which is sufficient for the drinking water needs of 30 million population of India."

This is the situation. Before going into mining of the coal or iron ore, is it not the duty of the Government and all of us to take the environment aspect into consideration? It is because as far I know, the Environment Ministry has given many suggestions and also lot of correspondence is going on. Lot of deliberation is going on in the Government and I have also understood that there is a difference of opinion among the Environment Ministry, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Mines and other Ministries.

My only request to the Minister is, while doing all these things, while bringing such type of legislation, we have to give environment the utmost priority because we have already started discussing that whatever flood that is taking place today and the change in the timing of the rain, and for all these things, the global warming is the reason. By this, agricultural production is also affected. Not only that, we are undertaking a commitment to reduce the emission by 20 to 25 per cent by 2020. That is the commitment of the hon. Prime Minister to the world. Therefore, what I would like to suggest is, strike a balance between economic development, that is, whatever GDP or whatever we call, and the environment.

To do this, my earnest request is to bring a comprehensive law to control the mining by which we should be able to control basically illegal mining.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that we are aware that in our country more than legal mining, illegal mining is taking place. According to one source, there are about 2496 illegal mining as far as major minerals are concerned, and 28,055 illegal mining as far as minor minerals are concerned, which is more than double the legal mining. Is it not necessary to control this? Is it not the need of the hour to control the illegal mining which is creating more hazards as far as environment is concerned?

I have another suggestion. Because of the need for electricity, we have no other option but to go for coal mining. Though basically this Bill has been brought for the coal auctioning process, I have one request and demand from the Government, that is, as far as iron ore is concerned, we have to ban it entirely. We have no other option as far as coal mining is concerned. But, as far as iron ore is concerned, as I have already said, illegal mining is taking place to the maximum extent. Likewise, illegal mining is taking place in coal also.

Countries like Brazil, China, Japan which are having more minerals than we do are not mining. They are still importing. China is having double the deposits, is richer than us as far as natural minerals are concerned. Still, they are not mining them. They are importing them from India by giving some petty amounts to our exporters. Our rich minerals are going to be exhausted and we will be answerable to the future generation as they will curse us. For that reason, I demand from the Government to bring a comprehensive legislation immediately to ban all these things.

Another measure to restrain illegal mining is to establish stringent vigilance at ports. I would urge upon the Government to instruct all the officers concerned at ports to ensure that not a single gram of iron ore is exported through all these ports. This is not in the hands of any State Government. Let us understand that according to one source, India is one of the highest mining countries. India comes within the first ten ranks in the world as far as mining is concerned, which is alarming.

I have two or three questions as far as this piece of legislation is concerned. I have made some points in general as far as iron ore and other things are concerned. But as far as this particular piece of legislation is concerned, I would like to know whether reallocation of such coal blocks that are not developed within the specific timeframe will be allowed, because many people have taken permission before this Bill comes into force; more than 60 per cent of them are not even operating and have not started developing. I would like to know whether such blocks will be disposed of through policy initiatives to provide opportunities to new bidders. Secondly, this amendment does not contain a clear provision for fixing the criterion for evaluation of the blocks. It is not properly mentioned as to what measures does Government contemplate to arrive at the value of each block. I would also like to know whether the land map is clearly defined to avoid allotment of coal bearing land for establishing any other industry. Whether the proposed amendment makes sufficient provision for the process of resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected people.

In the last 63 years, more than 2.4 crore people have been displaced as far as mining is concerned, whether it is coal, iron ore or bauxite.

More than 2.5 crore people have been displaced and not even 25 per cent of them have been

rehabilitated. This Bill or any other has not taken this into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Therefore, I request and demand from the Minister to reply on these issues, and also to bring a comprehensive Bill so that we can reserve our rich mineral resources for the next generation.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Baharampur): Thank you, Sir. I rise to support the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, which has already been commenced by our hon. Minister.

As I have perceived, the ambit of this legislative document is very much limited. Basically, it relates to the bidding mechanism that is going to be brought into force through this legislation.

The hon. Minister while piloting this Bill, has assured, subject to correction, that the views of the State Governments would have been taken into cognizance before the final settlement of any bidding. The subject of mines and minerals belongs to the Concurrent List of our Constitution, and all the State Governments in our country are playing the major role in regulating and maintaining the mineral resources of our country.

First of all, the individual States should be more careful and more concerned with regard to the scarce resources of our country. We all know that coal is a finite source. As per estimates, India holds 267.11 billion tonnes of geological reserves of coal resources. Now, the annual production is to the tune of 500 million tonnes. In India, 106 billion tonnes of coal are recognized as proved; 124 billion tonnes are indicated; and 37 billion tonnes are inferred. Out of this, the share of coking coal is 33.4 billion tonnes and the share of non-coking coal is 233.8 billion tonnes. We have observed that 81 per cent of production in India comes from open-cast mining and only as meagre as 19 per cent comes from underground mining process. Coal is available in 14 States of our country and the ash-content of the Indian coal is as high as 4,500 gcb and low Sulphur.

It is observed that extractable reserves of coal is limited to 55 billion tonnes, which may last for 50 years, and for lignite it is 38.93 billion tonnes. Hence, I referred to it earlier as a finite source for our requirement. Therefore, we need to have a healthy and robust

mechanism to regulate our scarce resources. Otherwise, we will have to starve for it in the future.

First of all, a number of issues have already been discussed. So, I do not want to repeat those issues. But I would like to draw the attention of the concerned Minister that in so far as the Environment Ministry is concerned, it has already drawn up Green and Red zones in nine major coal blocks of the country stating that it would not entertain proposals for diversion of forest lands in the area marked with dense and moderate forest. Even the Environment Ministry has earmarked 35 per cent area as 'no go area' and remaining 65 per cent forest clearance could be given subject to the assessment on the ground. Usually, it takes 250 days for environment clearance and 150 days to get forest clearance.

Nowadays, in respect of illegal mining, a hue and cry has been raised throughout the country. I think, it is pertinent that more vigorous voices should be raised against illegal mining. In the bidding process, my first suggestion to the concerned Minister is that he should induct the Environment Ministry in the bidding process so as to expedite the process. We know that coal is the fastest growing fuel in our country and it is expected to grow more and more in the near future. And in the Asian countries, we observe that the demand for coal has been rising exponentially specially in India and China. Therefore, we need to save our scarce resources by adopting all mechanisms.

Coal mining is a capital intensive arena which needs to be considered. Therefore, we need huge investment in this area. But, I presume that only bidding process cannot solve the problem because the legislative document intends to bring about transparency in the bidding process. A few days ago, we came to know about the scandal in regard to the IPL bidding process. So, we need to be more careful before taking any action, yet bidding process must be transparent.

I have a few suggestions to make. The Standing Committee has already analysed the Bill and provided a number of very healthy suggestions to the concerned Ministry. Out of this, I must refer to the process of resettlement and rehabilitation of people affected from the project and that should be clearly defined in the Document of Auction including financial packages, employment opportunities and implementation schedule thereof.

Secondly, Special Local Coal Area Development Authority should be set up to regulate the development and welfare of the community. Sir, I come from the State

of West Bengal where a number of mines are being excavated for over decades. It is known that underground coal burning has been continuing in spite of all the efforts to douse the flame. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the flame could be stopped by adopting modern mechanism and by adopting modern technology. In West Bengal, in the coal mining area, looting has been an order of the day. If you go to a coal mine area, you will find that in the full glare of the Administration and in the full glare of police, looting has been going on for years with impunity. That must be stopped. Before we point out our finger at the Union Government, the states should take initiative at their end to take necessary and immediate steps so as to stop the looting of scarce resources of our country. I support the Bill overwhelmingly.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill introduced in the House is related to coal. I agree that the Bill related to minerals of the country particularly coal should not be brought in parts by the Government of India. The situation is very grave today. The way you have followed in this Bill, I accept that new areas will not fall into the hands of the people of the country. I would not like to repeat what my friends have mentioned about environment and other aspects. In spite of all the rules, laws being enforced, we have violated them at this very place. I specially rise here to submit that the wealth of the country particularly minerals, coal are still lying in the places where tribal people live. This condition is prevalent not only in our country but in the world too. 2-3 percent of GDP is being added through the income from minerals. But the situation is very grave. I would like to correlate this matter with the fact that naxalism in the country was never so widespread. This has risen with the loot of minerals and it is more prevalent in tribal areas where there is dense forest. It maintains the ecological balance of the country. In context of the Bill that has been introduced here, I accept that the people of this country would not be able to compete therein. The auction to be held is beyond the capacity of the people. You are taking another big step by keeping the State government completely out of it. It is not suitable at all. We have federal system. People are living there. They work in farming and forests. If situation of law and order rises there, then State Government will have to hold the responsibility solely. Therefore, the biggest lacuna of the Bill is that the State Government is being ignored before introducing the Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that there are many problems being faced by the country from Kashmir and so on. Many challenges are being faced by the country. But, naxalism in the country is the movement of naxalites spread in 20 thousand hectare. The tribal people who are living do not have a say in it. All the naxal movements going on presently, most of them do not have tribal leadership, all of them are non-tribals. All the Satyagrah, peaceful agitations performed in these areas are irrespective of Government. It hardly matters which Government is there, who is the ruling party. The Channel for opposition in these areas has been closed. Only the channel of police has been open there. Corporate, multi nationals come there and deal with the situation according to their own ways and means. They build and destruct the things in their own way. As a result people have resorted to violence in large parts of the country. Most of them are tribals. They have their forests, their livelihood is there and where you have established big industries whether be it Bhilai, or Rourkela what is the condition of the people displaced from there? Everyone has seen because they all have their relatives. Everyone has seen that the situation was so worse after their displacement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, your region is most affected with this problem. People have been displaced from there because of the establishment of big factories. In these circumstances, whether it is iron ore or other types of minerals we are just giving them away, we are exploiting them, though this Bill is not concerned to them. But, I would like to make it clear here that in 10 thousand or 20 thousand hectare area, multi national companies etc. have come there and there is unrest. When mining is done in one thousand hectare area, then at least it affects one thousand hectare area as relatives, brothers and sisters are connected to each other. They witness that the Government is not listening to them neither the police nor the administration. It means, they feel that their future is not safe. This uncertainty goes to a level where there they resort to violence. If Chidambaram ji, the Home Minister had been present in the House, I would have said that naxalism is prevalent in the entire country. I would like to submit that the biggest reason behind naxalism and the unrest and its wide growth is the loot of the minerals. What is happening in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh. Other countries of the world — China, America, Japan etc. are protecting their wealth. China is getting maximum iron ore being exported from here. I am a resident of Jabalpur. There is a place named Shyohara. There are five to seven hills near Shyohara. I would not name that person here, as he is not present in the House.

He has accumulated billions of rupees. He is influencing the elections all around with his money. He has extracted whole of the hills. It is not only the case of minerals, you can visit Rajasthan or to some other area. Forest and hills used to balance the environment of India for ages, many hills have been torn apart as if it were wood. All the hills from Delhi to Jaipur have been destroyed. As a result of which the places which used to have water, have become dry and the places where there was no water and were deserts once, are in flood today. I feel that this World would not survive for more than 50 years. In spite of that we are not ready to pay attention in this regard. Why don't we nationalize it? Coal has been nationalized, you have opened a way therein. You have opened such a way of privatization, which would imbalance the environment. Foreign people would do the mining work and would carry it away. Why don't you bring a Bill which includes all the minerals in a comprehensive manner. Introduce a Bill for all the minerals, have a discussion thereon for three days. Today you are showing your GDP around the World as a medal whether this GDP is so important that the wealth of this country should be extracted from around and sold to the World? It is for this purpose. Whatever I am saying is not being heeded to. Earlier, it had an effect, whatever we used to say, have been effective in some way. Today, our sensitivity has died, we are not ready to think even. The World is on the verge of destruction. Mountains, glaciers, weather everything is changing. The weather I had seen in my childhood that rain continued for twenty days in my village. Today, we have built cities like Delhi, where people are facing problems. Media and TV is there now, they have only one thing to show for 24 hours that road has been blocked in Delhi. Why the road would not be looked? You have destroyed it. All the people who are earning money here are building houses. The most fertile land of the country from Delhi to Jaipur, Delhi to Mathura, Agra and Aligarh, Delhi to Haridwar on both the sides of roads upto one kilometre and one and half kilometres have been bought by the people of Delhi and Jaipur who are earning illegally. They are building farmhouses. What is the logic behind the farmhouses? What is the need to give land to these dishonest people, colony should have built there. If this land go away, these minerals get away, then the upcoming future, this country, our future generations would be cursing us, history would curse us. The whole land of 'doab' is there. What is happening new in Aligarh and Mathura. What is the need to construct this Highway from Delhi to Mathura and Agra, whom you want to show Taj Mahal? People used to visit Taj Mahal earlier too, they will see it in future as well. What is the

logic to construct road on such precious land. We want to compete the World without even having highways, Gandhi had run this country with austerity. His entire movement was the movement of austerity. What is happening today? You organize Commonwealth Games. Then what kind of irregularities is committed therein? What do you want to show to the World? Why do not you let the World see our reality? What difference does it make? 70 to 80 percent people are poor, this is a challenge before us. We have to meet this challenge. Today there is loot of these minerals like Coal. All the mafia from Banaras to Delhi are involved in this loot. All the hooligans, mafias are thriving on the money of coal. When I came here I was thinking that you will control them, but I have not seen a single place where there hooligans have been imprisoned.

Now, you have brought a new Bill. After passing this Bill, the coal will be taken away by the Australian company or the company from outside and the people from here will get nothing. We have no relation to the country, which destroyed and looted. We have no relation to such countries that destroyed and looted the world. Their prosperity has come through looting the world and it's not their own. Their prosperity has come by looting and making the poor their slaves all over the world. Why do you get influenced so much from their prosperity? Why are you standing before them in support? Why are you so influenced from them? We have got the great tradition of culture and education. We have made great buildings like the Taj Mahal, the Konark temple and Khajuraho. The figures, which have engraved such beautiful statues on the hard rocks, are our culture. Gandhiji had worked himself very hard for 40 years in austerity. He used to wear two or three dhotis for the whole year. But what have we done for our salaries in the House? You couldn't make a law for them. You couldn't form a separate organization or commission for the salaries of members of the Parliament. So, our Members have to speak here in compulsion. I was not here for three days. I am very hurt knowing this that the Members have to come to the well out of compulsion in the House. I have been here for 36 years but never saw like this before. Where have we reached and what do we want to say? Organising the Commonwealth Game is like you are trying to grow the lotus in the mud. Why are you becoming the victims of showing off these things? When Gandhiji went to participate in the Round Table conference, he took his edible things with himself and clothes wearing. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya also had gone there, taking the Gangajal with himself. He represented the whole country

there just through this action. He knew the country through and through. I would like to say that my mother used to wear four dresses throughout the year. We were not poor. My elder brother was an officer and used to bring clothes, but my mother did not wear those clothes. My father used to wear four or six clothes. That was our strength. We know how to save, that's why we save. You say that the market of the world suffered the depression but we stood out. We stood out because of our tendency of traditional saving, which is our banking system.

If the members of the NDA had not been in the UPA Government and the left its associate, the LIC and the banking system, too, would have been opened completely for the private companies and the outsiders and even this system would have been destroyed from it. You were about to sell to those banks that are now bankrupt. Why are you influenced from them? Why are you so respectful for them? Why do you want to adopt their civilization? The civilization of our country is the oldest and highest but their civilization may destroy our culture and civilization. Their civilization is going to spoil the environment of the world but our civilization is going to save the environment.

We produce our resources in our villages and everything from within us. If you have brought here this Bill, then I would like to tell why you have brought this Bill for the coal only? Why do you not bring the whole Mining policy? You should nationalize all minerals. Whether it increases the GDP or not but the fact is that the wealth of the country should be used miserly and with austerity. We should do something for the coming generation so that they could feel proud of us.

That is why I am proud of Gandhi ji. I am proud of the people who fought with him for freedom. Central hall is here, within the Parliament where the constitution of India was formed. In those days per day allowance was 45 rupees which is 2,000 rupees at present. We are not petty jawans, we are not government servants. We serve the people of the country.

I would like to tell you that while I was studying, my family did not give me any money because I was in politics and they did not want me to join politics. My needs were met/fulfilled by the people. When I fought my first election, I saved 25,000 rupees. People used to serve me. Even today our expenditure is not managed just through salary, it is managed with people's support. But all the work that you are doing is being wrongly done. You have also introduced a Bill to exploit the coal reserves.

You have bifurcated Bihar. Advaniji is sitting here. At the time of bifurcation these people said that they will help Bihar. The Minister talks about coal linkage in Bihar. There is a huge difference between coal linkage and coal block. For coal block, environment clearance is needed. Arrangement for rehabilitation of people who are displaced in it. Coal linkage means that factory will be made straightaway. In Bihar, it deteriorated. A lot of states were bifurcated but they did not suffer as much as Bihar did. Bihar suffered the most. Therefore, I request you give linkage in Bihar. Bihar is also a part of the country, therefore, please cooperate and provide linkage. In another place there, 100 megawatts of electricity is being generated and all of the coal went into your state. Therefore, I request you that in order to save the future of the country, to save the minerals, to save the country's environment, please nationalize these minerals. In all the things, introduce nationalization, I will support you. But throughout centuries where tribes have been staying with their heritage and minerals, no interference was done there but today interference has increased so much that Naxalism is out of your hands. If you want to eradicate, you will have to introduce mineral policy and nationalize the minerals...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about only this field, please keep doing whatever you are doing in rest of the areas...*(Interruptions)*. Bring in private players in this field, bring Pasco. If you bring in this field the country will go to dogs.

With these words I would like to conclude and thank you for giving me time.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman Sir, this Bill has come for brief matter. This Bill has come because government company is there, corporations are there, production of iron is done, steel is manufactured and in all of this when coal will be used, it was earlier that auction will be done for private players and not for government companies. But for generating electricity, it has been decided for everyone whether the company be national or foreign, that no auction will be held and they will be allotted block. There will be no competition, no auction will be done. Sir, this Bill is dangerous because government will claim that we are putting in a lot of effort to generate electricity and there should be no shortage of electricity in the country. Coal, which is our stored capital, is a non-recyclable thing and if it is burned mindlessly and electricity is used then it might not remain for the posterity/coming generation.

We agree that electricity is needed, country will not move forwarded without electricity and no development

will be done. The government has information that hydel power capacity in the country is 1.5 lakh megawatts but till now measures have been taken for only 46,000 megawatts. Why don't you generate hydel power for one lakh four thousand megawatts? Why are you burning country's capital *i.e.* coal, mines and minerals? Government must give an answer to this question. Nature has given us capacity of 1.5 lakh megawatts in the Himalayan region in the country. The capacity of 1.5 lakh megawatts is there in Uttaranchal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur although arrangement of only 46,000 megawatts is done yet. Therefore, please arrange 1.5 lakh four thousand megawatts. Therefore, essentially we do not support this Bill.

Just now, they are saying that we will give them block, no will be held and no auction will beheld and no auction will be done for national-foreign companies. Country's coal is being burned and coal is being imported from abroad too and then the Thermal plant functions. The state of illegal mining in the country is very serious. After extracting country's capital/resources, the mafia is sending it to other countries. The government has no control over this. I am raising the question of the illegal mining. In India, 2496 major illegal mining and 28,000 small mining are being done or not. Where is your mine-minerals law? Export is being done after illegal mining. You are saying that bill has been introduced for mine-minerals development regulation. Why are you trying to throw dust in people's eyes? You are wasting accumulated wealth and putting the future generation in danger.

There is a question about Bokaro, Bhilai as well. A mine block has been allotted to Electro Steel Casting Limited in Bokaro District. Only 30 percent of the factory has been built so far and coal is being extracted from there and exported to foreign countries. The Government is aware about that, therefore I am raising this question. Whether it is a fact that you have allocated coal block and it is being transported to Haldia and being exported to foreign countries from there. And you are importing coal from abroad for thermal power plants. Coal mafia has an empire. There is no law and order. Mines and minerals are being looted at large scale by coal mafia. Who will look into this specifically? There is Penan coal company in Dumka. Coal is sent to thermal power plant here. Penan coal company is situated in Dumka district of Santhal, where does this coal goes from there, they sell the coal in route itself. It is a specific question as to how long will the coal suffice in the country, for how many days we can use it. What will happen if the coal

is finished? What the future generation would say? Coal will be finished in the country. Coal is being imported from abroad. They say that coal linkage is done through the thermal power plant. Shri Sharad Ji has raised a question that linkage is not being done with the thermal power plant is Bihar.

They are facing acute power crisis. State Government says that the coal linkage for new thermal power plant is pending, Government of India says otherwise. We want to know what the reality is. We will give coal to public undertakings without bidding process and we have constituted a committee for that purpose. I want to say that why such committee has not been constituted for Bihar? Why they do not have linkage. Where the problem lies, maximum power crisis is here only in the whole country.

In the end...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): It should be nationalized. You must say it as well...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Coal was nationalized during the period of Indira Gandhi. This is the situation after the nationalization. We want that all the mines and minerals should be nationalized. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why some people had supported it, we are in minority, what we should do? Instead of coal stone is being supplied to the thermal power plant in Muzaffarpur and Barauni. Who will look into this? Coal is supplied from here and it is crushed. If stone is burnt instead of coal then it will destroy everything. That factory will run for a few days. There is a chaos in Bihar without power. Supply of coal is reduced and linkage is not connected, instead of coal stone is supplied and if we see there is a huge pile of stone in both the thermal power plants...*(Interruptions)* Severe power crisis is there, so the biggest question is that the reserved wealth should not be allowed to burn out like this. We cannot get power while burning out our assets. Water is freely flowing there. First of all power should be generated from the water. If there is no alternative left then coal should be burned nuclear power should be generated, power should be generated from oil.

SHRI GOVIND PRASAD MISHRA (Sidhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak on mines and minerals. In this connection I would like to submit to the Hon'ble Minister that the foremost important thing to know is how much of coal reserves are there in our country and in

how many years this will be exploited. Our first policy should be to determine how much of the quality to be used in how many years. Only after that we should auction the mines in private sector. Because it is observed that whatever the coal production we are doing is being done by CIL. It has been seen that our open ground mines are being given to private sectors and in the underground mines we are doing the work. Government companies are doing mining work there. It is the prior need the we should keep secure the open ground mines by giving them to CIL and coal India. Secondly, now we have allotted these mines to big industrialists and capitalists by way of auction and they have not yet started work there yet.

Though you have cancelled the allocation of mines of some people but some people are still having mines on one account or the other. Injustice was done with the farmers at the time of land acquisition and it is very serious matter. You give mines to private sector. What happened in Utter Pradesh, you know better because you come from Utter Pradesh. You speak about setting price of farmers, to quote rates of 3-4 years and you give average of that rate. You have done land acquisition and you give money for that without thinking that there would be no crops on the land he was cultivating he can produce only after he will buy land there is will take 2-4 years time, you should think about this. He will have to suffer, he is engaged in agriculture work. If his work stops you should be concerned about it. You displaced him, he was an agriculturist he was affected. Have you ever thought about this? We say that there are 70 percent farmers in India who are totally dependent on agriculture. Their work stops because their land is acquired and they are told that they have been given compensation for it. Their means of earning stops, have you ever thought about it. This discussion is going on since long that rules for giving compensation to farmers for acquisition of their land will be amended. But nothing has been done as yet, companies imposed conditions after acquiring land. First of all I would talk about coal India Limited that companies under Coal India Limited have put conditions between district administration and the effected people that they will take so much land and give so much compensation and employment to them. In spite of this they are cheating the farmers, their land is being acquired, environment is being polluted and conditions of providing employments are being violated. Coal India issues order that these rules have been formulated. I would like to ask what authority does coal India have to say such thing? Those conditions should be implemented which

were accepted by company with farmers and District administration. Not only this CSR work is for the community development of farmers and its rate is to be given on the basis of percentage production but that too is not done on time and they are saying that their budget has lapsed. It is very unfortunate that injustice in being done to the people of that area. You yourself are issuing tenders and you are allocating the work and yet work is not being done on time. The need is this that the money should be given to District Headquarters and they should look after the work. Today circumstances are very serious and Indian farmers are being looted. You must know that you and the then companies had decided while taking mines from the farmers that they will be given Indian Mining Institute. Coal Minister had made an announcement and the then Chief Minister had put some conditions before the people and the mines were taken from the people. Later on another Minister came and rejected those conditions telling that this is not the proper way. Today Ten mines are operating open ground and you are taking at least Rs. 4000 crores per annum. Environment of this area is being polluted. When the matter of opening college was raised, it was approved but now that minister has rejected the proposal. It is very sad.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had asked for two minutes time and I have given that much time.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI GOVIND PRASAD MISHRA (Sidhi): I would like to say that regarding the royalty of coal, you have calculated it as per tonne. People of the area are being affected by the rate of coal in market trade. Now it is time to think of its royalty. I would like to say Hon'ble Minister about the whole structure of royalty, and the injustice being done to the states, in this regard the benefit of this should be given to the people of that district.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak therefore I would like to thank you. Since the time is less, I would like to conclude.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am happy that the honourable Members of our House are so much aware about this small amendment and that they have fully approved this amendment and also given their precious suggestions. I would like to assure the whole House that the precious

suggestions given by them will be seriously considered by our Government and these will continue to benefit for a long time. Only one Hon'ble Member who focussed to a political speech gave little suggestions. While he is very serious Member and belongs to such region that he could give us great suggestions about that region but his speech was political. He said that the coal blocks were given to their own people. Firstly, I would like to submit that the coal blocks allocation work started in 1996. Our Government came into power in 2004. Our Government carried forward the tradition of the last Government. If coal blocks were allocated to our own people then it was also done by the previous Governments...*(Interruptions)* You please sit down. Putting allegation in such a way is very easy. But what is the reality behind this? Why the then Governments did so, and why our Government have done this. Today if we want to make industrialisation in our country, if we want commercialisation and if we want to eradicate poverty and unemployment then there is a need of industrialisation. If we want to do industrialisation then there is need of power. If we want to have power then there is need of coal. We were bound to allocate coal blocks to private sectors and so was also done by the previous Governments also so that we can fulfill the scarcity of coal in the country. This is the fact. I agree that coal excavation has not been as per our expectations during the last Governments as well as the present Government by allocation of coal Blocks. That is why our Government have decided that we will not stop private sector in mining the coal but will try to bring genuine player in this field. Who will come and fulfill the scarcity of coal. How can genuine player come? We cannot recognise who is genuine and who is not genuine?

Genuine players will come through bidding process and will invest before the allocation of coal, those people will be considered as genuine player by the Government. If such people get coal block through bidding process then coal blocks will be allotted to them. Definitely in our country scarcity of coal will be fulfilled. The Government has assessed this thing therefore the Government have brought this amendment. Nobody should have any objection in this regard. The money that will come through bidding process will go to the state Governments and not a single paisa will go to the centre. We want to adopt bidding process to get rid of the allegations and to bring transparency in that work. We want that production of coal increases by bidding process and the growth increases. This is our aim.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many hon'ble Members — Shri Hansraj Ahir, Shri Kishorechandra Dev, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Dr. Bali Ram, Shri Saidul Haque, Shri B. Mehtab, Shri Prahalad Joshi, Shri Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, Shri Sharad Yadav, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Govind Prasad Mishra have expressed their opinions on this Bill. We respect their opinions and assure them that from time to time we will try to solve this problem. If hon'ble Members could limit themselves to coal and lignite only then it would have taken less time and we could have discussed more broadly in this regard but hon'ble Members did not limit themselves to coal only, they discussed about minerals also. This amendment is related to coal only and not related to minerals. Therefore I rise to speak about coal only because this matter is related to coal and lignite. Since Ministry of Mines deals with this matter therefore Bill has come by the name of Mines and Minerals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the Hon'ble Members have drawn the attention of the Government towards illegal mining. I see that hon'ble Members are conscious about the matter of illegal mining. I think that there will be a check on illegal mining in the near future. Those hon'ble Members who have referred to illegal mining whether it refers to the state where there is government of Shri Sharad Yadav Ji's party or the Government of BJP or BSP—these hon'ble members are very conscious and concerned. I would like to say that so far as the question of illegal mining is concerned, then Law and order is the area of the State Government, police comes under the pervue of the State Government, the Government of India has nothing to do with it, only state government can stop illegal mining, because police comes under their jurisdiction and administration is theirs, it is their responsibility to maintain law and order. Therefore in view of the awareness of the hon'ble Members it is hoped that perhaps there will be a check on the illegal mining in bear future.

Sir, an hon'ble member has mentioned about the fire in jharia-dhanbad there is no doubt that this fire has been for the last 30-40 years and there is also no doubt that for the last 30-40 years the State Government and the Central Government might have been trying their level best in this regard to rehabilitate the people but till date the work has not been done. I feel very proud to say that the Central Government for the first time have sanctioned a package of Rs. 10 thousand crore and given instruction to State Governments to do the rehabilitation work themselves. For this the Government of India will provide full fund because every life of our country is very

precious and there are lakhs of people. We hope that the concerned state governments, whether it is the Government of West Bengal or whether it is the Government of Jharkhand, these two state Governments will complete the work of rehabilitation very soon and will utilise that package to save the lives of thousands of people.

Sir, many issues other than coal have also been discussed. There were queries as to what should be the auction process? Hon'ble Members know that when rules will be framed then the auction process will be discussed. All these things will be taken into consideration while chalking out the auction process and it will be ensured that there should not be any less to the Government. Some hon'ble Members pointed out that foreign companies are also coming in this field. Our hon'ble Raghuvansh Babu was saying that they will take all the coal to foreign countries. Raghuvansh Babu, not a kilo of coal is allowed to be taken outside India. They can do mining work, if they compete and if their quotation will be competent then they can do mining here but cannot take a kilo of coal to abroad. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: On Haldia Port.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The company which is being talked about, does mining here and takes the coal to Haldia. As far as I have the information, they have a power plant in Haldia and uses coal there. They cannot send it to a foreign country. Nobody can send coal out of India and if someone does it he will be imprisoned. If someone sends even one kilogram coal outside India he will be imprisoned.

Sir, I don't want to speak much because whatever is said revolves around these topics only. Our hon'ble member Shailendra ji has mentioned about soil of Kaushambi, will get it examined through hon'ble Minister of Mines. Kaushambi's soil is very valuable. It is the soil of doab. People like Dharamveer has born here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not interrupt.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I think it will be specially kept in mind that there is no lacunae in rehabilitation. Lacunae has happened and we fully agree that due to which law and order situation has deteriorated. If Naxalite problem has surfaced in these areas then it essentially has the element of lacunae on the part of all the Governments. Without lacunae there would have been no naxalite problem. It should be ensured that there is no lacunae in the rehabilitation process.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, With these words I request the House to pass this bill since we have to take Private Members Bill at half past three.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I support this bill. I would like to know from Minister Sir through you about the minerals which are in our state, especially the mine of Sapphire in my constituency and this mineral is very costly in which sometimes theft takes place and then and it has been not explored till now. I want to know that what the Government is doing for it? Secondly, I want to know about Bauxite and Magnese, which are above the Hills of Katra. Also Lime is submerging, and loss of 90 Thousand Crore Rupee will occur due to its submergence ...*(Interruptions)*. I am only asking the question. Whether hon'ble member is not getting it?

I wanted to know what the Government is going to do about Three-Four minerals which I have mentioned? Will you forward the message or reply yourself?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, this amendment is regarding Coal and Lignite. The minerals about which hon'ble member is taking, is looked after by the Ministry of Mines. I assure hon'ble member that I will convey his sentiments and complaints to hon'ble Minister of Mines. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have asked. Other members will also ask. You please sit down.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, if hon'ble member wants to ask something then I will reply.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): We are asking question on such an important legislation and Minister sir is ready to give reply. I request you to let him reply. He is replying about the valuable property of the country.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: You ask question.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I am asking question. I am asking whether Coal India has itself asked for 138 Blocks. Whether you are going to put them also in bidding process for bidding, I want answer on this. I would like to add one more thing that during NDA Government tenure out of the 221 blocks only 2 blocks were allocated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your question is over. Your rest of the talk will not be recorded. Have you asked your question.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever you are saying is not being recorded. You please sit down.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, hon'ble member has mentioned that Coal India has asked for 132 Blocks, I would like to assure him that if Coal India, Singreni, which are Government companies, asks for one to 1000 blocks, we will allot them, Coal on priority basis, and after that only allow bidding.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I have a small question. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister that at those places where we have our minerals or coal mines, and where our tribals are residing, they have a hereditary lineage there, will they also be getting 25 or 26 percent as tribal affairs minister has said that we will give benefit to them also, whether tribals living in coal areas get share, will they also be benefitted?

SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Shailendra ji has raised a question, and I have to say it again that it is not related to our ministry, but as far as I have got information the Government is considering to bring MMDR Act in amended form and if it comes then there will be definitely some percentage, it will be 20 percent or 25 or 30 percent.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: You are talking about 26 percent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Government brings bill, then it will be known.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Whatever it is, whether it is tribal, scheduled caste or forest inhabitant, it will be applicable to every one, but when the Government brings it. I do not know when the Government is bringing it? But as you have said, we have also got same indication.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now there will be no Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Sir, only four-five people are there ...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can we have Zero Hour? At half past three we have to take Private Members Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Sir, Hon'ble members are sitting since morning for Zero Hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Both the works can not be taken up.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would seek a clarification from the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development. Mr. Kapil Sibal is here. I know he is a very erudite lawyer and he knows the law more than anybody else. The other hon. Minister is also here. Because of this amendment and issuing notification, since you have mentioned in the Bill, ".the State Government shall grant such reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence, etc...", are you not compelling the State Government to have the reconnaissance and also issuing permission?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask the question directly.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: This is an encroachment on the rights of the State. I should say that this is an encroachment.

[Translation]

SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Sibal is saying that he can not reply till he sees the bill. You have asked this question to Sibal. Hon'ble minister will reply you later on. But I want to assure you that no encroachment will take place in any of the areas of State Government. We have told you that whatever income comes from bidding process will go into the account of State Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Mr. K.S. Rao.

DR. K.S. RAO: I am happy the hon. Minister has brought this legislation and in saving thousands of crores of rupees to the Government of India by ensuring that the coal allocation will be done only by auction and competitive bidding. But on one of the sentence I just

want to have a clarification. The Bill says, "provided that the auction by competitive bidding shall not be applicable to an area containing coal or lignite— (a) in which cases, where such area is considered for allocation to a Government company or corporation for mining or such other specified end use;"

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

DR. K.S. RAO: I am only asking the question.

It is because people have become so wise that the allocation of the coal block will be made to the Government Undertaking, and in turn the Government Undertaking, after mining the coal, will give it to a party of their choice. I want to know from the Minister whether they will put a stipulation where competitive bidding is not there and given to the Public Sector Undertaking and whether all such coal that is extracted will be given once again only to a power sector company which is under the Public Sector Undertaking and not to the private sector.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Before introducing the bill, we called a meeting of mines Ministers of State Governments which was attended by mines Minister of all the States. They gave their consent for amending the bill. Therefore, there is no need to worry much on part of State Governments.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the last one.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): With your permission, since I was asked, it is a very rare occasion that I am now standing in this House to give free advice to an hon. Member of the Opposition. I am very happy to do so. If you really notice Section 11A which is the main Section, it reads that:

"The Central Government may, for the purpose of granting reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of an area containing coal or lignite, select, through auction by competitive bidding on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed, a company engaged in."

Once that selection process takes place by auction through competitive bidding and that process is over and the company is chosen, then the State Government shall grant a licence. Naturally, once it is selected by the

Central Government, the State Government shall have to grant a licence for them to prospect. There is no encroachment in the power of the State.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Proper disposition is not there.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You asked me a question whether there is encroachment on the power of the State. I said, no.

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM (Lalgaon): Deputy Speaker, Sir, in recent reply given by hon'ble Minister, it was said that we will provide coal to Government sector. Whatever the quantity they needed. I would like to ask minister that whether he will make available coal for the 12 projects running in the State of Uttar Pradesh for producing electricity?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISAWAL: This Bill is not concerned with this but the honourable MP comes from the state and if we do not convince any M.P. from our state then it is not good this for us. All the applications related to coal leakage forwarded by U.P. Government are for 12th Five Year Plan and this is 11th to Twelve Year Plan. It will be taken up when consideration on 12th Five Year Plan begins. If the Ministry of Power recommend on all applications of U.P. Government and send to us then we will definitely consider then seriously.

I, therefore, request you to tell the State Government to start production on the coal block that have been given. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK (Thane): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister, though this is not related to this question but the Government of Maharashtra had also demanded this. I therefore, submit that there is huge demand of electricity in Maharashtra and they have demanded it for that purpose only in mind. Please keep this in mind. It would be better if the Government pay a little attention towards this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.30 hrs.

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

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH (Arrah): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move—

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 18th August, 2010."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 18th August, 2010."

The motion was adopted.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS

(i) Identification of families living below poverty line and welfare measures for them—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 12.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen to me for we have to board a train. So, you please start Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Zero Hour will start at 6.00 o' clock in the evening. The proceedings of the House will take place according to the decision already taken.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now you are on the chair. Decision depends on your discretion...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever decision has been taken, the proceeding is going on according to that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Sir, I request you and hon'ble Members that we are only 2-3 persons. If we are given 2 minutes time each then Zero Hour will be completed very soon.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You were saying two members, now you are saying three members. If you go on speaking in this manner, then, your number will increase gradually.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may please take the consent of the House. The topic you are taking up today is not going to conclude today, we all know this. My submission is that we are 4-5 persons, so please allow us to speak for 2 minutes each. They will catch our rain ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just a while ago you were saying four persons. Now you are saying four-five. This four plus five makes nine.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, very important matters are raised in Zero Hour. I would like to request the members. As we have to go hence we request you. If we were not to go there was no problem
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request the Hon'ble Members that zero hour will start at 6.00 p.m. only.

Now Shri B. Mehtab ji will speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, no we are having very important issue. Therefore, if you take it up at midnight, we will sit here. But my request is just that
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mahtab, are you speaking?

[Translation]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was thinking that now you are taking zero hour.

[English]

Sir, I will speak as the second speaker and not now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. The next speaker is Shri Adhir Chowdhury.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Baharampur): Sir, I must appreciate our hon. Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who is very much dear to all of us, as he has initiated this Resolution in regard to the identification of people living below poverty line as well as the welfare measures that need to be taken for those poor and vulnerable sections of our society.

[Translation]

The day since I came in the House, I have been hearing the discussion on B.P.L. I also know that this will continue for many years. I don't know when we will be able to resolve the matter. I am surprised that when we can succeed in Chandrayan Mission, we can lead in information technology then why we cannot do the work of BPL identification. It is very painful to me. India is land of contrast. On the one hand there are rich and on the other hand common man fights with poverty. There was a report published from U.N., which says there are 65 million people using mobile phone.

15.37 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

But we do not have toilets in our country in the same number which is very much surprises figure. When World Bank give the data, it says there are 420 million BPL, when Saksena Committee presents figures, it says BPL are 500 million. Economic Survey says 600 million and Arjun Sengupta Committee says it is 770 million then I would like to ask whether it is correct data. What is the truth behind it? Today, we are not able to draw any parameter or criteria so that we can make an estimate of actual BPL population in the country because it is a critical component in a country like India.

[English]

Identification of BPL is recognised as a critical component specially for the delivery of welfare measures to the poor people.

[Translation]

As the work is accomplished by the Union Government and sometimes by the State Government, but whatever be the case it is necessary to have BPL list and we are unable to prepare this BPL list till today. We find sometimes Supreme Court intervenes. Sometimes we think what is the need of legislators like us when court gives its decision on every matter. Later, it is found that it is

retribution for which we have to face Supreme Court direction.

All of us should think why we have not been able to identify BPL till date. We all should ponder over this. There have been several governments one after another and this has been the greatest issue before every government. Raghuvansh Babu, who has brought this resolution, though once had been minister of rural development but he could not succeed in this. So, he had to make a demand from the government through this resolution that BPL identification list be prepared at the earliest. Sir, I want to show the serious circumstances of India. Only yesterday, the newspaper Statesman carried the news item

[English]

A front-page report in the Delhi Edition of the national daily dated 5th April stated that frail, malnourished children of Ganni village in Eastern Uttar Pradesh are eating moist lumps of mud laced with silica, a raw material for glass sheets and soap, because they are not officially classified as poor and so are ineligible for official help.

This is the plight of the poor people of our country who by all parameters are eligible to get the benefit of welfare measures under the BPL category. But it is regrettable to say that we failed miserably to provide them the minimum mite of succour so that they can at least survive. There lies the most crucial and deplorable phenomenon of our country India.

We came to know that this Government is going to bring a legislation for the food security of poor people of our country. Well in advance, I extend my warm and wholehearted congratulations to this Government and request the Government to bring this legislation as early as possible.

[Translation]

Economic Survey says, we have Planning Commission on one side and the Ministry of Rural Development is on the other and National Sample Survey came in between. They have no coordination with each other Planning Commission has its own way, it relies on National Sample survey, while the job of Rural Development Ministry is to identify them. Rural Development Minister every other day directs to the States to identify them. A cutoff line should be drawn. For instance, Planning Commission may say

that this is the cut-off line and you cannot go beyond that. But ground realities are different. Today, it is most imperative that Planning Commission, NSSO and Ministry of Rural Development should be made to sit together and they should be asked to leave the dispute aside and prepare a proper BPL list at the earliest.

In the meantime, the Government took initiative regarding Identity Card. You know that the Government spends a lot of money for Identity Cards so that the intention of providing facility to BPL families could be fulfilled.

[English]

Estimation by the Planning Commission, on the basis of sample survey on household consumption expenditure based on NSSO 61st round says that poverty ratio is 28.3 per cent in rural areas, 25 per cent in urban areas, and 27.5 per cent in the country as a whole. The corresponding poverty ratio is 21.8 per cent in rural areas, 21.7 per cent in urban areas and 21.8 per cent in the country as a whole.

[Translation]

Sometimes they spend thirty days, sometimes a whole year (recalling period) is taken for estimation. Meanwhile, the Planning Commission has also set an expert committee.

[English]

It was to examine the issue and suggest a new poverty line and estimates. While estimation of poverty had already been done by the Planning Commission – which I have already referred to – a census to identify the BPL households has been conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development.

[Translation]

Ministry of Rural Development set up committees in 1992, 1997 and 2002 and tried to prepare BPL list because if somebody's name is included in BPL list, he can take benefits under PDS, RSBP and Indira Awas Yojana, can take benefit of Old Age Pension, can take benefits under Swarna Jayanti Rural Self-Employment Scheme. There is, therefore, a lot of tension in the masses in rural areas for BPL card. It has been observed that the rich and powerful people get their names included in BPL list forcibly while the backward people, who have no power, are excluded. Today, all over India, it is a big

problem for the scheduled castes, the scheduled tribes, the backward class and the minorities.

[English]

In 1979, the Government of India, the Planning Commission had constituted a task force on projection of minimum needs and effective consumption demand, which on the basis of a systematic study of nutritional requirement recommended a national norm of 2400 kilo calorie per day and 2100 kilo calorie per day for rural and urban areas. These figures were derived from age, sex, occupation-specific and nutritional norms, by using all India demographic data from the census 1971.

The national-level official poverty lines for the base year (1973-74) were expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49 only in rural areas and Rs. 57 in urban areas which correspond to a basket of goods and services that satisfy the calorie norms of per capital daily requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas, which was considered as the minimum required for healthy living. The cut-off line has been updated for price rise for the subsequent years. However, the new poverty line does not correspond to the minimum calorie norm as according to the NSSO data, to reach the minimum calorie requirement the poor would need far more consumption expenditure than the monthly cut-off line so arrived at by just adjusting Rs. 49 and Rs. 57 for inflation.

For instance, for the year 1999-2000 the monetary cut-off corresponding to the minimum calorie requirement norms should have been Rs. 565 in rural areas and Rs. 628 in urban areas. Whereas, as per the price updated methodology, as used by the Planning Commission, the poverty line was Rs. 328 and Rs. 454 respectively. This is the chimera. It is really a conundrum that has been haunting all of us. No one here is satisfied with the BPL List that has been prepared either by the Planning Commission or by the Rural Development Ministry.

The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices was taken as Rs. 356 per capita per month in the rural areas and Rs. 539 per capita per month in the urban areas. As is evident, the level of income would have permitted both the rural and urban people to consume just about 1820 kcal, whereas to consume the desired norm of 2400 kcal for rural and 2100 kcal for urban areas the cut-off line for determining BPL status should have been around Rs. 700 in the rural areas and Rs. 1000 for the urban

areas. Thus a large number of rural people with consumption in the range of Rs. 360 to Rs. 700 have been deprived of the BPL status. What is more distressing is the fact that calorie consumption of the poor has been consistently declining since 1987-88 .

[Translation]

It implies that the calorie consumption of the masses is deteriorating day by day. I want to say that sometimes, it is income criteria, sometimes it is consumption criteria, sometimes they say that there will be a mixed formula, that is 13 Point Scoring Formula. First of all, the Government should ensure that a foolproof BPL list is prepared. If a foolproof BPL list is prepared, then the delivery of welfare measures being taken by the Government would become easier. We all are in favor of this Resolution, we all support it. Besides, I would like to urge the Government to free us at the earliest by preparing a consensus list through Planning Commission, NSSO, Rural Development Ministry, etc. and experts, if required.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, the Resolution which has been moved by our esteemed Member of this House, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, relating to identification of families living below poverty line and welfare measures for them is a very important issue which is being discussed in this House. This has been moved by an eminent Member of this House. Being experienced in legislative practice and also being in charge of the Ministry of Rural Development for quite a long time, I think it is borne out of him that he has thought it fit to bring this Resolution for our consideration and for the consideration of this country.

This issue, of course, was being discussed when he was manning this Ministry. The matter went to the Supreme Court of India and he was at a great difficulty because during his tenure this matter could not be settled. He has categorized four specific points. The points are: identify the families living below poverty line in all the States; provide vocational training and thereafter gainful employment to at least one member of every such family; to provide family pension at the rate of not less than Rs. 3000 per month to every such family where gainful employment is not provided to any member of that family; and last is, provide quality education up to senior secondary level to all children belonging to such families free of cost.

The first one is to identify the family and the other three are the provisions which should be made to empower them to come to a specific level. I would say that Raghuvansh Babu through this Resolution urges the Government to take steps in a time-bound manner to eradicate poverty from the country by the year 2015. That means he has put up a span of five years that within these five years, let us focus on these specific issue and that it should not be an open-ended situation where we will be providing funds for the amelioration of poverty but ultimately it just goes down the drain and nothing tangible happens.

I am reminded that this poverty amelioration programme was started 40 years ago. The Government of India during Shrimati Gandhi's tenure – I think it was the second term of Shrimati Indira Gandhi after that Garibi Hatao - 1971 slogan – specific programmes were made by the Central Government and by the Planning Commission that we have to target eradication of poverty. Later on that amelioration word came in.

During Raghuvansh Babu's tenure all sitting Members of Lok Sabha were told that you are heading the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee of your Districts and that you declare a list of genuine below poverty line people who have not got Indira Avas Yojana. I am just giving one instance. So, lists were prepared and I think every concerned Member must have prepared that list. It was also sent to the Central Government and it was also on the website. It was displayed every year how many Indira Avas Yojana units are being allotted to us in specific districts and how many people are getting it so that we can deduct and find out that this much is the wait list. I think everybody is being surprised that the list never ends. It never comes down. That list rather goes on increasing year after year. It is not a mathematical calculation. The answer is that it is not a mathematical calculation because many people who are either below the line or just above the line or on the verge of the line, just one drought or one failed monsoon drives a lot of people below poverty line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the time allotted for the discussion on this Resolution is over. I have a list of six more speakers to speak on this Resolution. If the House agrees, the time of the Discussion may be extended by one hour. I think the House agrees to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The basic question which was raised by the previous speaker, namely, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, is, why are there so many numbers coming up? The Planning Commission is coming up with one number, the Ministry of Rural Development is coming with out with another percentage; the UNDP is coming out with another percentage; the World Bank is coming with another percentage. Some say it is 79 per cent; some say it is 81 per cent; some say it is 80 per cent. The Saxena Committee as appointed by the Ministry of Rural Development has come out with another estimate; The Planning Commission says it was 27 per cent and now with the report of the Tendulkar Committee another 10 per cent has been added and so it is at 37 per cent. Why is this much of a confusion? Any policy planner would be confused. Any person who has certain interest in this programme is totally confused. What is the actual number? I think, being a professor of Mathematics, Dr. Raghuvans Prasad ji has an answer to this. It has nothing to do with statistics. It is pure mathematics.

Sir, as far as I understand with my limited understanding of the Parliamentary practices, estimates of poverty is done by the Planning Commission through a sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization. The Planning Commission uses the poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criteria to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in the rural areas and at Rs. 56.64 per month in the urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level. Can we get a correct picture if this is the method in which poverty is to be determined? But this is the method by which the Planning Commission is doing it.

16.03 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*]

Madam, there is no gainsaying in mentioning it here that irrespective of party affiliations, respective Governments wanted to show to the society and the people at large that it was during their tenure that poverty actually had come down. Keeping that in mind actually everybody had been trying, I may be allowed to use this word, to fudge the numbers. That is the root of all problems. The State-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines using the State-specific price indices and inter-State price differentials.

The national poverty line in the year 2004-05 was Rs. 356.30 per person per month in rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per person per month in urban areas. But the identification of poor is done by the Ministry of Rural Development through a door to door survey with 100 per cent coverage. I am of the opinion that the survey which is done by the Ministry of Rural Development is very accurate in the sense that it is a door to door survey. But there is a flaw in that. Who does that survey? Is it not very subjective? The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the States and the Union Territories to conduct BPL census to identify BPL families who could be provided assistance under the various programmes of the Ministry. The BPL census is generally conducted at the beginning of every Five Year Plan. The Ministry of Rural Development has conducted three such BPL census so far, the first being in 1992 for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

In 1997, it was conducted for the Ninth Five year Plan and in 2002, it was for the Tenth Five Year Plan. The last BPL census – this is very interesting – which was conducted in 2002 was based on the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters were used, as recommended by the Expert Committee headed by Dr. P.L. Sanjeeva Reddy. These were land holdings, type of house, availability of clothing, food security, sanitation, ownership of consumer durables, literacy status, status of household labour, means of livelihood, status of children, type of indebtedness, reason for migration and preference for assistance. These are the 13 parameters on which, in 2002, the BPL census was taken. The income and expenditure criteria adopted during the BPL survey of 1992 and 1997 had their own limitations in the sense both the approaches suffered from criticism of having subjectivity and with this scoring also, there is limitation. So, a recent suggestion has come in and I would prefer that system. Scoring is one part. But can you have a system or mechanism in place that automatically many well to do people also will come out of BPL list? Can that be also brought in? A person who is identified in the BPL category is there for life long until and unless someone strikes him out. But can you have a mechanism where, with this scoring system, you can also automatically remove a person from that list? And that is very much required. Otherwise, that list will only go on multiplying.

One of the important features of the guideline issued for BPL census, 2002 was to put a ceiling on the number of BPL households to be identified in conformity with

the poverty estimates of Planning Commission and there, the trouble arose. That is why, many State Governments objected to it including the State Government of Orissa. Subsequently, the ten per cent plus and minus was also added to that but I am not going into that aspects.

We would like to understand from the Minister as to what they are going to do for the Eleventh Plan census. Already Dr. N.C. Saxena's Report is before us. The terms of reference are also in the public domain but I would like to cite one instance out of five terms of reference which are given to the Expert Group. It is to recommend institutional system for conducting survey, process for data validation and approval of BPL list at the various levels about which the hon. Member has mentioned. This is the first part. How are you dealing with this part out of the five issues?

I would conclude my speech by referring to another aspect. I think last month, there was a news headline in many newspapers and the media including the television channels.. The headlines said that new poverty index finds Indian States worse than Africa. Another headline said that half of India's population lives below the poverty line.

The anxiety was occasioned by a new study on global poverty released last month by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. There is nothing to be happy about it and there is nothing to talk about it in a big way. That is the concern and that is the anxiety. This study finds that eight poorest States in India contain more poor people than 26 poorest African countries combined together. It also estimates India's poverty rate at about 55 per cent. What does this signify? We have travelled a long distance during the last 63 years. As it is a democratic country concerned about the poor and their development, a lot of effort is being made. The poor people of the country have a say in the administrative mechanism of our system. But the poor of the country still remain poor for very many factors.

The suggestion which Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has made is to provide vocational training. This is not the subject only of the Ministry of Rural Development. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has a greater role to play in it; the Ministry of Industries also has a greater role to play in it; The Ministry of Panchayati Raj also has a greater role to play in it, and above all the Planning Commission has to take a holistic view.

My question here is this: When the free market mechanism is determining our progress, does the Planning Commission, does the Five Year Planning have any significance to control poverty and to eliminate poverty? It does not. That is the basic question which we should address. Doling out certain sums to the poor will not help to bring them up to a certain standard of living.

While supporting the Resolution moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I would only say that unless we empower the poor through education, we cannot ameliorate and we cannot remove poverty in this country.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Madam Chairman, first of all I would like to thank Sh. Raghuvansh ji as he has brought a very good resolution. He has tried to put all his experience as an MP and as a Minister in this resolution and has tried to understand the problems of poor people. He deserves thanks for this particularly.

Since I have been in Parliament, I have been pressing that people try to score the points. All the discussions are lost in allegations and counter allegations. It seems that if the Parliament is not in session, then there is no problem in the country. Parliament session goes on for 70-80 days hardly, but everyday firing is taking place somewhere, everyday someone is dying. Someone is converting, somewhere flood is there, somewhere famine is there. It seems there are no problems in the country when the Parliament is not in session. Its reason is that we want to make headlines only, we don't want to discuss the issues and try to make ourselves the representatives of the people. Raghuvansh ji, therefore, deserves thanks as no one is trying to score today, otherwise it seems that the Congress is here to fight with BJP, CPM to figjit with Trinmool, SP to fight with BSP. Therefore, these do not deserve thanks. I have talked about the BJP and the Congress, I have talked about ours as well. Today, weather is pleasant, it's raining outside, we are talking about BPL in a cordial atmosphere and it would be better if these 10 persons keep running the Parliament as we will be able to reach some decision. I think we will get best results if we do our level best. So, the Parliament deserves thanks.

Secondly, two-three things I have been listening to since childhood are that India is an agriculture dominant

country. We take birth in poverty, and are brought up in it and leave the world giving a legacy of loan of our generations. The situation prevails even after 63 years of independence. A saying goes on '*Garib ki lugai, sabki Bhaujai*' (a poor man is oppressed by everyone). In childhood, I did not understand the meaning of the saying. They are right. When a person is poor, he is called by improper names. A mature person or a child is called 'Hey, you, come here'. If he sits on a chair, he is asked about the authority to sit on the chair. It has nothing to do with caste or religion.

The situation is the same in the country even today. Earlier there was fashion that. A poor man would think that his son should study and become a rich person and we would be included in the rich men's category. We would sit in chair, we would travel by air and get a motor bike instead of rikshaw. But, what has happened. This fashion has changed during the last 15 years. When representatives of people like you and me go to our constituencies, people think about their being included in BPL list. Today, they want to become poor. It was fashion 15-20 years ago when people did not like to be called poor. People did not like to be included in SC/ST. But what is the reason? There would be no results unless the Government does not ponder over it seriously though you can prepare a list. It is to be enquired whether it is viable to give the incentives under BPL Red Card. If it is viable, only then you will get foodgrains through it. You will be given Indira Aawas with this only. What do you provide them. Rs. 40-45000 are given to construct a house. Whether a house can be constructed in Rs. 45,000/-? This amount is received by paying commission. Panchayat Sewak will take Rs. 5,000/-, Political worker, who will take him to the office will take Rs. 5,000/-, BDO will take some amount and later it is said that, it is sent to account. But how much amount will be credited in the account? They hardly give 15-20,000/-. Whether his amount of Rs. 15-20,000/- can construct the house or can raise a wall? This is the point to be decided.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: They do not want to construct a house, that is why they do so.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Exactly. Secondly, whatever incentives you are giving in the name of Bidi worker, or in the name of poor people, as we were talking MGNREGA. It is provided in MGNREGA that 100 days' employment will be given to the poor. It is a large scheme. I am not against it. The resolution brought by Raghuvansh ji, is his own brainchild. He has done, you may be thanked. Recently, I had visited my constituency and I

was told to visit MGNREGA work sites. I try to avoid such visits. According to me, MGNREGA is like a story in which there was a king who would not give his subjects a chance to work because he was worried about payment to them. So, he would get a wall constructed and would order to demolish it in the evening. I think MGNREGA is the same case. No work is to be done, whatever is to be done, it is to be done in soil and it is to be washed away in the rain. If you want to give money to the poor, you want to give it by making him work. You give them money. I, therefore, neither criticize MGNREGA nor do I visit its sites. But since that one was on the main road, so I thought that I should. On March 21, it was told that the project has been extended. A dam is being constructed under MGNREGA and the work has been awarded on March 31. The work got completed on 30th June, this is written in the board. It's total cost is Rs. 1,90,000 out of which the labour cost was Rs. 1,84,000. We have made that payment. I telephoned DC from there. I telephoned BDO and asked them what you have done. You have displayed on the board but no work taking place. You can check it physically why have you written it? He answered — Sir, when monsoon season is over, then we will start the work. I have constituted the committee for that. This is situated on the main road on National Highway. This is the condition of MNREGA. What schemes you have for the poor. Whether the poor are getting benefits from these schemes?

Sir, I am having a few questions to ask. What are the asking for after 60 years of Independence? What are we trying to give them? I am on the Finance Committee. On record I asked the secretary of Planning Commission a lot of development is taking place in the country, we are providing funds for developmental works and Government is committed to rural development but poverty has increased from 27% to 37%. Why this increase of 10%. You can quote this on record statement. He said, first we decide the total number of poor. According to the Tendulkar committee report there are 37% poor, we agreed. Now it has to be decided as to who would come in the criteria of poor? For this survey will be conducted. Mr. Pradeep Jain is present here, Ministry of Rural Development will decide this. Planning Commission has taken a decision that there are 37% poor and Ministry of rural Development will decide definition of poor and how much has to be given to the poor. Decisions can not be taken in the air conditioned rooms and no survey would be conducted. We will conduct survey after five years. After 2002, survey was conducted in the year 2010, it means it has been complete eight years. It is violation of the criterion of five years. Mr. Mahtab was asking a basic

question. Suppose there is condition of flood. When there is flood in Bihar, Jharkhand or Odisha, the poor lose the earning of their whole life. Then will you consider them poor or not? There are cases of fire every year in which everything is gutted including their crop and home. Will you consider them as poor under BPL as per your criteria for being homeless? Thy type of incident take place in Katch, Leh and Uttarakhand; will you consider them for BPL category? Suppose there is only one bread earner in the family and he dies then will you consider that family for BPL category or not? If yes, mention the formula for it? I talked about corruption. I see the following quotation in Parliament House also-

Ayam Nijah Paro Vetu Ganana Laghu Chetsam.
Udar charita naam vasudhev kutumbhkam

Madam, I am talking about an incident in which four panchayat sevaks and two BDOs were suspended because Indira Awas was provided to the owners of pucca houses. Investigation was done and officials were suspended. This is the way. You make rules and laws. The report of Tendulkar committee is about to come. Will you include such things? Will you make provision for the offenders who have made wrong entries. As Mr. Mahtab was saying the number of poor will continue to increase until this is not done. This way the slogan 'Garibi Hatao' will be over for ever. There are two types of poor the urban poor and the rural poor. The Rural Development-Ministry is making list for the rural poor. For urban poor, committee has recently been constituted. We are saying that by the year 2014-15, houses will be provided to the urban poor under this Rajiv Awas Yojana. Likewise, removing of slums was carried out in Mumbai. The type of houses have been given to the poor as Nariman point and Colaba in Mumbai are not for poor. The poor do not like there. All the poors have sold their houses. You make a society. But if you are considering them poor, then how can they pay the dues of the society. Who will pay for the maintenance of the society, who will pay for the security, who will pay for the electricity bill, water bill? Whether the Government has ever taken any decision in this regard? Government has constructed houses and thought that it has fulfilled its duty. My question is whether government is including such things in the policy?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dubey, there is one more resolution. Please conclude now.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I would like to sum up my speech by making three-four points. Every religion whether its is Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, or whether it is

Mahatma Gandhi or Deen Dayal Upadhyay, says that serving humanity is service to God. "Sukhani Chah Dukhani Chan Chakrawat Parivantant Sukhani Chah Dukhani Chah". Sorrow is followed by happiness and vice-versa. The rich becomes poor and the poor get rich. It is my belief that when God had revealed himself, one idea had come up "Twadeeyam Vastu Govindam Tubhye Mev Samarpye." In a democracy as well as being a member of parliament. If we want to do something for poor people then it is our duty to unite the whole country and united, we should do justice to the poor and implement the policies made for the purpose.

With these words, I am concluding my speech.

DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak. The resolution brought by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad is for the poor, who don't have any means for living. 63 years have passed since our Independence. The Government of India and Planning Commission have formulated many schemes for the upliftment of the poor and for eradication of poverty but poverty has not been eradicated so far. Today, it is being discussed in the House and concern is being expressed but I feel that if the policy is right and the intention is not true, then discussion is of no use. The scheme had not probably been discussed in the House if the intentions would have been true.

Madam, there was manipulation in the BPL list made in the year 2002. Most of the Members are agreed with it. The names of many families which are in fact poor and intended to be beneficiary have been left out of the above list and many ineligible families have managed to get their names included in the BPL list by using their political influence and money power. As per the guidelines of the Union Government, only those families are eligible to get benefit of the Government schemes which are in the BPL list. But all those poor, who are left out of the above list will not get the benefits. When officers visit them, they find that they are not eligible for BPL but they get all the benefits because they are included in the list. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has well said that we should go to every household to prepare the list. Shri Mahtab Ji also has said that on what basis we will identify the poor and prepare the list? If we prepare the list on the basis of reality then it would come up. All the committees namely saxena committee, Tendulkar committee, Planning Commission of Government of India are giving different data. 63 years have elapsed since Independence, but we are still unable to find out the total number of poor in this country and how many people are

below poverty line. I would like to ask the Government through you and attract the attention of especially the Minister of Rural Development towards the condition of the poor in villages. We should actually visit the village to see the condition of the poor whose children go to sleep hungry. If we visit states like Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and particularly such states where there is preponderance of SC and ST families, and see their standard of living, we will find that these families should have been included in the BPL list but they have been left out.

Madam Chairman, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji has given suggestions that vocational training should be given to those people, they should be given jobs, government must facilitate their free education till secondary level. How these poor people will get health facility? Currently dangerous diseases are spreading, they don't have money for treatment, therefore, they die. Just a while ago Shri Nishikant ji talked about corruption. Money is given on the name of constructing accommodation for poor, but there is corruption at every level. Madam Mayavati has implemented Kanshiram Shahri Awas Yojana in Uttar Pradesh. I would request Government of India not to give that money. Instead they should themselves supervise the entire process of constructing the houses and providing them to those poor people who will get its benefit, only then it is possible that urban people will get its benefit, otherwise its not possible. At least one person from a BPL family should be given job so that he can feed his family. People can be given jobs according to their education through which their poverty and starvation can be eradicated.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I felt glad that Raghuvansh Prasad ji talked about the poor people. Those people who live below poverty line, who are BPL people, what is their condition and what should be done for them? The real thing is that which, I, you and all of us have seen practically. Our area is hilly. When BPL list of people in plains is not made properly then who is so sincere to reach in this area. I can say that if they need to register crop, they sit in a home of a village and do that. They don't even bother to see the crop. Whether there is a crop or not but register it. Similarly, the BPL list is made. To a large extent the BPL list is correct but a lot of people in it are wrong. A lot of people are there, who have been left from being included in the list. Who is responsible for the people who are taking wrong benefit and who is responsible for the people who have been left from being included? I

would like to submit to you that these BPL list makers, unless strictness is adopted towards those who have been given the responsibility of preparing BPL lists, nothing fruitful would come. No other alternative would do. A person who went into an area, ignored people there instead he made contacts.

Madam, now a days money is also taken for getting named in BPL list, because a lot of facilities come along with BPL status. Neither just I.A.Y. accommodation nor just ration, there are other facilities, which are very good. With just one card other people take benefits. There are Navodaya schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, they have a quota for BPL cardholders. I caught 1-2 persons who are suppliers, they have depot and a big shop. In some village of a far off area, their shop is running. That person made his BPL card with some connections in the Department of Food and Public Distribution. He made his card and got his son admitted to Navodaya School. I am just giving an example. In this way a BPL person is being exploited, BPL's name is exploited, this is unfortunate. I would say that our idea of suspension, that we suspend an officer, is ridiculous. He gets suspended and open a shop or if he knows some other work, he starts doing that and hire an advocate. After some years he even wins the case and becomes a good businessman too. What is this drama? Earlier when people got suspended they used to be ashamed. Now a days getting suspended is considered a matter of pride and even people don't disrespect him. The time has changed, I want to say; I request you that there should not be any suspension, if anyone has guts then he talk of dismissing. Till you suspend them, they will continue doing this and no one will be able to stop them.

Madam, I got an opportunity, I was Health and Medical Education Minister, I want to make Yadav ji also to hear too, I dismissed 231 doctors in Jammu & Kashmir who were not working. It would be a record in this country. I dismissed them following all the rules and regulations, they did not get job till date, and though younger generation was being deprived of opportunities, the hospitals were in bad condition but everything has been settled properly and they all have started working properly. You need to be strict, not to be affectionate, not to make relations, not even to sympathize with anyone. When someone is to administrate or judge has should not think that if I am his honest and taking 25, but my subordinate is taking 75, so he took all. It is a disgrace. I request you and we are talking on National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. One of my colleagues criticized. I don't want to go in that. I want to say that the labour coming

from Bihar and far off areas to our area Jammu and Kashmir has stopped. It means that they have got work. Do not criticize. In our village, people who used to go on large parts and work in large markets. Today, I want to tell you that people of our area have confined to their homes. Still they are working. Government has policies but I want to say that they need to be implemented strictly. It is a beautiful policy. If anyone does not have home, he does not have an identify. Who will identify him as a native of a particular place? The objective of the scheme is that if someone is asked from which place you are, then he could say that he is from that village, because his village is there. What is his identify who does not have home. Who will know from where this person is? Therefore, this scheme is of small scale. What we do in villages with large number of BPL's and poor is that we give them two houses, they are just exploited lot. Why money is taken from these two homes because there are 50 BPL homes. If there were only two homes instead of fifty then may be they would have hundred percent amounts. They did not get hundred percent amount because there were not two but fifty. They are demanding for amount. They did corruption and grabbed the money.

We hear one more thing about Cricket score. They have made a score today. What Cricket village worker and BDO officer are playing? They had low score. Only a small dot is needed to out anyone. Then they will say he does not have a score. It is my experience, we are directly attached to common people. I am a person who walks on bare foot. The whole world, we all the MP's and even you see. Just now one hon. Member said that decision can't taken sitting in AC of Parliament, what are you talking, how many days will you sit in AC? After taking train in the evening, everyone will reach to their respective village. We are criticizing ourselves. I want to say that if there was no democracy, no threap I want to tell you that it is only the Member of Parliament whom a poor person can approach and confide to him. IAS's officer or any other official is not easy to be approached. But a person with torn clothes can reach to us, we let him to reach.

I say that nobody knows so much about B.P.L. people as much we know. Politician should have their involvement in this because he can guide while preparing the list of B.P.L. people as to who is B.P.L. or who is not because

[English]

he visited. He is visiting.

[*Translation*] A local M.P. or M.L.A. knows better than other people. No government whether it is led by Ms. Mayawati or by us or by any other party. It should not be taken into account that this government or that government did so. [*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I am saying to conclude.

[*Translation*]

We need to think about the Government policies as to how we can implement them effectively. We talk of free education, Mid-day meal and provide the students scholarship but what do teachers give them? This situation is the same in such and every state. The source of income of a family comes to an end if the earning member of the family dies, comes across any accident or his house gets burnt due to fire. I have seen so many middle class traders, shopkeepers. The family of an employee gets proper pension after the demise of the employee. But the pension is insufficient.

[*English*]

which is not enough. The pension is very meagre.

[*Translation*]

The pension for Rs. 200, 250 or 300 is not pension. The system of identifying B.P.L. people is wrong. The minimum pension for B.P.L. should be Rs. 500 so that he could run his family. We can find real B.P.L. persons if we do so honestly. We can get no results if we make wrong policies.

[*English*]

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Thank you, Madam Chairman, for permitting me to participate in the discussion on the Resolution moved by our senior and experienced Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. I welcome the Resolution for estimation of people Below Poverty Line and for the eradication of poverty by means of providing employment, providing quality education, providing training, providing pension, etc.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Because we have to conclude at 5 o'clock, please conclude in just five minutes. I am giving time to everyone who wants to speak, but just five minutes.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Various yardsticks were formulated for the estimation of Below Poverty Line. Poverty line estimates have not been scientifically done so far. The Planning Commission has adopted a methodology which has also been questioned by the critics. Suresh Tendulkar Committee estimates of poverty at 42 percent; Saxena Committee estimates are around 51 per cent. The Report of the National Commission states that 77 per cent of our people live on Rs. 20 a day.

I feel that no scientific estimate has been evolved to define Below Poverty Line. The benchmark of the estimate made by the Planning Commission was fixed over four decades ago on the idea of calorie intake of male and female in urban and rural areas. I feel that it is the right time to constitute a committee of experts to look into the issue afresh for defining BPL, so that the benefits offered by the Government would reach the targeted people. Already two committees have been constituted – one by the Ministry of Rural Development and the other by the Planning Commission. They have given their recommendations which have to be taken into account.

My concern is that hundreds of crores of subsidy given by the Government should reach the real beneficiaries. According to the Budget documents 2010-11, major subsidies doled out by the Government are around Rs. 1,24,786 crore as per the Revised Estimates of 2009-10. For the current year, major subsidy amounts to Rs. 1,00,992 crore meant for the economic upliftment of the poor. However, I am sorry to say, even 50 per cent of the subsidy amount does not reach the poor. There are many leakages and slippages and inefficient delivery mechanism. I fear, if these obstacles are not removed, the development process will not reach the poor. I strongly suggest that a rational scientific estimate of Below Poverty Line should be evolved, so that the deserving people will get the benefit and duplicity is avoided. I hope the Government will act in the right earnest taking into account my views in this matter.

The key to elimination of poverty is education, more particularly, women education. Our performance in this regard is very poor. I hope that the Right to Education Act will bring in a revolutionary change in the education scenario of women in particular as education of women leads to empowerment, limiting the family size and better health of the family.

In China, there is a proverb that instead of giving a dried fish piece to a hungry man, give him a bait. Similarly, with the meaning of the proverb, please provide our people quality education, which will pave the way for gainful employment and also make them self-reliant. Till then, it is the duty of the Government to provide welfare measures to the families below the poverty line. I think that this is the objective of the Resolution moved by the hon. Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

So, I appeal to the Government to take note of the views aired by our Members during the discussion on the Resolution and implement them as far as possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the motion brought by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that by 2015 poverty should come to an end in the country. B.P.L scheme was launched in 1997 and the second list was prepared in 2002 and suo-moto right was given and a right to first and second appeal was given if there is something wrong in the B.P.L. selection process. My suggestion is that the right to hear the appeal at the S.D.M level should be changed because he may come under pressure due to political reasons and he has a bit low level. The matter had been raised in different states that as to who should be appealed in case of faults in the B.P.L list It had been suggested that this job should be given to district Magistrate to whom the people should appeal with regard to faults into B.P.L list. But my suggestion is that the District Magistrate is a busy person. An officer of Divisional Commissioner is in the district and he supervises three to four and somewhere five to six districts. If he is given the power to hear the appeal, then it would be good and he can not be pressurized to some extent and the case may be settled well. Appeals should be disposed of in a time bound manner because it may take six or seven months with plea that reports have not yet been received from the municipality or B.D.O. if it is done then some reform can be done in B.P.L list. There is a need to reform the system.

Madam Chairman, new things are added in B.P.L list but I would like to suggest that a thumb rule should be adopted. Whosoever has a uncemented House, should be included in the B.P.L list. There are so many villages where people live in the uncemented houses and if a Five member family has one cemented House and other Houses are uncemented then we can consider we can consider such cases. By adopting such things we can correct the B.P.L list.

Madam Chairman, thirdly, persons falling under B.P.L are mostly associated with Handicrafts and Handloom professions. They are skilled in handiworks. Some are blacksmiths, Goldsmith and some are engaged in silver work and some are associated with pottery, bangle work, paintings and printing, somebody is making jute bags, some are in utility articles, carpets, wooden and iron-furniture profession.

Madam Chairman, I support this motion. The more we give vocational training, the more they will develop work capacity and skill and they would be able to earn their livelihood.

Madam Chairman, I also support the scholarship scheme in this motion. I would like to say one more things that all schemes of the Government will do well if we remove ifs and buts from the schemes. For example, it was just now said that pension scheme has been started but at the same time it was said that that person should not have two acre of land. In the case of a widow, it was said that she should have an earning member. The old person or a widow should get pension.

Madam, To conclude my speech I would like to make a suggestion that a number of persons can work in foreign countries, Middle east or other places. They should be given vocational training to increase their employment opportunities. By doing this, their condition may be improved. Thus the B.P.L list can be corrected and when B.P.L persons would get employment, the number of B.P.L people may be automatically less and their poverty may decrease.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): Madam Chairman, thank you very much for giving me opportunity to speak. I support die motion presented by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh in which it has been said that poverty should be eradicated by 2015. The B.P.L persons can be identified if the income is shown in the Biometric Card. Poverty has no caste. Any one may be poor. We will have to bring economic reservation to eradicate poverty. We will have to entrust he responsibility of identifying the B.P.L persons on Nodal Officers.

Madam, In Uttarakhand, poverty is so grim that people take bread with salt. There is grass named Bichhu or Kandli; The people eat that grass when people have nothing to eat. It is for the government to identity the poor. I would say in support of this resolution. "Peer parvat si pighalni chahiye, Sankalp Se Koi Ganga Nikalni Chahiye. Mere seene Mein Na Sahi, Tere Seene Mein Hi

Sahi, Kahi Bhi Aag Lekin Aag jalni chahiye. Sirf Hangama Karna Mera Madsad Nahin, Meri Yeh Kossish Hai Surat Badalni Chahiye."

This resolution may change the state of Affairs.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad): Madam Chairman, I rise to speak in favour of the Resolution moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. The 'Garibi Hatao' slogan was given in 1971. At that time, a ray of hope had arisen in the mind of the people that their Government has given its attention towards them and they are likely to see better days now. I, through you, would like to say that after 63 years of Independence, not to say of alleviating poverty, we have not been even able to identify the poor people. The number of poor people is rising instead of coming down.

Madam, a number of committees such as, Saxena Committee, Tendulkar Committee, Arjun Sen Gupta Committee were set up to determine the extent of in the country. These committees submitted their reports. These reports were at variance of each other and with regard to the extent of poverty, their opinions were contradictory. The Planning Commission, the most powerful body of the Government of India, has put the number of poor people at 23 percent of the total population. I fail to understand as to how, in the absence of proper identification of the poor people, we shall be able to take genuine steps to alleviate poverty.

Madam, I wish to put it across that, whichever political party is in power, it should identify the poor without any discrimination and politics. For example, just now, the below poverty line...(Interruptions)

17.00 hrs.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please sit down for a minute. If the House agrees, we extend the time for this discussion by half an hour as two Members are yet to speak and the hon. Minister has to respond.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The reason is that two hon. Members and the Minister are yet to speak. Several Members: Alright.

SEVERAL MEMBERS: Alright.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to this discussion is extended by half-an-hour.

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Madam, I am on point of order. The point is that this move to extend the time will have an adverse impact on other Resolutions...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY): Shri Bhola Singh ji, we shall take up your Resolution today...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Don't you, we are here to take care of this.

Now you finish your speech quickly and conclude.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Madam, I was saying that we have not identified the poor in the country till now. As far as question of BPL is concerned, the Planning Commission, the Government of India has set the norms for identification of people living below the poverty line on the basis of those norms. I am talking about the state from where I have been elected, from Aurangabad of Bihar...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: I am concluding. I was saying that as per the survey conducted the number of BPL families is 1.5 crore in Bihar, on the basis of the norms set by the Planning Commission and the Government of India. But the Government of India is not ready to acknowledge it, as the Planning Commission says that only 65 lakh families are living below poverty line in Bihar. Both, the Union Government and the State Government are elected Governments, what kind of conflict is going on between these two Governments? The poor people are most affected by it. Through you, I would like to tell the Government of India that as per the survey conducted 1.5 crore families have been identified as living below the poverty line. The foodgrains to the poor should be distributed on the basis of that survey. The Government of India fix quota on the basis of that survey.

Secondly, I was saying that on one side the foodgrains are rotting in the country and on other side people are dying of starvation in the poor state like Bihar. I would like to give suggestions to the Government of India...(Interruptions). Madam, I will conclude in a minute, please give me an opportunity. I was saying that on one side foodgrains are rotting and on other side the people

are dying due to hunger in the poor state, like Bihar. The Government of India should pay attention in this regard and allocate the rotting foodgrains to the State Government and shall provide relief to the poor.

Madam, Bihar is hit by the severe drought at present. The devastation is caused due to floods and droughts from last many years in Bihar. This year, the situation is very grim, therefore. I would like to tell the Government of India that the foodgrains are rotting in and outside the godowns. Bihar is hit by the severe drought, the Central team visited Bihar, it too has admitted that Bihar is hit by severe drought this year. I would like to say that the foodgrains which are distributed to the people living below the poverty line, I am talking about yesterday, yesterday, I visited my constituency... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do you know what a minute is?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Madam excuse me, give me a minute. It is a matter concerning the interests of poor, concerning poverty... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Next speaker is also from Bihar.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: I beg your pardon. I had been to Satta village in Navinagar block in district Aurangabad. A PDS dealer was distributing foodgrains. When I saw the wheat and the rice being distributed by him, I found that it was not at all worth eating. I took samples of both wheat and rice and handed over the samples to district collector. I want to say that not to speak of men even animals can't eat that foodgrains. Therefore, my suggestion is that if the government feels pity on those to whom such foodgrains is distributed then it should give cash subsidy to the PDS beneficiaries in lieu of foodgrains so that they can buy foodgrains of good quality from the market. Now sub-standard stuff is being distributed to them. On the one hand the government says that it is being given to the poor as a help, whereas, on the other hand it is not even worth eating.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Ramkishunji, you missed your turn... (*Interruptions*) Now five minutes time has been given to Jagdish Thakur and your time will come after him.

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): I will speak whenever you give me time. But I will definitely speak.

SHRI JAGDISH THAKORE (Patan): Hon'ble Madam, Chairman, Respected Raghuvansh Prasad ji has come up with the resolution of country's fundamental problem.

Through you, I thank Raghuvansh Prasad Ji. I will come straight on the point. We have a lot of appeals and all the members of the House know very well that BPL list is quite incorrect in all the states. What is the solution to this problem? Whatever Housing scheme we introduce, we check revenue records in that. For this too, Revenue record, Panchayat's record and benefits of service etc must be checked.

17.06 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman Sir, I am telling you because when 'Gareeb Mela's (BPL identification Camps) were being organized in Gujarat, it came to notice that the name of ex-speaker of the legislative assembly was also in the BPL list. A city like Ahmedabad with seventy five lakh population, had its mayor's name in BPL list. The functions in which aid is given to the persons whether he is an employee of a co-operative bank, or has twenty bighas of land, or a Pucca house. There should be a check on such people. The violators of the provisions made in the BPL list should be punished and stern action should be taken against them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever we go on tours in this regard we find that those people are not included in BPL list who should have been there but those people find place in the lists who are rich, who are landlords and have pucca houses. That's why I would like to tell you that if BPL list is not correct, our money will go waste and poverty can not be eradicated from the country. We have to take some strict measures. An officer on special duty should be appointed to look into the appeal provisions made for the BPL people. He should not be assigned other works so that he may perform his duties properly.

We talk about the largest democratic country in the world. Can't we make such a mechanism to make BPL list and the people who are taking benefits, could be punished and put pressure on the officers making incorrect list? Some mechanism should be evolved keeping in view the interest of the poor. Sir, I end my speech by saying this.

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the motion moved by the respected senior leader and MP, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh as to how people living below poverty line should be excluded from BPL by 2015 and improve their economic condition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is a poor country in the world. There is poverty in the villages in India and people living in villages live Below Poverty Line. The main objective of this discussion is how to raise them above from the Poverty Line. I want to say this through you that in the year 1971 when I was young, I had heard a slogan "Garibi Hatao".

Congress Party was in power. Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi had called upon the whole country to eradicate poverty, but even after so many years of independence poverty could not be eradicated. The number of poors increased. It is counted time and again. Various Commissions were formed their reports have been different. Its practical aspects are different and the persons of IAS rank in the commission provide different data. Through you I would like to ask the government to prepare effective programme and policy if the Government wants to eradicate poverty and improve the economic condition of the poor. The poverty shall certainly deteriorate if the Government is really serious about it. I would like to tell about two-three programmes of Congress party. There is a National Health Mission Scheme for BPL Card holders. A poor family can get medical treatment to the extent of Rs. thirty thousand by that card. This is a scheme for the rich to take benefits in the name of the poor. A person goes to a doctor with that card of Rs. thirty thousand and takes medicines of Rs. one or two thousand. What happens to the remaining amount, no body knows. Government says that it will eradicate poverty and diseases. You will have to control it. Government health centres should be strengthened.

I want to speak on education Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji said that free education, mid-day meal etc. are given to the children of the poor. If you want to eradicate poverty, then make the basic structure of education strong. Make arrangements for residential schools for poor children. Construct residential schools in those villages which are Below Poverty Line. Keep the students in those schools round the clock, make arrangements for their food, clothes, study and teachers to teach them. ...*(Interruptions)* The child would be able when he comes out of school after 14 years as a passed out student.

You are giving funds under NREGA for eradicating poverty as well as in National Health Mission. Nowadays employment opportunities like rearing buffalos and pigs. It is being misused. All the money is usurped by the rich. Just now our colleague said that Government grants Rs. 40-45 thousand for construction of houses. BDO, officers take away the funds allocated for constructing houses and still their houses are not constructed. I would

like to ask the government through you that poverty may be eradicated if the intention and policy of the government are fair and true. The Government have to do this task to strengthen the poor.

Raghuvansh Babu talked about cottage industries, their handiworks. Nowadays, the condition of the poor is that their crafts industries are being snatched from them slowly...*(Interruptions)* Today, even purvaa and tooth pick is also made in factory. ...*(Interruptions)* Earlier the poor people used to make leaf plates (pattals) by their hands, but today they are also made by machine. Now who has the machine? Only the rich have machines. Now BPL will be applied on my talking. I come from Naugarh and Naxalite districts which is a very poor region. Just now, our colleague from Uttarakhand Satpal Maharaj ji said that people eat chapattis made of grass. In this country even Maharana Pratap ji ate chapatti made of grass for the sake of self respect, but poor people are not eating chapatti due to self respect. He is eating that because he has no resources. Today grain is rotting in your godowns but when hon'ble Surpreme Court and High Court ask about grain Agriculture Minister says that we won't give grain free of cost to BPL people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say through you that poor are required to provide training. More allocation of funds is required for building the Indira Awas and The Nirmal Awas for them. Their houses can't be constructed in Rs. 45 thousand due to rising inflation. I want to say one thing that their condition may certainly be better if huts and Kuchcha Houses are converted to pucca Houses for them by identifying B.P.L families. Also, you will have to provide employment opportunities for them.

At the end I want to say that the condition of poors, whatever claims we make, is at last affecting the poors. We are spending money on sports, other items or doing wasteful spending. To improve poor people's economic condition we should make programme by adopting sensitive approach to them, but we simply present our ideals only by delivering long speeches. First of all we need to identifying them de novo. You will say that BPL people can't keep mobile phone.

Today mobile phone has reached almost every village ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling you these standard data. Today there is perhaps none who does not have mobile phone in one's house. Whether he is rich or poor...*(Interruptions)* You have created a market of mobile

phone. Today, from every poor to big industrialist everybody is using mobile phone to earn money. Now if you say that a person has a mobile phone so he cannot be considered belonging to below poverty line then it is also not fair. Today small portable T.V. has reached every village. This criteria should also be changed. Whatever criteria you are keeping for BPL, you have to change that because whatever reports are there, whether it is Sengupta report, Tendulkar report or Sinha Report...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding in one minute. In those report? the figures of poors have not been properly presented. Today 37 percent to 40 percent of the population i.e. half of the population is living below poverty line. Their economic condition is bad. Their children do not have job. You are giving employment to them, you are spending thousands of rupees for it. The former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had told that we send hundred rupees for poor but they get only ten rupees...*(Interruptions)* Why this is happening, you should think over it and be concerned about this, you will have to decide in favour of this proposed that if we give one thousand rupees to the poor people...*(Interruptions)* if we give hundred days work to poor people then it will amount ten thousand rupees to them. Now for 365 days how much income will be there you can estimate because they get ten thousand rupees in a year...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding in a minute...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude. You have already taken fifteen minute. So you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Now calculate ten thousand rupees in 365 days? ...*(Interruptions)* Their per day earning is not more than 30 rupees. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): Sir, Hon'ble Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, a great thinker of our country and former Minister of Rural Development has definitely done a great job to bring such a resolution before the greatest Panchayat of the country on which 18 hon'ble Members have expressed their views. All the hon'ble members agree that poverty should be eradicated from the country. We cannot achieve our ultimate goal until our country becomes free from poverty. I have heard every hon.ble Member every hon.ble Member has raised a question and also gave a solution because we all want to get rid of this problem. I would like to say that I was born in a general middle class family, my father was a

railway driver in a Government Department. Running staff there used to get diary and whenever he used go for duty I saw him writing on the diary O God, please give life without poverty, death without pain and Moksha after death. Poverty is the greatest curse. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has suggested a direction about how the poverty can be eradicated from the country and the Government has been working in this direction since long. He has long experience and it is very important to identify the number of poor people. Planning Commission of the Government makes an estimate of the number of the poor people and it is very scientific formula based on which there is a criteria to collect samples on the basis of survey conducted by NSSO in 125,000 families in every state all over the country. In our country there are more than seven lakh villages having more than 252,000 gram panchayats. Each family is asked 260 question and number of poor people are estimated on the basis of survey conducted. It is the duty of our Ministry to decide as to who are poor in a particular village, state or a particular area. It has been done on regular basis by Ministry of Rural Development during the 9th five year plan, 10th 5 year plan, 11th five year plan as the population of our country is increasing everyday. Today our population is going to touch the figure of 120 crore that in why we are continuously trying to identify the accurate number of poor. All the hon'ble Members have participated in the discussion on this subject continuously for four hours. The duration for this discussion should be extended by half an hour more because I want that today we all have agreed as to how can we exactly identify the genuine poor people. I would like to come to the very first question raised by Dr. Raghuvansh Babu. I know that he knowjits answer also. He had asked as to why there has been delay is conducting census and identifying the people living below the poverty line. In the year 2002 when census of BPL was conducted then some fake names were added to that list, when their names were started to be deleted from the list, at that time a PIL was filed in Supreme Court. In 2003 discussion was conducted on that in Supreme Court and both, those who were supporting and these who were against it, ban was withdrawn from that. After that it was seriously considered in the Ministry of Rural Development. At that time Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh himself was the minister. At that time the point raised was how to determine the exact number of poor people living below poverty line so that he can get the benefit. There is a system in our country that the number of poor people will be determined by Planning Commission and the number of poor families are determined by Minister of

Rural Development by conducting door-to-door survey. In this regard regular correspondence was done till 2007. Many times this was seriously discussed in the Ministry.

It was the conception of the ministry that many other ministries besides the Ministry of Rural Development also run various welfare schemes for the people living below poverty line. Therefore Planning Commission should constitute a committee. After the order of the hon'ble Supreme Court it was concluded that it is to be determined by the Ministry of Rural Development only. Therefore a committee consisting of 17 members has been constituted on 12th August, 2008 under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena. It was provided all the terms of references based on which it was sent the ministry on 21.08.2009.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we know that poor people are the most important link of the country. From the very beginning this Government believed that whether we remember the independence day, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Ji announced from the rampart of Lai Quila that this independence will provide the ray of hope for economically backward persons of the country, Late Indira Gandhi Ji had said that we have to eradicate poverty. This time also our Government has made many provisions in the Budget. The Ministry has uploaded the report of the committee on website to identify the common man properly. All the Chief Ministers, Ministers and officers of all the states have been told to give suggestions on the recommendations of the policy made by the committee to identify them.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that many suggestions are coming this regard. You know that very well every state has different geographical conditions. So, people of that States knows which basis of the census will be better when the census takes place. We have received suggestions from 16 states. Thereafter Ministry held meeting twice to discuss the suggestions received and discussed with the experts. First meeting was held on 2 March, 2010 and the second meeting was held on 21 July, 2010 with the expert group. The objective of these meeting was to identify the eligible persons. We have to identify the actual poor of the country particularly in the rural areas. Our Ministry has called a meeting under NIRDA, to identify and to conduct a door-to-door survey. We cannot reach every village through the Planning Commission or through Ministry of the Government of India. For that we need the cooperation of the State Governments. We held a meeting last month and thereafter we picked up 260 villages on random basis

through NSSO and we are imparting necessary training to one person in each of these villages so as to identify the real poor. After imparting the training we expect them to count the total number of people living below the poverty line in each state of the country in time bound manner in these 260 villages. We have released a sum of Rs. 150 crore to the states for this purpose.

The recommendation of Prof. N.C. Saxena and of many other Hon'ble Members is that Below Poverty Line person and Above Poverty Line persons, should be at once identified. When our hon'ble Member or Legislator visit any place then people complain that such person with car and bunglow is in the list of Below Poverty Line. Our hon'ble Member was just saying that one Mayor and one senior officer were also in the list of Below Poverty Line. In fact, the recommendations made by Prof. N.C. Saxena committee are so transparent and comprehensive mat if we follow them, we will certainly reach to the real poor.

We have laid down criteria for including and excluding a person who comes in list of poor family and who do not come in list of poor family. We will not include the person in the list of Below Poverty Line who lives in the village and have average of land in the district, have double irrigated land and have triple non-irrigated land then we will not consider that person in the list of Below Poverty Line. We will not consider a person in below poverty line if he files income return and is working in a Government Department. The person having tractor will also not come in Below Poverty line list. Our intension is to delist the persons who have become eligible on wrong basis and are taking advantage.

Whom we will include in this? A family, head of which is a woman will be included iniist in first instance, a person belonging to earlier notified castes or a family belonging to earlier notified maha-dalit group whose head is a woman, a family head of which is a disabled person, a person who do not have any house of a family, members of a family which have bonded labourer.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Minister, I am having objection on the 'Dalit' word in your report. Kindly substitute it with schedule caste.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Yes, actually it was in the report *...(Interruptions)* all right *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shailendra, Please take your seat. Mr. Pradeep, how much time you will take to complete.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: I will speak for half an hour, I can't give reply in less than half an hour. At least, points of Babuji be completed...(*Interruptions*) Give me at least 25 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Sir, Besides this, we had 13 parameters on the basis of which BPL families were listed. We had earmarked three points for SC/ST, two points for denotified scheduled castes and backward castes, one point for Muslim and backward category, we have listed four points for landless agricultural labourers, three points for agricultural labourer who have 30-40 decimal and two points for those labourers who get job sometimes. We have laid down several criteria. One point for such a person whose age is 60 years and who is the head of the family. The sole purpose of the entire exercise was to remove the undeserving persons in first instance and include these in the BPL list who have got more points in the first instance. We have made one provision in that for ensuring that any resourceful person is not able to influence the preparation of the list, we have made-efforts that the first list be prepared in the meeting of the Village Panchayat. When first list at the level of Village Panchayat, is prepared it and identified it will be forwarded to the block level. At the block level, the Government officials, who are called Panchayat Secretaries in some states, and other Government officials would verify the list. After verification, they will check whether the list is correct or not. After that, the list will be read out in the open meeting of the Village Panchayat in the presence of all the villagers. If any one is having tractor, any family head is above 60 years of age or anyone is handicapped then the people could lodge their objections in the open meeting. Besides, we have made a provision for appeal and appeal could be made to SDM in every district. On the basis of these recommendations, we have identified 260 villages for pilot projects in each State. We are making efforts to provide training to the persons carrying identification work in the village, regarding how to converse with the villagers, how to fill up forms etc. We have adopted a PRA system also for this purpose. Thereafter, when whole system will be in place, we will identify each person of the identified 260 pilot villages. Our Government is definitely committed for this, because data does not reveal everything. Actually in the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Government has increased the outlay of Ministry of Rural Development in every Five year Plan. If we see the 9th Five year Plan, then we will find most of the schemes are of Ministry of Rural Development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister, Please conclude now. we have to take up other resolutions also.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Sir, In 9th Five year Plan, we have allocated 32,869 crore rupees, in 10th Five year Plan, provision of 56,798 crore rupees was made and in the 11th Five year Plan provision of 193503 crore rupees was made. If we have to fight with poverty and darkness then we have to lit the candle. If we imagine of dark night of Deepawali, then we will find that we can lit all the diyas with one lightened diya. When we identify the poor, we will provide employment to one person of each family on the basis of list under Rural Development Scheme. There are 38 lakh Self help groups functioning in different States of the country under the Ministry of Rural Development. Our Cabinet Minister Dr. CP. Joshi has made a revolutionary change and we made efforts to pass SGFY Scheme by cabinet in NRLM.

People living below poverty line in villages, making their group and also building their capacity, providing them work, within the group and removing all their difficulties is necessary if we have to remove poverty, which is 28.3 percent and we have to remove this. Poverty is continuously reduced by this Government. If we see that poverty which was 55 percent at one time, then it was 45 percent and today according to last census it is 28.3 percent. The Resolution, which Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has moved for eradicating poverty, we are already doing it and for that we have taken a model. Under this a committee is formed in mission mode in the state. There is a definite time; under that definite time we will provide employment to every family. We have listened to all the hon'ble members...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken on all main points.

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: I request Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to take back this resolution so that this Government which is making efforts to provide employment to every family living below poverty line, will help in identification of every poor family.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Minister concerned has just replied and first of all I would like to thank all the hon. members. 17 hon'ble members participated in it and all have supported it, because it is related to poor. Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav ji, Shri Jagdambika Pal ji, Shri Shailendra Kumar ji, Shri Dara Singh Chauhan ji, Shri Mangani Lal Mandal ji, Shrimati Bhavana Patil Gawali ji, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary ji, Dr. B. Mehtabji, Shri Nishikant

Dubey ji, Dr. Baliram ji, Shri Chaudhary Lai Singh ji, Shri Semmalai ji, Shri Arjun Meghwal ji, Shri Satpal Maharaj ji, Shri Sushil Kumar Singh ji, Shri Jagdish Thakur ji, Shri Ramkishun ji, I thank all the hon'ble members and this resolution is related to poor, and it is regarding poverty eradication. Till this date we have not seen such a resolution in the Government for eradicating poverty. Only slogans have been given and one or two programmes have been implemented for it. Resolution to remove poverty is in first volume. We want that poverty should be eradicated by a time-bound programme by 2015. Before the House should express concern of the poverty and make a resolution to eradicate poverty by 2015. There are four principles for removing poverty, it is not that you objectively say that we will remove poverty and poverty will be removed. By this poverty will not be eradicated, neither it will diminish nor it will be completely finished. People in the Government say it should be withdrawn. On what basis it should be withdrawn, this we leave for the House. The Government has not been able to identify poverty line, I am saying so because hon'ble Minister has not clarified this. Saxena Committee says 50 percent people are poor in this country. Tendulkar Committee says 37 percent people are poor in this country. These all are Government Committees and they are economist. According to Arjun Sen Gupta, 70-80 percent people eke out their living on less than 20 Rupees. This way there will be 70-80 percent people according to them. Till now it has not been decided of what percent poor constitutes. After that families will be identified. What will you do? What is the solution? Rural Development Minister Saheb can do it. Where is Planning Commission? Where is National Sample Survey? Where is cabinet? This should be decided at Prime Minister's level. Planning Commission should decide which report should be followed? Where they have said which report they accept? They accept 37 percent, 50 percent or Arjun Sen Gupta Committee? These all are governmental committees, and not ours. There is no committee of House too. All are government committees. The Government is still not able to decide. Why they have not decided? You told the report was submitted in the month of August, 2009 whereas now August, 2010 is running, it is a year now. Report of Tendulkar Committee came after that. Arjun Sen Gupta's report also came around it but still nothing is decided. On what basis should we withdraw? How can we allow poor to be sacrificed? We are sitting here for poor people, debating in the House here. You decide which committee's report you have accepted. By when, identification will be completed? 11th Plans 2007-08, 2008-9, 2009-10 periods is running. 13 parameters came in 2002, it was delayed

due to Supreme Court but it was implemented. In this, State governments were told to take it to the Gram Sabha. Some mistakes would have been there and Gram Sabha was not called. Therefore, meeting of Gram Sabha should be made mandatory. Which families are in BPL, this should be disclosed in Gram Sabha. The Government, hon'ble minister also had not said this. There are two questions which BPL report do you consider and by when it will be decided? Will you mandatorily take it to Gram Sabha or not? Basic method to remove poverty is given, what are objections of Government for not accepting it? In this, it is said first you identify the poor and then one member, male or female, of BPL family may be given the required training in or outside country for two or four months. And after training arrangements should be made for their placement. This is the point in it. Till now, the Government has not done this. We want to know that whether poor has a share in treasury or not. We you give employment to poor or if you cannot provide employment, then give him monthly pension of three thousand rupees. How will poverty be eradicated? If unemployment is removed, poverty will be eradicated. Give employment to that family or if you cannot provide employment then give him monthly pension of three thousand rupees. Poor has a share in treasury or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wind up now. You have spoken earlier too in this regard.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They must get quality education. Schools don't have teachers. So, minister should give assurance on my four-five points, else we are ready for voting. I feel injustice will not be meted to poor in this House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Raghuvansh Prasad ji, are you withdrawing the Resolution?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We are not given assurance, therefore, we will not withdraw resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: In view of the reply made by the hon. Minister, are you withdrawing the Resolution that you have moved?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Till now no assurance has been given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Listen to what Minister is saying.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to tell respectable Raghuvansh Babu that he is not only a MP but an institution. It is our pleasure that we got to know many things from him. He is asking questions and he himself has got the replies. As he has asked about the number of poor people, whole House knows about percentage of people living below poverty line. This is decided by Planning Commission. Saxena Committee, which was constituted, it had its terms of reference and it was authorized to decide. Therefore, as far as people living below poverty line are concerned, their number has been steadily decreased during the tenure of Government of India, and I would like to tell you that in 1973-74, it was 54.88 per cent combined in urban and rural areas and in 1993-94, it is 35.97 percent.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If this is the opinion of the House then I withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not elaborate this too much.

...(*Interruptions*)

17.54 hrs.

(ii) Special status to the State of Bihar

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 13 Dr. Bhola Singh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Chairman Sir, he can speak now; it may be continued in the next Session.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four-five minutes are left.

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to move:-

"That this House urges upon the Government to accord special status to the State of Bihar with a view to accelerate the pace of development in the state and enable it to overcome its backwardness".

It had been decided that "Chiraghan Har ek Ghar ke liye ho. Kahan Chiraghan Mayassar Nahin Shahar ke liye, Yahan darakhton ke Saye Mein dhoop Lagti Hai, Chalo Kahim our chalein Umr Bhar Ke Liye".

Mr. Chairman Sir, I have moved this resolution in this August House just for Bihar, not for any mercy. It is in history that we have made contribution, given our blood for the development of our country. We have served humanity and contributed a lot to the basis of the constitution. But now, the condition of today's Bihar is all due to the policy and attitude of the Union Government.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I just would like to give a glimpse of history. There was a prince in 6th century B.C. He got married and he was blessed with a son but he remained engrossed in deep thoughts to see poverty and death. He tried to find out the causes of poverty

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has been saying that they are trying to implement your ideas. In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, are you withdrawing the Resolution?

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRADEEP JAIN: I request hon'ble member to withdraw this resolution.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We will consult all supporters, since they have supported us.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTR OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): As you wish...(*Interruptions*) You withdraw...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing the Resolution?

and sorrow and how can it be removed? The name of the prince was Siddhartha and he practiced hard austerity for six years. There was grass grown in his body and a Dalit girl named Sujata gave him kheer to eat and he became Budh. He founded Budhism which is the largest religion in the world today. The birth place of Budhism in Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, The Tenth Guru of Sikhs Guru Govind Singh has a history of sacrifice and relinquishment and made great sacrifices for this country and sacrificed his sons. His birth place is Bihar. He was born in Patna city in Bihar. Bihar is the visage of India. It is not only the geographical visage of India but also historical visage of India. I want to say so because the kings of Magadh empire in the era of Chandragupta Maurya had the border of their empire upto Hindukush mountain. He had fought with Seleucus, the Commander of Alexender and defeated him and later got Chandragupta Maurya. In his era ambassador Megasthanese from Greece had come to India. He asked Chandragupta Maurya about the factors behind the prosperity during his empire? Chandragupta Maurya told him that he should contact his minister Kautilya if he wanted to know about their prosperity.

18.00 hrs.

Megasthanese asked for time from Kautilya, to which he agreed. When Megasthanese went to Kautilya, he saw.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue your speech next time. Now, time of Private Members' Business is over. Please sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will start 'Zero Hour'.

But before I call the name of the hon. Members, I say that there are many hon. Members who have submitted their notice for making special mention. I would request all of you to please confine your speeches within 2-3 minutes. Please cooperate with the Chair.

Shri Rajen Gohain.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (Nowgong): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak about the inclusion of Tai Ahoms, Koch Rajbonshi, Moran, Motak, Chutia, Tea Garden and Ex-Tea Garden labourers in the Schedule of the

Constitution (ST) Order, 1950 specified for Assam under Article 342 of the Constitution of India.

Sir, almost all the Mongoloid Tribes of India as well as the North-Eastern Tribes are either ST (Hills) or ST (Plains). But only the Ahoms, Koch Rajbonshi, Chutia, Moran, Motak, Tea and Ex-Tea Garden labourers are deprived of such privileges under the Constitution in spite of having such provision in the Constitution.

The Governor of Assam and the State Government have also recommended for the inclusion of these major communities in the list of ST (Plains) to the Government of India. Now, with the formation of the select Committee of the Parliament, there is every hope that this matter will be set right by removing all the lacunae and bring justice to more than one crore population of these six backward communities in Assam.

The matter of Koch Rajbonshis community for inclusion in the ST list was taken up in 1996 and subsequently three times the Ordinance was passed to grant them the ST status for a limited period, which is now vacated. This has resulted in humiliation to the community since lot of confusion arises while students proceed for higher education outside the State of Assam. Therefore, a concrete decision should be taken to protect these six major backward communities who have been raising their voice in various forums for a long period.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue during Zero Hour. I will be brief in my speech but please do not interrupt me during the speech.

Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of House towards the matter and fortunately senior Minister hon'ble Virbhadra Singh ji is present here who is concerned with this subject. I would like to say that for the last 17 days *i.e.* since 4th August, the production in the biggest steel plant in Asia is getting affected. Only 1/3 of the total production is taking place. The capacity of that unit is 15K metric tonne per day. But it is producing only 5-6 metric tonne steel every day. Only two furnaces of that unit are operational and three furnaces are fully closed. The Government has suffered a loss of Rs. 700-800 crores so far.

The management and the officers say that our whole plant is operational with full capacity and every furnace

is operational. There is no problem. I want to bring this in your cognizance. When the whole plant is operational then why only 5000 to 6000 metric tonne of steel is being produced per day instead of 15000 tonne per day? I am talking of Bokaro Steel Plant and due to this there is heavy burden on the exchequer. There has been a loss of Rs. 700-800 crores so far and its second effect is on its sinking plant and its coking plant is also getting affected. It is forty years since this plant was established but due attention has not been paid on its maintenance. The pipelines of the plant are old ones. False profit is shown. I want to draw the attention of the hon. minister towards this because he is a responsible person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You tell the name of the plant.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: It is Bokaro Steel Plant which is the largest steel producing plant in Asia. The steel producing companies of private sector, somehow or the other influence the management of B.S.L. ...*(Interruptions)* That's why the production of Bokaro Steel plant of public sector is deliberately kept less to maintain superiority of private sector's steel producing companies and they may keep control on prices in the market. Through you, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to get the matter looked into as to why the production is less in comparison to the capacity of the plant. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please you sit down. Whatever you say will not go in the record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[English]

SHRI SANJOY TAKAM (Arunachal West): Mr. Chairman, I rise here to draw the kind attention of the Government of India to a very important and necessary requirement and the problems that the people of Arunachal Pradesh are facing.

The Food Corporation of India and the Ministry of Food, Government of India stopped payment of hill transport subsidy bills from 2004 till today. It is already seven years that the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has not been receiving even a single penny from the Ministry of Food.

The Government of India had issued one guideline in 1999; again another guideline to push the Public

Distribution System to the interior belt of Arunachal Pradesh in 2001. They made a payment of the PDS for three years according to the 2001 guidelines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

SHRI SANJOY TAKAM: My demand is, there is a pending bill of Rs.600 crore for seven years. The Ministry of Food is giving a deaf ear to the problems of this sensitive border State. Almost 80 per cent of the landlocked region of Arunachal Pradesh does not have any rice production. ...*(Interruptions)* We are depending entirely on the Public Distribution System (PDS).

A very critical situation has come to this State. The State Government has written to the Government of India that they do not want to do any type of advertisement and the State Government does not want to take over the PDS. It should be the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which should reach till the destination of the Fair Price Shops in Arunachal Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, this is a very serious situation, which has come to this State, and this State has to be taken care of. It should not be taken in an isolated manner. Instead of sorting out the problems of the State Government, the FCI and the Food Ministry, Government of India has been dragging this issue before various courts of law. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you have spoken quite well. What is your demand from the Government of India?

SHRI TAKAM SANJOY: Sir, my demand, through you, is that the Government of India should immediately sort out this critical situation to ensure that there is no food crisis imminently coming in the future. Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH BUNDELA (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to my constituency Khajuraho. Here the office of tourism ministry has been working very well since 1971. Due to that Khajuraho finds its place in the map of the world. I do not know why the U.P.A. Government has taken a decision to remove that office from there. On one side, the Government issues funds, gives package for the development of Bundelkhand and on the other the Government shifts offices from Khajuraho and tries to

backtrack the development from Khajuraho. Through you, I would like to request the House that if the U.P.A. Government really wants to develop the Bundelkhand then they should take measures to stop the shifting of the office of tourism ministry at every cost. The people there are so angry that they are staging agitation. It is necessary to maintain that office there for the development of Khajuraho. I have therefore kept my point before the House.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I may be allowed to speak from here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, your name is there. Please wait for some time.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this House and also of the Government relating to the failure of monsoon in large parts of Eastern India, especially, Orissa.

Out of 30 districts of Orissa, agricultural activities have been seriously affected in at least 11 districts because of deficient rainfall. Orissa received 16 per cent less rainfall this monsoon — down from the average normal of 773.6 mm — till mid-August. Of the 314 blocks of Orissa, only 91 had received normal rainfall in June, July and August. Large tracts of Orissa, especially, 16 districts have scanty rainfall. In nine districts, it is less by between 30 per cent and 80 per cent and in other districts it is 30 per cent less. Here, I am told that the coastal districts of Orissa including, Sir, in your Constituency at Chandwali has very less rainfall. The saplings are not being transplanted; the paddy crop has already withered away in Sambalpur, Bargarh and Sundargarh districts; and the farmers of Orissa are facing tremendous difficulty. It is not only the case of the State of Orissa, which is hit by deficient rainfall. The State of Bihar is facing drought-like situation; in Jharkhand, the rainfall has been 45-60 per cent below this year; in West Bengal, there is an average shortfall of 33 per cent rainfall; and the Eastern part of Uttar Pradesh is also facing tremendous drought-like situation. This drought stricken districts of South Bengal is worsening the situation day after day even in Orissa. Eastern States face a spectre of drought for the second year. That is

why, I need to support from the Central Government. The Central Government should come out with full vigour to support respective State Governments because the States are now looking to the Centre for support of providing seedlings, of providing seeds and also providing other measures. Unless it is done immediately, the farmers will be facing great difficulty. Therefore, I urge upon the Government, through you, that the Government of India should come out with support for paddy cultivators.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariagan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak on a very important sensitive issue. Today Delhi, the capital of the country, is concerned, about the spread of dengue and nearly 1070 patients have been admitted in 13 hospitals of Delhi. Holy family and many other hospitals are not admitting dengue patients now.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think less than two months are left when Common Wealth Games are going to commence in which not only the players but also tourists and foreign quests will be here. Impression is there that the national Capital Delhi is affected from disease like dengue. Earlier, there was swineflue problem. It had affected our tourism sector and resultantly the number of tourists had tallen. Which is the most important industry of the country. Today, we are facing dual challenges, one is to conduct Common Wealth Games in which a number of players will be participating and foreign tourists will be coming to India and one the other hand, the locals of Delhi, if you visit any area of Delhi, from here to Okhla or Old Delhi, every area of Delhi is increasing by affected from dengue.

Chairman, Sir, the Government has decided to run a train named Mosquitoes Terminator which will be used to spray on ponds and potholes along the tracks. If we remain indifferent at this stage...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down Shri Lal Singhji. You please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I think, not only Delhi, but also other states of the country are affected from dengue.

Mumbai was affected from Malaria. Dengue larva were also found in MCD Headquarters Delhi... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already said everything. Please conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am raising a very important issue which affects the health of the people of Delhi. I am not talking any political thing.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that MCD in Delhi, which is responsible for this infections disease is under administration of BJP. MCD is theirs and Mayor is theirs. The Mayor himself has accepted that mosquito larvas have been found in Delhi, there is water in ponds garbage has not been cleared. Delhi is the capital of the country and sanitation work has not been done here. I, therefore, would like to say action should be taken at worfooting to prevent dengue or Japanese Encephalitis or Malaria in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not say that. But you have to confine to the timing.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: You are kind enough. I must thank you for that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. At the outset, I would like to thank Madam Speaker for her ruling that the House will take into cognizance all the incidents of atrocities on scheduled castes. In this context, I would like to say that on August 15, 2010, when the whole of the country was celebrating Independence day, one Harilal, belonging to scheduled caste, hailing from village Lahna under Police Station Karari in my constituency Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh, was preparing for Panchayat election after hoisting the flage. He was shot dead in broad day light after an altercation. Some agitated scheduled caste people blazed the houses of the killers. This resulted in heavy loss of lives and property. A number of innocent people have been framed in this regard. I would like to urge through you to the hon.ble Minister that a high level enquiry should be

instituted in this matter. He was killed. Action should be taken against the guilty. People have been named in the report lodged and innocent people should be spared from lawsuit. This only is my request. I finish with this point.

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, last week, on Shri Awadhesh Kumar, a dependent of a freedom fighter family, was crushed to death alongwith his two friends by a truck due to continuous extortion by R.T.O. and police on various national highways of the country including national highway no. 2 in Uttar Pradesh. Due to extortion by the R.T.Os and over speeding vehicles a number of deaths take place on national highways for there are no crossings over speed and common people are dying in these accidents.

Between Mohansarai and Pachtarma districts a number of such incidents take place due to extortion by R.T.O. and the police. Trucks try to flee on seeing them and in the process, poor pedestrians get killed. Dozens of such incidents have taken place so far.

Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the government that toll tax is charged on national highways, our land is acquired for construction of national highways, farmers, from near by areas, the poor and the labourers go to city for livelihood and in a way, is pass through those on roads and those very roads under trucks other vehicles. I, therefore, through you, demand the Government that Government should provide then with life insurance under road safety on national highways. For instance, the dependent of a freedom fighter family and his two friends were killed in road accidents. A life insurance scheme should be introduced for such people so that the families of such victims may get some assistance. I demand from the Government that a life insurance scheme should be introduced to assist the families of the people killed in such incidents on national highways and the Government should bear the cost as the national highways come under the supervision of the Union Government. An insurance scheme should be introduced under National Road Safety Act and the premium be paid by the Government. Guilty must be punished. Action should be ensured on the F.I.R Lodged against R.T.O and the police. I conclude with these words.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chanderpur): Chairman Sir, I thank you. Cultivable land acquisition process is under way for new mines of W.C.L. unit of coal India Ltd. In our area. Through you, I would like to being to the notice of the Government that 33 new mine are to come under that 33 new mine are to come under W.C.L. and

for it thousands of acres of land is to be acquired. The price of the land being acquired under C.B. and L.A. Act is determined by the district magistrate. I would like to inform you that in my Chandernagore Parliamentary Constituency, there is Goredeep mine where land has been priced at Rs. 20,000 per acre. This has led to unrest among the farmers and agitations are going on.

You may remember a recent event in which land was being acquired around Mathura and Aligarh and they had agitated despite a compensation of Rs. three lakh per acre.

I have met the minister several times regarding the unrest among the farmers for the land the rate of which has been determined at Rs. 20,000/- per acre. Through your letters I have intimated him about the unrest among the farmers. Minister attended meeting and because of that the CMD of WCL there, he accepted that not a single new mine will be opened there unless the rate of land is increased. This proposal has been sent by CMD, CIL to the Ministry, it is being discussed. In the meantime the DM of Chandernagore and the concerned officials of WCL in Ballarpur area, have threatened the peasants for land acquisition and have ensured fights in every household by saying to their sons that you ask your father to give us land and we will give you job. Because of that there are attempts to acquire land by ensuring fights in every household. I think that it is a very important issue that the 20 thousand rupees, given as a price of land it means that no evaluation of land has been done.

Besides, there are some officials of Coal India in WCL and some local employees also in that area whose land is being acquired. They are being threatened by saying that either you give us land or we will transfer you from here and in this way land acquisition is being done. The CGM of WCL and Planning Officer of that area, they have done land acquisition quite wrongly. I am telling you that in our RR Policy, 2008 and CB Act, there is a provision 14(A) that it can be negotiated, but no negotiation was made there and land was taken forcefully. I want to say just one thing through you that investigation should be done of those officials and there should be a ban on forcefully taking of peasants land.

This is all I want to say.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak from here.

You and we all MP's know that Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme was launched on 1st May, 2005. It was very well made and also very well inaugurated. It says that we are committed to provide electricity to the whole country by 2009 it was consented in that the 1.25 lakh villages which are without electricity, will also be electrified. It was also said that light will be fitted in those seven to eight crore households.

I would like to say Sir, I can take you to my constituency, if you see ministry's website you will find so much difference. You will see that when our DPR was made, if you look at our condition. You will find that there is very critical condition in our area. The DPR was made of 104 crore rupees which was later reduced to 76 crore rupees, but when money was sanctioned, you would be astonished that only 28.33 crore rupees were sanctioned. Tell me how would you give electricity? What kind of system you have made and what is the outcome of it? It was also claimed that 24 hours electricity will be supplied, whether urban or rural areas, but in my constituency and in the whole state, so many power cuts were done. I am talking about just one district. There are 6 districts in my area. I want to tell you they had promised that primarily they will provide irrigation too. I have read the whole scheme. It is written there that we will give electricity to those villages which are small and which have Khadi Cottage industry. We will give electricity to everyone, but not a single pole was placed in the areas where it was announced. I would like to say that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tell us what is your demand?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: My point is that our electrification which was promised with 104 crore of rupees, has reached to 28 crore rupees. I would like to say that these people will leave those villages whose L.T. has been cut. What will happen to those areas? Apart from that they have handed the whole India to organizations like NTPC, NHPC and PGCIL. ...*(Interruptions)*

I will take only two minutes. You will be astonished that NHPC was given that work because they will do the best work. But they passed on that work to L&T and L&T passed that work to common man. You will be astonished that common people were given work there. Now, tell me, the person who took the tender, did not do that and sold it to other persons. Ultimately what happened? The condition of electricity is deteriorated in our areas. It is my submission to you sir that the total

amount and left areas, where sub-standard work was done, should be taken care of.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Guwahati): Sir, I would like to tell you about a very serious matter through you. There is a small district in Assam North Kasa. A big scam happened there which crossed all the limits of scam. Recently it was known that a scam of one thousand crore rupees took place in North Kachar Hills. National Investigation Agency investigated that a Ministers name was also involved in it, but later on his name was omitted. No action was taken against anyone. Supreme Court's judgment was that if there's *prima facie* case, some anomalise against a person, then case can be registered against him/her. No action was taken against Minister of Assam in that matter. Money is sent there from centre. It is scheduled tribe dominated district and money came from centre here too. It comes into Sixth Schedule. State Government can't take charge of this money, but even after State Government's presence, such a big scam happened there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Here* one officer...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not take the name.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Seventeen and a half rupees were found from an officer's roof and home's water tank. This money goes to militants, it was published in news paper too. My request is that every department should be considered. There should be CBI Inquiry and if there is a minister, inquiry should be done against him. No one should be left. This is my request. Thank you.

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR CHAUDHARY (Basti): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero hour. I would like to draw government's attention towards BSNL's bad service and daily decreasing popularity in eastern UP. Sir, I have been elected from Basti, Lok Sabha Constituency. It is difficult to talk on BSNL's prepaid

and Post paid mobile service between 6 to 11 PM. The condition of some rural areas is much worse. With the collusion of workers and officials the diesel issued for generator is sold in market and exchange and towers are left an God's will. On one hand in this era of competition the financial condition of country's biggest telecom company is getting worse day-by-day due to providing bad services. If we look at the figures of customers connecting-leaving any mobile service, we find that the most mobile users had first of all opted for the services of BSNL but later they have started taking services of other companies. Therefore through you it is my request to the government that proper measures must be taken to improve the financial condition of the largest telephone service provider company of the country, so that the people may have confidence in this company. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I want to draw your attention towards Uttarakhand where it is raining continuously. Due to this heavy rain several roads have been badly damaged. Public distribution system has got destroyed due to the damaged roads, I would like to tell you that essential Commodities like wheat, Rice, Sugar, Kerosene Oil, Gas cylinder, vegetables and milk are not available to people. There is tumult everywhere. Due to heavy rains roads like Band-Swari Gwans Road, Tuna-Baintha Motor Marg are broken. There's no contact with Poolan, Bangar and Kotheshwar. Shortage of drinking water has become an acute problem. Earlier Uttarakhand used to provide water to the country but how such a condition like fish be thirsty in the water is prevailing there.

The problem of drinking water is very acute. Mobiles are not working and mass contact has been fully affected. Through you I request to the Government that Public Distribution System must be improved and essential Commodities should be provided to the people.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important matter. I want that there should be a one toll tax policy in the country. I come from Bikaner. When I travel between Jaipur and Delhi, it is a journey of 270 kilometers and five toll taxes fall between Jaipur and Delhi. It is an era of inter connecting and computer. Why toll tax is not collected at one place and an MOU should be signed among these five companies? They should share the money among themselves. By making such arrangement one person shall

*Not recorded.

be on duty at only one toll tax instead of five persons at five places for toll tax. I think that this problem is not only between Jaipur and Delhi but also the same problem prevails in the whole country. On the basis of BoT Mega highways, roads were made four-laned and six laned and toll tax is charged there. People, officials and trucks etc. also stand in ques. Collection should be made at one toll tax point and shared among those four-five companies through computer. I want that government should prepare such a policy so that people's money is not wasted and the country is also benefitted.

SHRI KAMAL KISHOR 'COMMANDO' (Bahraich): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell about medical treatment for the poor. I am MP from Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh. I want to tell about the condition of poor people. By drawing the attention of government towards insufficient medical treatment facility, I want to say that families living Below Poverty Line, are not given any medical facility. I would like to tell about the areas in Uttar Pradesh especially such areas where people belonging to SC, ST live and about the people living in forest areas. They have to go 20-25 kilometers away where most of the doctors are quacks, shortage of medicines is there. This is responsibility of the Government of Uttar Pradesh as well as the Central Government to provide doctors and medicines, at least in those areas where there are a lot of mosquitoes and Bahraich is such an area where the floods occur and it is a Low lying area. Health services and doctors are not available for poor people in Uttar Pradesh, I hold the Central Government as well as Uttar Pradesh government responsible for this. It is the Local responsibility of the U.P. Government. Mosquito repellents are not sprayed there...*(Interruptions)* Women die of labour pain ...*(Interruptions)* I request that they should be provided facilities.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Refugees from different states of India and Bangladesh have been brought in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Accordingly Pallar, Paraiya castes from Tamil Nadu, Jalaluru, Mabaga from Andhra Pradesh, Balmiki from Uttar Pradesh, Kumhar from Bihar, Pullaya, Paraya from Kerala and Bishwas, Mandal, Golda, who belonged to scheduled Castes have come here are living in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and are helping in the development of the Islands. These castes are economically, socially and educationally backward. They are 60% of the total population. They have been demanding scheduled caste status for a long time.

The Uddastu refugees who came in west Bengal from Bangladesh were granted scheduled caste status and named Namshudra by Government of India. Therefore, I demand that the people from the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Bengal, Maharashtra etc. belonging to Scheduled castes and living in the A.N. Island, should be given scheduled caste status in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SHRI BADRI RAM JAKHAR (Pali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak in zero hour. In our area NH 14 passes from Byavar via Pind. In the year 2001, a survey had been conducted there. At that time, nine thousand vehicles used to pass from there. Likewise, NH 65 connects near Pali from Amritsar via Jodhpur. Three thousand vehicles are also added there. Thus, there are total 12 thousand vehicles. According to present survey, more than 20 thousand vehicles pass from there. Four lane road has been sanctioned but we are demanding six lane road. Ten days ago, few labourers were sitting near Pimpliyana, all those labourers were killed in accident. Somebody lost his brother, some lost his son and somebody lost her husband in the accident...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell about your demand.

SHRI BADRI RAM JAKHAR: I demand to convert the sanctioned four lane to six lane road. It is an important demand because accidents keep occurring there. Everyday accidents happen there. I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI MADHU KODA (Singhbhum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me permission to speak. Through you I want to draw the attention of Government towards an important incident. Recently 2500 poor labourers from Jharkhand, went Leh to work for the construction of a road which was being constructed by the Border Road Organization. The House is aware and it was published in the newspaper and media also had shown it that due to torrential rain and cloud burst, the normal life had been disrupted fully. In such a situation 2500 labourers from Jharkhand are stranded there. They are getting nothing to eat and no shelter to live in and they are not getting medicines for treatment. Through you I urge the Government that those stranded labourers who are willing to return back to their homes, should be sent back to their homes. Secondly, those who want to live there, the arrangement for food, shelter and medicines should be made by the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as my submission was on top in the list, I would like your favour in this regard.....*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. This will not go on record.

SHRI MADHU KODA (Singhbhum): I would like to say that Government should make arrangements for all those labourers to send them back home. Government should also make concrete arrangements for their food and security there.

18.44 hrs.

[English]

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 25, 2010/Bhadrapada 03, 1932 (Saka).

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