

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

First Session  
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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## OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER  
Shrimati Meira Kumar

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER\*  
Shri Karia Munda

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN\*\*  
Shri Basu Deb Acharia  
Shri Arjun Charan Sethi  
Shri Biren Singh Engti  
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

SECRETARY GENERAL  
Shri P.D.T. Achary

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\*Elected on 08.06.2009.

\*\*Nominated on 29.05.2009.

The following order was issued by the President of India on 29.05.2009:

I hereby appoint **Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, Shri Biren Singh Engti and Smt. Sumitra Mahajan** to be the persons before any of whom Members of the House of the People may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation in accordance with the provisions of Article 99 of the Constitution of India.

**Pratibha Devisingh Patil**  
**PRESIDENT OF INDIA**

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

*Thursday, June 4, 2009/Jyaistha 14, 1931 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Thirty Five Minutes past  
Twelve of the Clock.*

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

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

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Shri Shibu Soren, Shri Kameshwar Baitha, Shri Anant Geete.

12.36 hrs.

#### MEMBERS SWORN

MAHARASHTRA

Shri Anant Geete (Raigad): Oath Marathi

UTTAR PRADESH

Shri Kamlesh Balmiki (Bulandshahr): Oath Hindi

12.38 hrs.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 4th June, 2009.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS\*

[*Translation*]

\*\*Honourable Members,

I am extremely happy to address the first session of both Houses of Parliament after the elections to the

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No.LT-2/15/2009.

\*\*Her Excellency Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India delivered her Address in the Central Hall in Hindi, English text of the Address was read by His Excellency Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India.

15th Lok Sabha. My greetings to all members, especially the newly elected members of the Lok Sabha. They are here having spent the last few months in the scorching heat trying to persuade their voters on how they could best represent the aspirations of their electorate. They now have the mandate and the opportunity to translate the hopes and aspirations of the people of India into change in the everyday lives of the people. It is indeed a unique privilege given to a chosen few to represent the hopes of over a billion people, a sixth of humanity.

I am sure that their anxieties, hopes and dreams will weigh on you as you commence your work. I urge you to use each day of the next five years in giving substance to those aspirations and in doing so, find greater meaning in your own lives. My good wishes are with you.

I congratulate the members of the Lok Sabha for unanimously electing the Speaker and that too a woman who is a Dalit with honourable credentials. This has enhanced the prestige of India's democratic traditions, that of the House and its members.

Last week the State of West Bengal was affected by a cyclone inflicting damage to lives and property. Let us convey our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families. My Government will extend all possible succour to the cyclone affected people of West Bengal.

I would like to congratulate the Election Commission and the lakhs of officials, who conducted the smooth and largely peaceful elections to the 15th Lok Sabha. Election to the Indian Parliament is truly the greatest festival of democracy in the world and this mammoth task has been executed exceedingly well. Democracy is one of the finest ideas that humankind has produced and every Indian election celebrates the freedom of choice that powers this idea. India has a unique place in the consciousness of the world as the largest functioning democracy. When an elderly woman in a remote village proudly holds up the indelible ink mark on her index finger, she is telling the world that she has the power to make change in her country.

In 2004 my Government had set before the country a vision of an inclusive society and an inclusive economy. It worked diligently towards translating this vision into policies and programmes. My Government sees the overwhelming mandate it has received as a vindication of the policy architecture of inclusion that it put in place.

It is a mandate for inclusive growth, equitable development and a secular and plural India. My Government is determined to work harder and better to realize these goals.

A continuing priority of my Government would be to consolidate the ongoing flagship programmes for inclusion. This will require re-energising government and improving governance. It will require meeting the challenge of restoring economic growth, which is now hurt by the global economic slowdown, back to a higher growth path. High growth is necessary to provide the government the capacity to expand opportunities for employment. It is necessary to provide resources to increase outlays in education, health care and infrastructure to meet the needs of all regions and all people. My Government will ensure that the growth process is not only accelerated but also made socially and regionally more inclusive and equitable. They yearning of our people for inclusiveness—economic, social and cultural—and the rejection of the forces of divisiveness and intolerance that my Government spoke of in 2004 continues as both its inspiring vision and its unfinished business.

My Government is acutely conscious of the challenge of rising expectations. There would be ten broad areas of priority for my Government for the next five years.

- Internal security and preservation of communal harmony;
- Stepping up of economic growth in agriculture, manufacturing and services;
- Consolidation of the existing flagship programmes for employment, education, health, rural infrastructure, urban renewal and introduction of new flagship programmes for food security and skill development;
- Concerted action for the welfare of women, youth, children, other backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities, the differently-abled and the elderly along with strengthened social protection;
- Governance reform;
- Creation and modernization of infrastructure and capacity addition in key sectors;
- Prudent fiscal management;
- Energy security and environment protection;

- Constructive and creative engagement with the world; and
- Promotion of a culture of enterprise and innovation.

My Government will maintain utmost vigil in the area of internal security. A policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, from whatever source it originates, will be pursued. Stern measures to handle insurgency and left wing extremism will be taken. Government has already prepared a detailed plan to address internal security challenges to be implemented in a time-bound manner. The Multi-Agency Centre will be strengthened to ensure effective intelligence sharing and processing and Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centres will be activated in all States. The National Investigation Agency has become operational and will be empowered to handle terror-related offences. Central and State police forces and intelligence agencies will be expanded and fully equipped with the best technology. A national counter-terrorism centre will be established to take pro-active anti-terrorism measures. Special Forces and Quick Response Teams will be raised and deployed in vulnerable areas. Enhanced information and intelligence sharing on a real time basis, would be made possible by the creation of a net-centric information command structure.

My Government will actively pursue police reform and in order to ensure the active participation of the citizenry in internal security, community policing will be promoted. At the same time government will continue to constructively engage with all groups that abjure violence in the Northeast, Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country.

Communal harmony shall be preserved at all costs. The mandate my Government received was unmistakable in that the people wanted the country's secular fabric to be protected. With this objective my Government will seek early approval of the Bill introduced in Parliament for the prevention of communal violence.

Our armed forces are the nation's pride, a symbol of our values of sacrifice, valour and the spirit of national integration. India's defence forces stand committed to the task of defending the territorial integrity of the country. They will be fully enabled with modern technology to repel any threat from land, sea or air. To enhance combat efficiency as also to address the requirements of modern day warfare, a number of steps are under way. The welfare of ex-servicemen will continue to be accorded

high priority. The Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary, to look into the issue of One Rank One Pension has already commenced its work and expects to complete it by the end of June 2009.

The Unique Identity Card scheme for each citizen will be implemented in three years overseen by an Empowered Group. This would serve the purpose of identification for development programmes and security.

My Government was able to accelerate growth substantially in the last five years to a record five year average of 8.5%. This produced an impressive expansion in high quality jobs and also gave us the capacity to guarantee rural employment and expand social and economic infrastructure in an unprecedented manner. My Government gave a new deal to agriculture. Public investment in agriculture was increased, farm loans of over Rupees sixty five thousand crore waived and there were handsome increase in procurement prices. These measures contributed to a revival of agricultural growth. My Government was able to expand access to education through a large number of new schools and other educational institutions, support a mid-day meal programme covering over fifteen crore children, provide nearly a crore of deserving students with scholarships each year, loans to over 16 lakh students and create a new wave of investment in institutions of higher education. It was able to revamp rural public health infrastructure and massively expand social protection through insurance schemes and pensions. Government was also able to effect pay revision for its employees including defence personnel, public sector employees and teachers in colleges. My Government could also increase assistance to States substantially in the last five years. All these initiatives were possible because high growth generated more resources. It is therefore imperative that our growth momentum is resumed.

The current financial year is expected to see a slowing down of growth on account of the global recession. My Government has responded to this unforeseen situation with a range of measures, including three stimulus packages, which have begun to show results. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Indian economy has not suffered the kind of slowdown that has been witnessed in almost every other country of the world. Government has also actively engaged with the international community, especially through the forum of the G-20, in order to ensure that coordinated action is taken at the global level and the necessary reforms

brought in at the earliest. Our immediate priority must be to focus on management of the economy that will counter the effect of the global slowdown by a combination of sectoral and macro-level policies. My Government will focus attention on sectors that are adversely affected, especially Small and Medium Enterprises, exports, textiles, commercial vehicles, infrastructure and housing. This must be accompanied by measures to achieve a countercyclical expansion in public investment in infrastructure sectors including public-private partnerships in these sectors. Financing the investment will be a critical constraint and my Government is determined to ensure that innovative steps are taken in this area, consistent with a medium-term strategy of prudent fiscal management.

Our country has benefited from large foreign investment flows in recent years. These flows, especially foreign direct investment, need to be encouraged through an appropriate policy regime. There is also a need to augment resources in the banking and insurance sectors in order to permit them to serve the needs of society better. Towards this end my Government will recapitalize the public sector banks to strengthen their financial position and also bring legislation to establish a regulator for the pension sector.

The momentum of public investment in agriculture and irrigation built up in the last five years will be further expanded and the three major instruments—the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission and the National Horticulture Mission—introduced by my Government strengthened.

The flagship programmes which my Government introduced have moved the country towards inclusive development. It would be our endeavour to consolidate these programmes in the next five years. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has proved to be what it promised—an effective social protection measure and the largest programme in the world for rural reconstruction. Its transformational potential is unfolding before our eyes. My Government would enlarge the scope of works permitted under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act presently limited to unskilled manual work. The opportunity for improving land productivity through the NREGA will be maximized through better convergence of NREGA with other programmes. To ensure transparency and public accountability, independent monitoring and grievance redressal mechanisms will be set up at the district level.



The National Rural Health Mission has begun to strengthen rural public health infrastructure. The Mission would be consolidated to make perceptible reduction in infant mortality and maternal mortality in the next five years. Vaccine producing institutes in the public sector will be revived to support the immunization programme. My Government will expand the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana to cover all families below the poverty line in the next five years. Malnutrition has emerged as a major health challenge needing urgent response. Hence the nutrition delivery programme will be comprehensively revamped to bring it under the watch of panchayat institutions and move to provision of hot cooked meals in anganwadis.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been able to provide access to children to elementary schools and retention has increased on account of the universal mid-day meal programme. The focus will be on making quality education a right through the enactment of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill now under consideration of Parliament. The Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan will universalize access to secondary education. The massive expansion in higher education through new institutions under implementation in the Eleventh Plan will enable the country to meet the challenge of education in full measure. In the last five years, a wide range of scholarships and educational loans was introduced for the needy and deserving students. This effort will be reviewed and further strengthened. Government's strategy for higher education will be formulated around a three-fold objective of expansion, inclusion and excellence. The suggestions given by the National Knowledge Commission will guide the formulation and implementation of the strategy.

While male literacy went up to over 75 per cent in the last census and is expected to be higher now, female literacy was only 54 percent in 2001. My Government will recast the National Literacy Mission as a National Mission for Female Literacy to make every woman literate in the next five years. Increased female literacy is expected to become a force multiplier for all our social development programmes.

My Government launched Bharat Nirman five years ago as a time-bound business plan for rural infrastructure. It has succeeded in reaching basic infrastructure of roads, electricity and telephone to a large number of villages. It has also achieved most of the targets of rural water supply, rural housing and has increased irrigation potential.

The remaining tasks will be completed in the second phase of Bharat Nirman. It is also proposed to set enhanced targets for Bharat Nirman in the second phase.

- The Indira Awas Yojana, which exceeded the original target of sixty lakh houses for the period 2004-2009, will now take up double the target of rural housing to one crore twenty lakh houses to be completed in the next five years.
- Rural Water supply programme will be completed by 2011 and handed over to be managed by panchayats in the next Plan.
- The rural telecommunication target will be set at reaching 40% rural teledensity in the next five years and expanding broadband coverage to connect every panchayat to a broadband network in three years. The scheme for Common Service Centres or e-kiosks will be suitably repositioned to be a network of panchayat-level Bharat Nirman Common Service Centres to provide government services to citizens in rural areas.
- New targets would be set for rural electrification, irrigation and road connectivity.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with approval of projects of nearly Rs. 50,000 crore in the last four years is reshaping our cities and has been widely welcomed. It will continue to focus on infrastructure, basic services and governance reform and increase support to cities to upgrade public transport. Over 15 lakh houses are under construction for the urban poor. There is a need to focus urban housing programmes on the poor living in slums. My Government proposes to introduce a Rajiv Awas Yojana for the slum dwellers and the urban poor on the lines of the Indira Awas Yojana for the rural poor. The schemes for affordable housing through partnership and the scheme for interest subsidy for urban housing would be dovetailed into the Rajiv Awas Yojana which would extend support under JNNURM to States that are willing to assign property rights to people living in slum areas. My Government's effort would be to create a slum free India in five years through the Rajiv Awas Yojana.

My Government proposes to enact a new law—the National Food Security Act—that will provide a statutory basis for a framework which assures food security for all. Every family below the poverty line in rural as well as

urban areas will be entitled, by law, to 25 kilograms of rice or wheat per month at Rs. 3 per kilogram. This legislation will also be used to bring about broader systemic reform in the public distribution system.

Government is acutely conscious of its responsibilities to provide greater opportunities for women, youth, other backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities and the elderly as well as strengthen measures for social protection for categories with special vulnerabilities. Some concrete steps that are proposed to create equal opportunities for women are reservation to elected bodies at all levels, reservation in jobs and a National Mission on Female Literacy.

Over 50 percent of our population is below 25 years of age and their creative energy is our greatest strategic resource. The challenge is to invest in their education, employability and employment. India has the capacity to contribute to a fourth of the global work force if it invests in skill development of its youth. Education which provides employable skills holds the key for equal opportunities for Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities. My Government has in the last five years brought in legal changes and investment in this direction. These would be consolidated. Besides making massive investment in education, government will focus on the national skill development initiative that has commenced operation with the very ambitious goal of creation of 500 million skilled people by 2022 so that we realize the demographic dividend.

The implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act would be monitored to ensure that all title deeds are distributed by end of 2009.

My Government will continue to accord the highest priority to the welfare of minorities. The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities and the action taken on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee have, to some extent, succeeded in ensuring an equitable share for the minorities in government resources, jobs and plans. Steps under way would be consolidated further. Government would strive to strengthen and modernize the administration of wakfs, reform the management of Haj operations and set up an Equal Opportunity Commission.

The Amendment Bill to the Land Acquisition Act and the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill prepared to protect

farmers and others dependent on farming from unfair displacement and which was placed before Parliament could not be carried through. It will be our endeavour to have these bills reintroduced and enacted in the budget session of Parliament.

My Government considerably enhanced provisions for social security through old age pension for all people below the poverty line and above 65 years of age, all handicapped people and all widows above the age of forty. It will examine extending social protection to other persons at special risk. Social security schemes for other occupations like landless labour, weavers, fisherfolk, toddy tappers, leather workers, plantation labour, construction labour, mine workers and beedi workers will be appropriately expanded.

An area of major focus for my Government would be reform of governance for effective delivery of public services. Reports of the Administrative Reforms Commission would guide the effort. Reform of structures in the higher echelons of government, increased decentralization, inclusion of women and youth in governance, process reform and public accountability would be key areas for focused action. As part of process reform, all proposals to the Cabinet will have to report on how the proposal under consideration will enhance the goals of equity or inclusion, innovation and public accountability.

My Government will initiate steps within the next hundred days on the following measures:

- Early passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament providing for one-third reservation to women in State legislatures and in Parliament;
- Constitutional amendment to provide 50 percent reservation for women in panchayats and urban local bodies. Women suffer multiple deprivations of class, caste and gender and enhancing reservation in panchayats and urban local bodies will lead to more women entering the public sphere;
- Concerted effort to increase representation of women in central government jobs;
- A National Mission on Empowerment of Women for implementation of women-centric programmes in a mission mode to achieve better coordination;

- A voluntary national youth corps which could take up creative social action around the river cleaning and beautification programme beginning with the river Ganga;
- Restructuring the Backward Regions Grant Fund, which overlaps with other development investment, to focus on decentralized planning and capacity building of elected panchayat representatives. The next three years would be devoted to training panchayat raj functionaries in administering flagship programmes;
- A public data policy to place all information covering non-strategic areas in the public domain. It would help citizens to challenge the data and engage directly in governance reform;
- Increasing transparency and public accountability of NREGA by enforcing social audit and ensuring grievance redressal by setting up district level ombudsman;
- Strengthening Right to Information by suitably amending the law to provide for disclosure by government in all non-strategic areas;
- Strengthening public accountability of flagship programmes by the creation of an Independent Evaluation Office at an arm's distance from the government catalysed by the Planning Commission. It will work on a network model by collaborating with leading social science research organizations and concurrently evaluate the impact of flagship programmes and place it in the public domain;
- Establishing mechanisms for performance monitoring and performance evaluation in government on a regular basis;
- Five Annual Reports to be presented by government as Reports to the People on Education, Health, Employment, Environment and Infrastructure to generate a national debate;
- Facilitating a Voluntary Technical Corps of professionals in all urban areas through JNNURM to support city development activities;
- Enabling non government organisations in the area of development action seeking government support through a web-based transaction on a government portal in which the status of the application will be transparently monitorable;
- Provision of scholarships and social security schemes through accounts in post offices and banks and phased transition to smart cards;
- Revamping of banks and post offices to become outreach units for financial inclusion complemented by business correspondents aided by technology;
- Electronic governance through Bharat Nirman common service centres in all panchayats in the next three years;
- A model Public Services Law, that covers functionaries providing important social services like education, health, rural development etc. and commits them to their duties, will be drawn up in consultation with states;
- A National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel;
- A National Council for Higher Education as recommended by the Yashpal Committee and the National Knowledge Commission to bring in reform of regulatory institutions;
- Develop a "brain gain" policy to attract talent from all over the world into the 14 universities proposed in the 11th Plan to position them as "Innovation Universities";
- A roadmap for judicial reform to be outlined in six months and implemented in a time-bound manner;
- Targeted identification cards would subsume and replace omnibus Below Poverty Line (BPL) list. NREGA has a job card and the proposed Food Security Act would also create a new card. Identification of beneficiaries for other programmes which currently use the omnibus BPL list would improve identification based on programme objectives with the common underlying principle that all identification of beneficiaries will be done through gram sabhas and urban local bodies and the list placed in the public domain to be open to challenge;
- A Delivery Monitoring Unit in the Prime Minister's Office to monitor flagship programmes and iconic projects and report on their status publicly;

- Suitably institutionalized quarterly reporting on Flagship programmes as "Bharat Nirman Quarterly Reports" where Ministers would publicly report on progress through the media.

Infrastructure is a fundamental enabler for a modern economy and infrastructure development will be a key focus area for the next five years. Public investment in infrastructure is of paramount importance. Bottlenecks and delays in implementation of infrastructure projects because of policies and procedures, especially in railways, power, highways, ports, airports and rural telecom will be systematically removed. Public-private partnership (PPP) projects are a key element of the strategy. A large number of PPP projects in different areas currently awaiting government approval would be cleared expeditiously. The regulatory and legal framework for PPPs would be made more investment friendly. My Government will continue its special emphasis on infrastructure development in the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir and enhance connectivity to these regions.

Our fellow citizens have every right to own part of the shares of public sector companies while the government retains majority shareholding and control. My Government will develop a roadmap for listing and people-ownership of public sector undertakings while ensuring that government equity does not fall below 51%.

My Government is firmly committed to maintaining high growth with low inflation, particularly in relation to prices of essential agricultural and industrial commodities. It will steadfastly observe fiscal responsibility so that the ability of the Centre to invest in essential social and economic infrastructure is continuously enhanced. This will require that all subsidies reach only the truly needy and poor sections of our society. A national consensus will be created on this issue and necessary policy changes implemented.

My Government has been able to significantly increase realization of direct taxes as a result of improved and simplified tax administration and this process will continue. The roadmap for moving towards a Goods and Services Tax will be vigorously pursued. My Government is fully seized of the issues of illegal money of Indian citizens outside the country in secret bank accounts. It will vigorously pursue all necessary steps in coordination with the countries concerned.

Coordinated action for energy would be guided by the integrated energy policy. The effort would be to see that at least 13,000 MW of generating capacity is added each year through a mix of sources—coal, hydel, nuclear and renewables. Village and rural household electrification and reduction in aggregate technical and commercial losses will continue to be given the highest priority. Competitiveness and efficiency in the power sector will be enhanced through time-bound measures, including operationalising the provision of open access.

The pace of oil and gas exploration will be intensified and India's oil diplomacy aggressively pursued. Reforms in the coal sector, for which a detailed blueprint has been prepared, will be pursued with urgency. The international civil nuclear agreements will be operationalised with various countries even as domestic sources of uranium are exploited and work continues on the indigenously designed fast breeder and thorium reactors.

My Government will ensure that our space programme which has achieved wide recognition continues to bring rich dividends to society in agriculture, tele-medicine, tele-education and by providing information to rural knowledge centres, besides contributing to telecommunication, television broadcasting and weather forecasting. Several innovative initiatives commenced by government in the science and technology sector in the last five years and now under implementation will be further strengthened.

My Government is proactively addressing issues of climate change through eight national missions. Of these the National Solar Mission, the National Water Mission, the National Mission on Energy Efficiency, the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat will be launched by the end of this year. The National Ganga River Basin Authority, set up recently will evolve a new action plan for cleaning and beautifying the river in partnership with the basin states.

My Government's foreign policy will continue to pursue India's enlightened national interest, maintaining the strategic autonomy and independent decision-making that has been its hallmark. India has a vital interest in the stability and prosperity of our neighbours. The highest priority will be accorded to working with our friends in SAARC to promote stability, development and prosperity in the region. Government will sincerely work with our neighbours to ensure that outstanding issues are addressed and the full potential of our region is realized.

My Government will seek to reshape our relationship with Pakistan depending on the sincerity of Pakistan's actions to confront groups who launch terrorist attacks against India from its territory. We will support initiatives in Sri Lanka, which can lead to a permanent political solution of the conflict there and ensure that all Sri Lankan communities, especially the Tamils, feel secure and enjoy equal rights so that they can lead a life of dignity and self-respect. India will make appropriate contribution to rehabilitate those affected by the conflict. In Nepal and Bangladesh, where multi-party democracy has returned, India will work closely with both countries to continue expanding bilateral ties for mutual benefit. Government will strengthen our close and vibrant partnerships with Bhutan and Maldives and continue to assist in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The momentum of improvement of our relations with the major powers will be maintained. The transformation of our partnership with the United States of America will be taken forward. Our strategic partnership with Russia has grown over the years, and we will seek to further consolidate it. With countries of Europe and Japan my Government will continue the sustained diplomatic efforts, which have produced qualitative changes in our relations since 2004. The multi-faceted partnership with China will be expanded.

My Government will continue to work with other developing nations. It will contribute to all efforts at peace in West Asia through the establishment of a viable Palestinian State at the earliest. The traditionally close ties with countries in the Gulf will be strengthened. The process of engagement with Africa reenergized with the first Indo-Africa Summit organized by my Government will be further expanded. The multi-dimensional partnerships with countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific as well as Central Asia and the Latin American region will be consolidated.

The Indian diaspora estimated at over twenty-five million across the world is an important economic, social and cultural force and my Government will deepen its engagement with it. Our ties and kinship with the diaspora make us acutely conscious of their well-being and to be sensitive to their concerns. As a responsible member of the international community, India will work with other countries in tackling issues of common concern such as international terrorism, the global economic crisis, climate change, energy security and reform of multilateral institutions to reflect contemporary realities.

Honourable Members, my Government believes that in the knowledge society in which we live today, creativity, innovation and enterprise hold the key to people and nations realizing their potential. The "dreary desert sand of dead habit" must be left behind. Our young people are tearing down the narrow domestic walls of religion, region, language, caste and gender that confine them. The nation must invest in their hope. My Government will ensure that its policies for education and science and technology are imbued with a spirit of innovation so that the creativity of a billion people is unleashed. The next ten years would be dedicated as a Decade of Innovation. It may be a symbolic gesture but an important gesture to drive home the need to be innovative in finding solutions to our many challenges. India's young population is naturally restless and wants to see change quickly. My Government carries the weight of their dreams. Together let us dedicate ourselves to making each day of the next five years, a day closer to the realization of their dreams.

**Jai Hind**

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12.38<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

##### Notices of amendments to Motion of Thanks on President's Address

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: As the hon. Members have already been informed vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated 1st June, 2009, notices of amendments to the Motion of Thanks on President's Address can be tabled up to 1700 hours today.

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12.39 hrs.

#### OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of seven of our former colleagues, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Shri Guman Mal Lodha, Shri Tulmohan Ram, Shri A.F. Golam Osmani, Shri Sri Shanker Tewari, Shri Virendra Verma and Shri Homi F. Daji.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava was a Member of the Ninth to Fourteenth Lok Sabhas from 1989 to 2009 representing Jaipur Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

Earlier, Shri Bhargava was a member of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha for three terms from 1972 to 1989.

During his long and illustrious tenure spanning over a period of two decades, Shri Bhargava served as the Chairman of the House Committee and also as a member of various parliamentary committees.

An active social and political worker, Shri Bhargava was the Chairman of the Municipal Committee, Jaipur and was also the Chairman of the Urban Improvement Trust, Jaipur from 1978 to 1980. He was the Deputy Chairman, Pollution Control Board of Rajasthan; President, Rajasthan Library Association, Jaipur; Founder, Bharatiya College, Jaipur and Patron, Cloth Merchants Association, Jaipur. He was also Member, Prisoners Advisory Committee, Jaipur; Telephone Advisory Committee, Jaipur and the Municipal Council, Jaipur for four terms. Shri Bhargava was also associated with a number of organizations working for the welfare of the common man in Jaipur.

Shri Bhargava followed the best parliamentary traditions in letter and spirit and actively participated in the proceedings of the House. His genial demeanour endeared him to all those who came in his contact.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava passed away on 8 March, 2009 at Ahmedabad at the age of 73.

Shri Guman Mal Lodha was a member of the Ninth to Eleventh Lok Sabhas from 1989 to 1997 representing Pali Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

Earlier, Shri Lodha was a member of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha from 1972 to 1977. During this period he was Chairman, Committee on Petitions and the Committee on Delegated Legislation of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha.

An able parliamentarian, he was Chairman, Committee on Subordinate Legislation and a member of the General Purposes Committee during the Ninth Lok Sabha. He was a member of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation during the Tenth Lok Sabha and a member of the Committee on Science & Technology and Environment & Forests during the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

A freedom fighter and a distinguished legal luminary, Shri Lodha had a long and illustrious career spanning

over four decades. He served as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court from 1978 to 1988. He also served as the Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court in 1988. As a Judge, he introduced reforms in the judiciary for the benefit of the litigants and ordinary public. Earlier, he was President, Rajasthan High Court Advocates' Association and a Member of the Bar Council of Rajasthan. His outstanding contribution to the cause of legal system in the country will be remembered for long.

A multifaceted personality Shri Lodha was also an accomplished author. He contributed several articles for leading Hindi dailies on a plethora of subjects. He has to his credit several books in Hindi and English.

Shri Guman Mal Lodha passed away on the 12 March, 2009 at Ahmedabad at the age of 82.

Shri Tulmohan Ram was a member of the Third, Fourth and the Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1962 to 1977, representing the Sonbarsa Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during the Third Lok Sabha and the Araria Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas.

Earlier, Shri Tulmohan Ram was a member of the Bihar Vidhan Sabha from 1957 to 1962.

An able parliamentarian Shri Tulmohan Ram was a member of Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the Fifth Lok Sabha.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Tulmohan Ram played a prominent role in freedom struggle and was imprisoned on a number of occasions. He was Secretary of the Saharsa Zila Kisan Sabha; Bihar State Kisan Sabha and also served as the President of the District Depressed Classes League, Saharsa. He worked untiringly for the removal of untouchability and other social disparities in the society.

A well-known social worker, Shri Tulmohan Ram was associated with *Pustakalaya* Movement. He also took special interest in the cooperative movement and panchayat system.

Shri Tulmohan Ram passed away on 28 March, 2009 at New Delhi at the age of 80.

Shri A.F. Golam Osmani was a Member of the Twelfth to Fourteenth Lok Sabhas from 1998 to 2009 representing Barpeta parliamentary constituency of Assam.

Earlier, Shri Osmani was a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1978 to 1982. He also served as a Cabinet Minister in the Government of Assam.

Shri Osmani was a Member of the Committee on Estimates and the Committee on Home Affairs during the Twelfth Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Committee on Commerce and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table during the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. He also served as a Member of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme; Committee on Rural Development and the Committee on Human Resource Development during the Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

An advocate by profession, Shri Osmani was the Secretary of the Silchar Bar Association in 1976. He was the Editor of *Borak* a weekly periodical published from Silchar and Guwahati. Shri Osmani was also the Secretary, Tagore Society for Cultural Integration, Silchar. Shri Osmani was also associated with several NGOs working for the welfare of the common man.

Shri A.F. Golam Osmani passed away on 31 March, 2009 at New Delhi at the age of 76.

Shri Sri Shanker Tewari was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 representing the Etawah parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

An advocate by profession, Shri Tewari was a Member of the Disciplinary Committee of Uttar Pradesh Bar Council. He also served as the Convener of Uttar Pradesh Bar Council Law Journal and as the Secretary of Uttar Pradesh High Court Bar Association.

A well-known social worker, Shri Tewari strove for the welfare of the deprived and backward sections of the society.

A sports enthusiast, Shri Tewari was the Secretary, Gymkhana Club, Allahabad in 1970.

Shri Sri Shanker Tewari passed away on 9 April, 2009 at Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 85.

Shri Virendra Verma was a Member of the Twelfth Lok Sabha from 1998 to 1999, representing the Kairana parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Verma was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1984 to 1990. As a Member of the Upper

House, he served on several Parliamentary Committees. Shri Virendra Verma was also a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha from 1952 to 1962 and from 1967 to 1977. Shri Verma served as Deputy Minister for Cooperation from 1959 to 1960; Cabinet Minister for Irrigation, Power, Industries, Labour, Education and Technical Education and Home from 1970 to 1971 and Cabinet Minister for Agriculture from 1975 to 1977 in the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Virendra Verma was a Member of the Committee on Agriculture during the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

Shri Verma served as the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh during 1990 and later as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from 1990 to 1993.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Verma was the Vice-President, Uttar Pradesh Sugarcane Cooperative Union Federation from 1949 to 1955. He also served as the Chairman of the Indian Sugarcane Development Council from 1967 to 1975. He headed the Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Nationalisation Committee in 1970. Shri Verma was also a Member of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee and the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Sugarcane Board.

His untiring efforts to uplift the farmers, particularly those cultivating sugarcane brought western Uttar Pradesh in the forefront of sugar production in the country. In his demise, the country has lost a champion of the cause of farmers and downtrodden.

Shri Virendra Verma passed away on 2 May, 2009 at Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 93.

Shri Homi F. Daji was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha from 1962 to 1967 representing the Indore Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Daji was a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings and the Committee on Subordinate Legislation during the Third Lok Sabha.

Shri Daji was also a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha for two terms from 1957 to 1962 and later from 1972 to 1977.

An advocate by profession, Shri Daji started his political career at the grass-root level. Shri Daji was

actively associated with the Indian Trade Union Movement. He was the Regional Secretary of the All India Trade Union (AITU) from 1993 till his demise. Shri Daji also served as a Member of the Vikram University Senate.

Shri Homi F. Daji passed away on 14 May, 2009 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 83.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, cyclone 'AILA' which struck the State of West Bengal and Bangladesh on 25th May, 2009, caused unprecedented rains resulting in loss of lives; destruction of property and has rendered a large number of persons homeless.

Hon. Members, in another disaster, an Air France plane with 228 persons of various nationalities on board crashed into the Atlantic Ocean during a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. The crash which was reportedly brought about by stormy weather has resulted in one of the deadliest air disasters of recent times.

The House expresses its profound sorrow on these tragedies which have brought pain and suffering to the families of the bereaved and injured.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

12.53 hrs.

*The members then stood in silence for a short while.*

12.55 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:-

- (1) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated 19th March, 2009 issued by the President under clause (1) of article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Meghalaya

published in Notification No. G.S.R. 178 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2009 under article 356 (3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 3/15/2009]

- (2) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated 19th March, 2009 made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above Proclamation published in Notification No. G.S.R. 179 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 4/15/2009]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Governor of Meghalaya dated the 17th March, 2009 to the President.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 5/15/2009]

- (4) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated 13th May, 2009 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier Proclamation issued by her on 19th March, 2009 in relation to the State of Meghalaya published in Notification No. G.S.R. 318 (E) in Gazette of India dated 13th May, 2009 under article 356 (3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 6/15/2009]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution:-

- (1) The Meghalaya Appropriation (Vote on Account) Ordinance, 2009 (No. 4 of 2009) promulgated by the President on the 19th March, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 7/15/2009]

- (2) The Meghalaya Appropriation Ordinance, 2009 (No. 5 of 2009) promulgated by the President on the 19th March, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 8/15/2009]



12.55<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

## ASSENT TO BILLS

*[English]*

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table the following 13 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 20th February, 2009:-

1. The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2009;
2. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2009;
3. The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2009;
4. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009;
5. The Appropriation Bill, 2009;
6. The Jharkhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009;
7. The Jharkhand Appropriation Bill, 2009;
8. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2009;
9. The Prevention of Money-Laundering (Amendment) Bill, 2009;
10. The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2009;

11. The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2009;
12. The Finance Bill, 2009; and
13. The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following 3 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:-

1. The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2009;
2. The Central Universities Bill, 2009; and
3. The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Bill, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T-9/15/2009]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, June 5, 2009 at 11.00 A.M.

12.56 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, June 5, 2009/Jyaistha 15, 1931 (Saka).*

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