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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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of
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**ADDRESSES DELIVERED BY THE LOK SABHA SPEAKER, SHRI OM BIRLA AT THE
EIGHTY-FOURTH CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATIVE
BODIES IN INDIA (AIPOC), HELD AT MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA FROM
27TH TO 28TH JANUARY 2024**

The 84th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held at Mumbai, Maharashtra from 27th to 28th January 2024. The Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Om Birla delivered the Inaugural and the Valedictory Addresses on 27th and 28th January 2024, respectively.

We reproduce below the text of the Addresses delivered by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla.

Inaugural Address



Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla delivering the Inaugural Address at the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Mumbai on 27th January 2024.

I extend my greetings to the popular Chief Minister of the State, Shri Eknath Shinde ji, the gracious host of this historic conference; Hon'ble Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Shri Rahul Narwekar ji; Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Harivansh ji, who has years of experience of working as a journalist in Mumbai; Hon'ble Deputy Chairperson, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Neelam ji; Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Shri Narhari ji; Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra

Legislative Assembly, Ambadas Danve ji; Hon'ble Presiding Officers from the State Legislatures; Hon'ble Deputy Speakers; Secretaries-General of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

This Presiding Officers' Conference is taking place in a State which has a long history of courage, bravery, spirituality, social reforms, and which boasts of being the birthplace of many freedom fighters. This is the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji, whose very name fills the heart of every Indian with pride. A number of social reforms movements originated here. Spiritual teachings from here spread across the country to bring about changes at social and individual level. It gave a new direction to the freedom struggle.

This land has been the birthplace of many spiritual, social, and political reforms. Therefore, we can safely predict that this Presiding Officers' Conference will also yield concrete resolutions and decisions, which will serve as the means to make the legislative institutions of the country more accountable and transparent

This Conference in Mumbai will pave the way for innovations, new practices, and strategies to address the challenges of modern times. Mumbai has witnessed momentous decisions that have sparked large-scale transformations. This rich heritage defines the essence of this land.

The Presiding Officers' Conference has reached its centenary milestone. The inaugural Conference took place in Shimla in 1921, and fittingly, the centennial conference was also organized in Shimla. This legislative forum has been witnessed to numerous discussions, dialogues, and decisions, which have subsequently catalyzed necessary changes in our legislatures. We have reformed our way of functioning, resulting in unequivocally better outcomes.

All of us present here today are Presiding Officers. It is our solemn duty not only to tackle the challenges before us, but also to enhance the efficiency of legislatures and public representatives, and thereby increasing the productivity and credibility of our legislative institutions.

This is the *Amrit Kaal* and during this time we have brought about many socio-economic changes in the country and the States, through debates and discussions held in the legislatures.

Discussion, dialogue, dissent and concurrence is the strength of our democracy. The sheer magnitude of the elections in India and the smooth transfer of power thereafter makes Indian democracy unique. It has become the flagbearer of democracy and a guiding light for the world.

We have formulated laws, schemes and action plans through discussion and dialogues held in legislatures, thereby facilitating socio-economic transformations.

People repose their trust in their elected representatives and expect them to fulfil their hopes and aspirations. Hence it is the duty of the legislators to come up to the expectations of the people to enhance the credibility of these institutions and strengthen the people's faith in them.

Legislatures are the primary forum for the formulation of laws. We continually explore ways to enhance their efficiency and implement new ideas. However, we also acknowledge that there are some concerns we need to address.

We deliberate on all these issues during the Presiding Officers' Conferences, recognizing the challenges before us that require resolution.

We should engage in discussions with other political parties to ensure increased productivity and improved outcomes in the Legislative Assemblies and the Legislative Councils. These efforts, discussed during various Presiding Officers' Conferences, aim to address the concerns of the House and positively impact the lives of the people.

The agenda items that we are going to discuss at the Conference are related to ways in which we can strengthen people's trust in legislature and how we can make legislatures the platform for fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Hon'ble Members, over the past 100 years, 84 Presiding Officers' Conferences have been convened. The one issue that has remained a major cause of concern is the steady decline in the number of sittings of the legislatures.

The second biggest issue that persists is the erosion in the dignity of the House, a topic that has been debated extensively over the last 5 years. However, fruitful discussions have ensued, and we anticipate positive outcomes from the deliberations during this Conference.

We have improved the work efficiency in our legislatures. Digitalization has led to paperless functioning of most of the Legislative Assemblies in our country. Legislative Assemblies have been organizing capacity building programmes to enhance the work efficiency of the public representatives.

Hon'ble Prime Minister had introduced the idea of 'One Legislative Platform'. We are working on it. I urge the Presiding Officers of the State Legislatures to work towards digitization of debates and discussions on various matters raised in their legislatures in a time bound manner so that 'One Nation, One Legislative Platform' can become a reality soon. This will enable people to access the proceedings of all legislatures on one platform and ensure transparency and accountability in Legislatures.

We have much to learn from the new and innovative methods of working adopted by various Legislative Assemblies, which have positively impacted the lives of those on the last rung of the society. While some Assemblies have already initiated such practices, I urge all the State Legislatures to embrace more of these innovative approaches. We are committed to doing the same in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha as well. It is essential for public representatives to share their experiences regarding the initiatives undertaken for the betterment of society and the resulting changes they have brought about. This will not only enhance the credibility of the Legislatures, but also strengthen the trust of the people in their elected representatives.

When the people of the country witness how the innovative ideas of their legislators are transforming society, it serves as an inspiration for others to follow suit. Such discussions not only inspire fellow legislators but also significantly contribute to enhancing people's trust in their public representatives.

People will come to realize that political leaders haven't merely contested elections to attain power, but also to make a tangible difference in the lives of their constituents through innovative ideas and the social-moral values they uphold. They have spearheaded socio-economic changes and diligently implemented various governmental schemes to ensure the welfare of the most vulnerable segments of society.

We will learn from the insights shared by the Presiding Officers of Legislative Assemblies regarding the innovative practices they have adopted. Many Assemblies have taken steps to ensure adequate opportunities for women members to actively participate in House proceedings, including their inclusion in the Panel of Chairpersons. Such commendable innovations should be highlighted and brought to the attention of the public.

We are all deeply concerned about the decline in dignity and decorum within legislatures. The emerging trend of planned obstruction of House proceedings must be addressed promptly. State

Legislatures, the Lok Sabha, and the Rajya Sabha serve as forums for discussion and dialogue. It is imperative that the elected representatives engage in constructive dialogue, express their views, and dissent in a meaningful manner. Only through such actions can they emerge as national leaders and build a positive image for themselves, consequently enhancing the productivity of legislatures.

We should strive to transform certain legislatures into model institutions where discussions and dialogues are conducted seamlessly, free from any obstructions. Such exemplary practices can serve as inspiration for other legislatures to follow suit.

We are committed to ensuring that there are no disruptions in the House, and that members are provided adequate opportunity to express their views and raise their issues without resorting to placards or slogans. It is imperative that legislatures work without interruption, as this is crucial to maintaining the trust of the people.

People should trust that their representatives will voice their concerns in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures, where their problems can be addressed. Therefore, the incumbent government should view issues raised by Members, regardless of party affiliation, positively and work towards resolving them. This approach will enhance the credibility of legislative bodies. Additionally, we often deliberate on how to make the committee system more purposeful and effective.

Parliamentary Committees deliberate upon various issues within their purview, and I have personally witnessed how reports from these committees, particularly on important subjects, have catalyzed socio-economic changes in society. These Committees play a crucial role in ensuring accountability of the Executive, promoting transparency, reducing corruption, and shaping laws and policies. They function as 'mini-Parliaments,' with members from across party lines. It is imperative to closely monitor the action taken on their reports to ensure smooth functioning and better results. Laws formulated based on inputs from these Committees are often more beneficial to the public. We are poised to deliberate upon these subjects in the coming days.

I hope that the decisions made at this Conference here in Mumbai will show us the way forward in ensuring the transparency and accountability of legislatures, enhancing the work efficiency of people's representatives, inspiring them to uphold moral values, and conducting themselves in a dignified manner.

In the era of social media, it is expected of people's representatives to make judicious use of it. People's representatives are held in high esteem and respect both inside and outside the House.

They have a great responsibility to maintain the prestige and dignity of the legislatures and conduct themselves in a dignified manner so that the people of the country can repose their trust and faith in them.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar once said, 'However good a constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad. However bad a constitution may be, if those implementing it are good, it will prove to be good.' It is our responsibility to make legislators accountable to the people and ensure that the conduct of the people's representatives is in accordance with the principles of ethics, accountability, and transparency.

We shall make collective efforts to share best practices and good works with all the legislatures of the country, inspiring elected representatives across the board to achieve positive outcomes. This, in turn, will strengthen the legislatures and democratic values in the country.

Thank you.

Valedictory Address



Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla addressing at the Valedictory Session of the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Mumbai on 28th January 2024.

Shri Jagdeep Dhankharji, Hon'ble Vice-President of India;

Shri Ramesh Bais ji, Hon'ble Governor, Maharashtra;

Shri Harivansh ji, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha;

Shri Rahul Narvekar ji, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly;

Dr. Neelam Gore ji, Hon'ble Vice-Chairperson, Legislative Council of Maharashtra;

Shri Devendra Fadnavis ji, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra;

Shri Vijay Waddettivar ji, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition;

Secretaries General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha;

Hon'ble Ministers;

Hon'ble Members of Parliament;

Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assemblies; and

Distinguished Delegates and Ladies and Gentlemen:

Over the last two days, we have had enriching, insightful, and informative discussions on the agenda of this Conference. Our deliberations were focused on important issues, and we discussed our fundamental responsibilities as custodians of democratic traditions.

Strengthening people's trust in these institutions has been the central theme of our discussions. I am glad to see your dedication towards this responsibility.

When this platform was launched, our principal objective was to deliberate upon ways to strengthen our citizens' trust in democratic institutions.

In our deliberations, we discussed various action plans to connect our democratic institutions with the people and make them more accountable and transparent.

Democracy thrives on the trust and confidence of the people. Hence, it is the responsibility of the democratic institutions to bring about necessary changes in our legislatures and, if necessary, amend relevant rules as well, so that our institutions become worthy of commanding the trust of the public.

I am happy that during the Conference, you shared the best practices being implemented in your respective legislatures.

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, for instance, has been inviting youth since 1964 to participate in live proceedings, ensuring their engagement in the legislature. I believe this is an important innovation that all legislatures should adopt. Similarly, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly suggested establishing a mechanism to facilitate dialogue between legislatures and grassroots democratic institutions.

I think this is a very good suggestion. The Lok Sabha has organized outreach programs in this regard, and I feel all legislatures should consider adopting similar initiatives. Making our legislatures paperless is another important issue. Maharashtra Legislature has successfully moved towards becoming a paperless legislature, and Haryana has also achieved success in this direction.

Hon'ble Prime Minister had mentioned about 'One Nation One Legislative Platform' in his message yesterday. The Lok Sabha has achieved remarkable success in this direction through Digital Parliament. Many Legislative Assemblies have also successfully joined this platform.

Technology is essential in today's world. During the discussions, some legislatures have proposed several important suggestions in this regard. We will further deliberate upon these suggestions and prepare an action plan soon, which will be shared with all the legislatures.

Many Legislative Assemblies have digitized their records, while others have made significant progress in this direction. By ensuring our presence on digital platforms, we can not only save money, but also effectively connect with the public, especially the youth. Some Legislative Assemblies have mentioned the difficulty faced by Hon'ble Members in adapting to new technologies. However, I firmly believe that the future belongs to technology, and we should strive to acquire proficiency in its use as soon as possible. To facilitate this, capacity-building and training programs should be organized regularly in Legislative Assemblies.

In this context, some States have suggested that the Lok Sabha should develop a model IT policy for legislatures and share it with all the Assemblies. We will further deliberate on this matter and make a decision accordingly. Additionally, there is a suggestion to organize a special conference regarding the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. We have previously discussed this topic on various platforms, and it warrants further discussion. Some members have also raised concerns about the live telecast of legislative proceedings, particularly regarding the challenge of telecasting portions expunged by the Presiding Officers. We will collectively discuss this issue and arrive at a definite decision.

Yesterday, we emphasized the need to uphold discipline and decorum in our legislatures. In today's context, the significant amount of time wasted due to disruptions in Houses poses a major challenge for us. Therefore, it is imperative that we devise an action plan and formulate a strategy to ensure that our legislative time is utilized effectively for constructive discussions and dialogues concerning the welfare of the people.

The incidents of forced and planned adjournments, leading to the loss of valuable parliamentary time, are indeed concerning for all of us. Additionally, we expressed concern yesterday about the decreasing number of working days in our legislatures. In such circumstances, if legislative work is impeded due to disruptions, it is natural for the general public to develop a negative perception of our legislative bodies.

It is indeed a matter of concern for the citizens of the country that the quantity and quality of discussions and debates in legislatures are decreasing, while discipline and decorum are declining, and incidents of disturbances and disruptions are on the rise. This trend is adversely affecting the image of legislatures.

In this Conference, we discussed the necessity of making the Committee system more purposeful and effective. Yesterday, our Hon'ble Prime Minister provided significant

suggestions, including addressing the social glorification of criminals convicted by the judiciary, empowering committees, repealing obsolete and irrelevant laws, and enhancing the role of women in legislatures. These are several issues that require deep deliberation.

We must exert greater efforts to improve communication and cooperation between the Legislature and the Executive. To achieve this, our legislatures must be proactive in providing necessary suggestions for the socio-economic progress of the country.

Committees are the lifeline of our parliamentary processes. By enhancing their efficiency, we can ensure that they become powerful tools for effective governance and monitoring of the executive. Additionally, we need to consider ways to increase the participation of youth and women in committees. To further empower the Committees, we should be prepared to make necessary amendments to the rules.

Proper training and capacity building of new members in our Houses are vital issues. Presiding Officers should ensure that the newly elected members receive full cooperation and support, along with complete information about parliamentary rules and procedures. Additionally, organizing training programs for them is essential. Each legislature should develop a definite action plan in this regard.

We must consistently discuss establishing the best traditions and practices in our Houses, always mindful that the House is elected by the people, making public interest paramount.

I am confident that the decisions taken from this platform here in Mumbai will further strengthen our roles as custodians of democratic values.

Let us all strive together for a future where democratic institutions truly become symbols of trust, integrity and excellence.

The Mumbai Legislative Assembly with its vibrant spirit has provided an inspiring backdrop for our discussions.

Friends, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the delegates for their active participation, thoughtful insights and important inputs.

The success of this conference lies in our shared commitment to the ideals of democracy, transparency and accountability.

I thank the Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Rahul Narvekarji and the Deputy Chairperson of Maharashtra Legislative Council, Smt. Neelam Gorhe ji for successfully organizing this Conference and for their warm hospitality.

I heartily appreciate the organizers, support staff and all those involved in making this Conference a success.

I also thank those Presiding Officers who attended this Conference, actively participated in it and contributed significantly in making it a success.

Jai Hind!

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SMT. DROUPADI MURMU TO THE JOINT
SITTING OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE PARLIAMENT, NEW DELHI,
31ST JANUARY 2024**

The President of India addresses both the Houses assembled together in the Parliament, at the commencement of the first Session each year. In an election year, the President addresses the Parliament at the commencement of the First Session after each General Election (after constitution of the new Lok Sabha).

The provision for an Address by the Head of the State to the Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. Under article 86(1) of the Constitution, the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of the members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform the Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 31st January 2024.

We reproduce below the text of the Address¹.

¹<https://presidentofindia.nic.in/speeches/address-honble-president-india-smt-droupadi-murmu-parliament>



The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu arrives in Parliament House to Address members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Lok Sabha Chamber of Parliament House on 31st January 2024.

Honorable Members,

This is my first address in this new Parliament building. This magnificent building has been constructed at the beginning of “*Azadi ka Amrit Kaal*”. It is imbued with the fragrance of ‘*Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*’ and is a testimony to India’s civilization and culture. It also resonates with the resolve to respect our democratic and parliamentary traditions. Moreover, it embodies the commitment to forge new traditions for the new India of the 21st century. I am confident that this new building will be witness to productive dialogue on policies -- policies that will shape the development of ‘*Viksit Bharat*’ in the *Amrit Kaal* of our independence. I extend my best wishes to all of you.

Honorable Members,

This year is also the 75th year of adoption of our Constitution. During this period, *Amrit Mahotsav*, the celebration of 75 years of independence, was completed. During this period, many programmes were organized across the country. The country remembered its unsung freedom fighters. After 75 years, the young generation relived that period of freedom struggle.

During this campaign, *Amrit Kalash* containing soil from every village of the country were brought to Delhi under the ‘*Meri Maati, Mera Desh*’ campaign. Over 2 lakh plaques were installed. More than three crore people took the oath of the ‘*Panch Pran*’. More than 70,000 *Amrit*

Sarovars were built. Construction of more than two lakh “*Amrit Vatikas*” was completed. Over two crore trees were planted. More than 16 crore people uploaded their selfies with the Tricolour.

It was during the *Amrit Mahotsav* that, a statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was installed on “*Kartavya Path*”. A museum dedicated to all the Prime Ministers of the country was inaugurated in Delhi, the national capital. Shantiniketan and Hoysala Temple were included in the World Heritage List. *Veer Bal Diwas* was declared in the memory of “*Sahibzaade*”. Birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda was declared as “*Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas*”. August 14 was declared as “*Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas*” to commemorate the horrors of partition.

Honorable Members,

The past year has been full of historic achievements for India. During this period, there were many moments which enhanced the pride of our countrymen. Amidst serious global crises, India emerged as the fastest-growing major economy, consistently maintaining a growth rate of over 7.5 percent for two consecutive quarters. India became the first country to hoist its flag on the southern pole of the Moon. India successfully launched the Aditya Mission and its satellite reached a distance of 15 lakh kilometers away from Earth. Success of the historic G-20 Summit strengthened India’s global standing. India won more than 100 medals for the first time in Asian Games. We also won more than 100 medals in Para Asian Games. India got its largest sea-bridge, the *Atal Setu*. India got its first *Namo Bharat* train and the first *Amrit Bharat* train. India became the country with the fastest 5G rollout in the world. An Indian Airline company executed the world’s largest aircraft deal. Last year, my government has given government jobs to lakhs of youth in mission mode.

Honorable Members,

Over the past 12 months, my government introduced several important legislations. These laws have been enacted with the cooperation of all parliamentarians. These are laws that lay a strong foundation for the realization of vision of ‘*Viksit Bharat*’. I appreciate all of you for having enacted the *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam* after a wait of three decades. This has paved the way for ensuring greater participation of women in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies. This strengthens my government’s resolve for women-led development. My government has continuously upheld its commitment to Reform, Perform and Transform. The criminal justice system rooted in the era of slavery is now history. Now, justice takes precedence over punishment. The nation has got a new *Nyaya Sanhita* based on the principle of ‘Justice First’. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act will make the digital space more secure. “Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act” will

strengthen research and innovation in the country. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act will ensure the right to representation to tribals there. During this period the Central University Act was amended. This paved the way for setting up a Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana. Last year, 76 other old laws were also repealed. My government is aware of the concerns of youth regarding irregularities in examinations. Therefore, it has been decided to enact a new law to deal sternly with such malpractices.

Honorable Members,

Any nation can progress at a fast pace only when it overcomes the past challenges and invests maximum energy in the future. Over the past 10 years, India has witnessed several such tasks being accomplished in the national interest, for which the people of the country were waiting for decades. For centuries, there was an aspiration to construct the Ram Mandir. Today it is a reality. There were doubts regarding the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Those are now history. This Parliament also enacted a strict law against ‘Triple Talaq’. This Parliament also enacted a law to grant citizenship to persecuted minorities from our neighboring countries. My government also implemented ‘One Rank One Pension’ (OROP), which was awaited for four decades. After implementation of OROP, the ex-servicemen have by now received approximately Rupees 1 lakh crore. For the first time, a Chief of Defence Staff has been appointed for India’s defence forces.

Honorable Members,

The immortal lines of Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das inspire the sentiment of boundless patriotism. He had said,-

मिशुमोरदेहएदेशमाटिरे,
देशबासीचालिजाआन्तुपिठिरे।
देशरस्वराज्य-पथेजेतेगाड़,
पूरुतहिंपड़िमोरमांसहाड़।

that is:

Let my body dissolve in the soil of this country,

Let the countrymen ride on my back and go.

All the potholes that are there in the country’s path to independence,

Let them all be filled with my flesh and bones.

In these lines we see the pinnacle of duty and the ideal of Nation-First.

The achievements that are visible today are the outcome of the endeavors of last 10 years. Since childhood, we have been hearing the slogan of ‘*Garibi Hatao*’. Now, for the first time in our lives, we are witnessing eradication of poverty on a massive scale. According to NITI Aayog, in the last one decade of my government, about 25 crore countrymen have been lifted out of poverty. This is something that instills great confidence among the poor. If the poverty of 25 crore people can be alleviated, then her poverty can also be alleviated.

If we look at various dimensions of the economy today, then it boosts our confidence that India is moving forward in the right direction, taking right decisions. In the last 10 years, we have seen India transform from “fragile five” to a “top five” economy. India’s exports have increased from about \$450 billion to more than \$775 billion. FDI flows have doubled. Sales of Khadi and Village Industries products have increased by more than 4 times. The number of people filing Income Tax Return has increased from about 3.25 crores to about 8.25 crores *i.e.*, it has more than doubled.

A decade ago, there were only a few hundred start-ups in the country which have grown to more than one lakh today. 94 thousand companies were registered in a year. Now this number has increased to 1 lakh 60 thousand. In December 2017, 98 lakh people used to pay GST, today their number is 1 crore 40 lakh. Around 13 crore vehicles were sold in the 10 years before 2014. In the last 10 years, countrymen have purchased more than 21 crore vehicles. About 2 thousand electric vehicles were sold in 2014-15. Whereas, till the month of December for the year 2023-24, about 12 lakh electric vehicles have been sold.

Honorable Members,

In the last decade, my government has made good governance and transparency the main foundation of every institution. As a result of this, we have witnessed major economic reforms. During this period, Insolvency and Bankruptcy code was enacted in the country. The country now has ‘One country One Tax’ law in the form of GST. My government has also ensured macro-economic stability. In 10 years, Capex has increased 5 times to Rupees 10 lakh crore. Fiscal Deficit is also under control. Today, we have Forex reserves in excess of 600 billion US dollars. Our banking system, which was in a very bad shape earlier, has today become one of the strongest banking systems in the world. NPAs of banks which used to be in double digits in the past are today around only 4 percent. Make in India and *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* campaigns have become

our strengths. Today, India is the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones. During the last decade, there has been a five-fold increase in mobile phone manufacturing. A few years ago, India used to import toys, today India is exporting 'Made in India' toys. India's defence production has crossed Rupees one lakh crore. Today, every Indian feels proud on seeing the country's indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. The combat aircraft Tejas is becoming the strength of our air force. The manufacturing of C-295 transport aircraft is going to take place in India. Modern aircraft engines will also be made in India. Defence corridors are being developed in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. My government has ensured participation of the private sector in the defence sector. Our government has opened up the space sector also for young start-ups.

Honorable Members,

My government acknowledges the contribution of wealth creators and believes in the capabilities of India's private sector. We are committed to creating a conducive environment for doing business in India, and the government is consistently working towards this goal. There has been consistent improvement in *Ease of Doing Business*. More than 40,000 compliances have been removed or simplified in the last few years. 63 provisions in the Companies Act and Limited Liability Partnership Act have been removed from the list of criminal offences. The Jan Vishwas Act has decriminalized 183 provisions under various laws. A Mediation law has been enacted for amicable resolution of disputes outside the court. Forest and Environment clearances now take less than 75 days whereas it used to take 600 days earlier. Faceless Assessment Scheme has brought greater transparency in tax administration.

Honorable Members,

Our MSME sector is also benefiting enormously from reforms. As you are aware, today, crores of citizens are working in MSMEs. Our government is working with full commitment to empower the MSMEs and small entrepreneurs. The definition of MSMEs has been expanded. Investment and turnover have been added in the new definition. Presently, approximately 3.5 crore MSMEs are registered on the Udyam and Udyam Assist Portal. Under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs, guarantees of nearly Rupees 5 lakh crore have been sanctioned in the last few years. This is over six times higher than the amount provided in the preceding decade before 2014.

Honorable Members,

Another significant reform of my government is the creation of Digital India. Digital India has made life and business much easier in India. Today, the whole world acknowledges this as a great achievement of India. Even developed countries do not have a digital system like India has. It was beyond the imagination of some people that, even in villages, routine buying and selling will be done digitally. Today, 46 percent of the world's total real-time digital transactions take place in India. A record 1200 crore transactions were done through UPI last month. This amounts to a record transaction of Rupees 18 lakh crore. Other countries of the world are also now providing the facility of transactions through UPI. Digital India has made banking more convenient and disbursement of loans easier. The trinity of Jan Dhan Aadhar Mobile (JAM) has helped curb corruption. My government has so far transferred Rupees 34 lakh crore through DBT. Thanks to Jan Dhan Aadhar Mobile (JAM), about 10 crore fake beneficiaries have been weeded out from the system. This has helped prevent Rupees 2.75 lakh crore from going into wrong hands. The facility of DigiLocker is also making life easier. More than 6 billion documents have so far been issued to its users. Digital Health IDs of around 53 crore people have been created under Ayushman Bharat Health Account.

Honorable Members,

Along with digital, there has been record investment in physical infrastructure. Today, infrastructure is being built in India, the kind of which every Indian used to dream about. In the last 10 years, nearly 3.75 lakh kilometers of new roads have been built in the villages. The length of National Highways has increased from 90 thousand kilometers to 1 lakh 46 thousand kilometers. The length of four-lane national highways has increased 2.5 times. The length of the high-speed corridor was 500 kilometers earlier, is now 4 thousand kilometers. The number of airports has doubled from 74 to 149. Cargo handling capacity at major ports of the country has doubled. The number of broadband users has increased 14 times. Nearly 2 lakh village panchayats of the country have been connected with optical fiber. More than 4 lakh common service centers have been opened in villages. These have become a major source of employment. 10,000 kilometers of gas pipeline has been laid in the country. One Nation, One Power Grid has improved power transmission in the country. One Nation, One Gas Grid is boosting gas-based economy. The metro facility, limited to only 5 cities is now in 20 cities. More than 25 thousand kilometers of railway tracks were laid. This is more than the total length of railway tracks in many developed countries. India is very close to 100% electrification of railways. During this period, semi high-speed trains have been started for

the first time in India. Today *Vande Bharat* trains are running on more than 39 routes. More than 1300 railway stations are being transformed under *Amrit Bharat* Station Scheme.

Honorable Members,

My government believes that the grand edifice of a '*Viksit Bharat*' will be erected on 4 strong pillars. These pillars are - youth power, women power, farmers and poor. Their situation and dreams are similar in every part and every section of society in the country. My government is, therefore, working tirelessly to empower these four pillars. My government has spent a significant portion of the tax revenues to empower these pillars. 4 crore 10 lakh poor families have got their own pucca houses. About Rupees 6 lakh crore have been spent on this initiative. For the first time, piped water has reached about 11 crore rural families. Around Rupees 4 lakh crore are being spent for this. 10 crore *Ujjwala* gas connections have by now been provided. These beneficiary sisters are also being provided cooking gas at very cheap rates. Government has spent around Rupees 2.5 lakh crore on this scheme. Since the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, 80 crore countrymen are being given free ration. This facility has now been extended for another 5 years. An additional Rupees 11 lakh crore would be spent on this. My government's endeavour is to ensure speedy saturation under every scheme. No eligible person should remain deprived. With this objective, *Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra* has been underway since 15th November. So far, around 19 crore citizens have participated in this yatra.

Honorable Members,

In the last few years, the world has witnessed two major wars and faced a global pandemic like Corona. Despite such global crises, my government has managed to keep inflation in the country under control, preventing additional burden on our countrymen. In the 10 years prior to 2014, the average inflation rate was over 8 percent. However, the average inflation rate has been maintained at 5 percent in the last decade. My government's endeavour has been to increase savings in the hands of ordinary citizens. Earlier, Income Tax in India was levied on income of Rupees 2 lakh and above. Today in India, there is no tax on income up to Rupees 7 lakh. Due to tax exemptions and reforms, Indian taxpayers have saved about Rupees 2.5 lakh crore in the last 10 years. In addition to the *Ayushman Bharat* scheme, the central government is also providing free treatment in various hospitals. This has helped country's citizens save nearly Rupees three and a half lakh crore. *Jan Aushadhi Kendras* have helped our countrymen save about Rupees 28 thousand crore on purchase of medicines. Prices of coronary stents, knee implants, cancer medicines have also been reduced. Due

to this, patients are saving approximately Rupees 27 thousand crore every year. My government is also running a programme to provide free dialysis to kidney patients. More than 21 lakh patients are availing this facility every year. This has helped patients save Rupees one lakh every year. My government has spent nearly Rupees 20 lakh crore so that poor people continue to receive subsidized rations. Railways gives about 50 percent discount on every passenger travelling by Indian Railways. Due to this, poor and middle-class passengers save Rupees 60 thousand crore every year. The poor and middle class are getting air tickets at lower prices. Under the UDAN scheme, the poor and middle class have saved more than Rupees three thousand crore on air tickets. Thanks to the LED bulb scheme, there has been a saving of over Rupees 20,000 crore in electricity bills. Under *Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana* and *Suraksha Bima Yojana*, poor people have received over Rupees 16,000 crore in claims.

Honorable Members,

My government is working at every level to strengthen *Nari Shakti*. This year's Republic Day Parade was also dedicated to women empowerment. In this parade, the world once again witnessed the capability of our daughters. My government has enlarged the role of daughters everywhere - in water, land, sky and space. We all are aware what economic independence means for women. My government has made relentless efforts to enhance women's economic participation. Today about 10 crore women are associated with Self-help groups. Bank loans worth Rupees 8 lakh crore and financial assistance worth Rupees 40 thousand crores have been disbursed to these groups. The government is implementing a campaign to make 2 crore women *Lakshpati Didis*. 15 thousand drones are being provided to groups under NAMO Drone Didi scheme. Increasing maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks has greatly benefited lakhs of women of the country. Our government has granted permanent commission to women for the first time in the Armed Forces. For the first time, women cadets have been given admission in Sainik Schools and National Defence Academy. Today, women are also fighter pilots and are also commanding naval ships for the first time. Out of more than 46 crore loans extended under *Mudra Yojana*, more than 31 crore loans have been given to women. Crores of women have become self-employed by availing benefits under this scheme.

Honorable Members,

My government is laying stress on making farming more profitable. Our aim is to reduce the cost of farming while increasing profits. For the first time, my government has given priority to over 10 crore small farmers in the country's agricultural policy and schemes. Under the PM-Kisan

Samman Nidhi scheme, farmers have received over Rupees 2 lakh 80 thousand crore so far. Over the past 10 years, there has been a threefold increase in easy loans for farmers from banks. Under the *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*, farmers paid a premium of Rupees 30 thousand crore. In return, they have received a claim of Rupees 1.5 lakh crore. In the last 10 years, farmers have received nearly Rupees 18 lakh crore as MSP (Minimum Support Price) for paddy and wheat crops. This is 2.5 times more than the preceding 10 years before 2014. Previously, the government procurement of oilseeds and pulses crops was negligible. In the last decade, farmers producing oilseeds and pulses have received over Rupees 1.25 lakh crore as MSP. It is our government that has formulated the Agricultural Export Policy in the country for the first time. This has led to agricultural exports reaching up to Rupees 4 lakh crore. In 10 years, more than Rupees 11 lakh crore have been spent to provide fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices. My government has established more than 1.75 lakh *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendra*. So far, around 8,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) have been formed. My government is promoting cooperatives in agriculture. Therefore, a Ministry of Cooperation has been established for the first time in the country. The world's largest Grain Storage plan has been launched in the cooperative sector. In villages where there are no cooperative societies, 2 lakh societies are being established. Schemes worth more than Rupees 38 thousand crore are being implemented in the fisheries sector, due to which fish production has increased from 95 lakh metric tonnes to 175 lakh metric tonnes *i.e.* almost doubled in the last ten years. Inland fisheries production has increased from 61 lakh metric tonnes to 131 lakh metric tonnes. Exports in fisheries sector has more than doubled *i.e.*, increase from Rupees 30 thousand crore to Rupees 64 thousand crore. For the first time in the country, livestock farmers and fishermen have been given the benefit of Kisan Credit Card. In the last decade, per capita milk availability has increased by 40 percent. The first free vaccination campaign is underway to protect animals from foot and mouth diseases. So far, more than 50 crore doses have been administered to animals in four phases.

Honorable Members,

All these public welfare schemes are not just services. These are having a positive impact on the life cycle of the citizens of the country. The outcomes of my government's schemes have been the subject of studies by various government and non-government organizations. The outcomes of these schemes have been impactful and will serve as inspiring examples for every country engaged in combating poverty. Studies conducted by various institutions in recent years have found that, construction of 11 crore toilets and elimination of open defecation have prevented incidence of many

diseases. As a result, every poor household in the urban area is saving up to Rupees 60 thousand per year on medical expenses. Supply of piped drinking water is saving lives of lakhs of children every year. Construction of pucca houses under the *PM Awas Yojana* has enhanced the social status and dignity of the beneficiary families. Education of children in families having ‘pucca’ houses has improved and has resulted in a decline in the dropout rates. Under the *Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan*, 100 percent institutional deliveries are taking place in the country today. This has resulted in a sharp decline in maternal mortality rate. According to another study, incidence of serious diseases has reduced in the *Ujjwala* beneficiary families.

Honorable Members,

My government is focused on human-centric development. The dignity of every citizen is paramount for us. This is our idea of social justice. This is also the spirit of every article of the Constitution of India. For a long time, there was discussion only on rights. We also stressed on the duties of the government. This has awakened a sense of duty among the citizens also. Today, a feeling has been generated that performance of one’s duties ensures a guarantee of one’s rights.

My government has also cared for those who have so far been away from the development stream. During the last 10 years, thousands of tribal villages have been provided with electricity and road connectivity for the first time. Lakhs of tribal families have now started getting piped water supply. Under a special campaign, my government is also providing 4G internet connectivity to thousands of villages inhabited largely by tribals. Establishment of *Van Dhan Kendras* and MSP on more than 90 forest produce have immensely benefitted the tribals. For the first time, my government has focused on development of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups. *PM JANMAN Yojana*, with an outlay of around Rupees 24 thousand crore has been launched for these groups. Generations of tribal families have been afflicted with sickle cell anemia. For the first time, a national mission has been launched to address this. So far, about one crore forty lakh people have been screened under this mission. My government has also launched the ‘*Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan*’ for the “*Divyangjan*”. Textbooks in Indian Sign Language have also been made available. A law has also been enacted to give a respectable position to transgender persons in the society and protect their rights.

Honorable Members,

It is difficult to imagine daily life without Vishwakarma families. These families pass on their skills from generation to generation. However, due to lack of government support, our

Vishwakarma companions were facing a difficult time. My government has also taken care of such Vishwakarma families. So far, more than 84 lakh people have connected with the PM Vishwakarma Yojana. For many decades, our friends working as street vendors were also left to their fate. My government has given them access to banking system through PM SVANidhi Yojana. So far, an amount of more than Rupees 10,000 crore has been given as loans. Reposing trust in them, government gave collateral-free loans. Cementing this trust, most of the people not only repaid the loan but also availed the next installment. Majority of the beneficiaries are Dalits, backward classes, tribals and women.

Honorable Members,

My government guided by the mantra of “*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas*”, is committed to provide fair opportunities to every section of the society. For the first time, benefit of reservation has been extended to persons belonging to economically weaker sections of the general category. 27 percent reservation has been introduced under central quota for OBCs in under graduate and postgraduate medical courses. Constitutional status has been granted to National Commission for Backward Classes. 5 places associated with Baba Saheb Ambedkar have been developed as *Panchteerth*. 10 museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters are being built across the country.

Honorable Members,

My government has, for the first time, brought development to areas, which remained neglected for decades. The villages adjoining our borders were viewed as the last villages of the country. We recognized them as the first villages of the country. In order to develop these villages, Vibrant Village Programme has been started. Our remote and faraway islands like Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep were also deprived of development. My government has developed modern facilities on these islands too. Roads, air connectivity and high-speed internet facilities have been provided there. Just a few weeks ago, Lakshadweep was also connected with underwater optical fiber. This will benefit the local population as well as tourists. Under the Aspirational Districts Programme, our government has laid emphasis on development of more than hundred districts of the country. In the wake of its success, the government has also launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme. Special focus is now being given on development of these blocks of the country which had lagged behind.

Honorable Members,

Today my government is building modern infrastructure along the entire border. This work should have been done long ago on priority basis. Be it terrorism or expansionism, our forces today are giving a befitting response. The tangible results of my government's efforts to strengthen internal security are visible to us. There is a sense of security in Jammu and Kashmir today. The earlier deserted look of marketplaces due to strike has been replaced by the hustle and bustle of crowded markets. There has been significant reduction in the incidents of separatism in the North East. Many organizations have taken steps towards permanent peace. Naxal affected areas have shrunk and there has been a steep decline in Naxal violence.

Honorable Members,

This is the time for India to script the future for the coming centuries. Our ancestors have bequeathed us a legacy spanning thousands of years. Even today, we remember with pride the exceptional achievements of our ancestors. Today's generation should also build a lasting legacy that will be remembered for centuries. Hence, my government is now working on a grand vision. This vision also has a programme for the next 5 years. It also has a roadmap for the next 25 years. For us, the vision of *Viksit Bharat* is not limited to economic prosperity alone. We are giving equal importance to social, cultural and strategic strengths. Without them, the development and economic prosperity would not be permanent. The decisions of the last decade have also been taken with this objective in mind. Many more steps are being taken keeping this goal in mind.

Honorable Members,

Today every agency in the world is assured of India's rapid development. The assessments of the national and international agencies are based on India's policies. Record investments in infrastructure and policy reforms are further boosting investors' confidence. The preference of Indians for a stable and strong government with full majority has also renewed the confidence of the world.

Today the world believes that only India can strengthen the global supply chain. That is why India is also today taking major steps in this direction. A strong network of MSMEs is being developed in the country.

My government has started PLI schemes for 14 sectors. Under this scheme, production of around Rupees 9 lakh crore has taken place so far. This has generated lakhs of new employment and self-employment opportunities in the country.

PLI is also benefiting the electronic, pharma, food processing and medical devices sectors. Production has started in dozens of projects related to medical devices. My government has also developed 3 bulk drug parks in the country.

Honorable Members,

Today 'Made in India' has become a global brand. Now, the world is much enthused about our 'Make in India' policy. The world is appreciating the objective of "*Atma Nirbhar Bharat*". Today companies from all over the world are excited about the emerging sectors in India. This is illustrated by investment in the semiconductor sector. Electronics and automobile sectors also stand to benefit significantly from the semiconductor sector.

My government is promoting green mobility in a big way. Lakhs of electric vehicles have been manufactured in the country in the last few years alone. We have now taken steps even for manufacturing of big aircrafts in India. Crores of new jobs will be created in the manufacturing sector in the coming days.

Honorable Members,

Today world over, there is a special demand for products which are environment friendly. That is why my government is emphasizing on Zero Effect Zero Defect. We are now giving a lot of focus to green energy. In 10 years, non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity has increased from 81 Gigawatt to 188 Gigawatt. During this period, solar power capacity has increased by 26 times. Similarly, Wind power capacity has doubled. We are placed at fourth position in the world in terms of Renewable Energy Installed Capacity. We are ranked fourth in Wind Power capacity. We are at fifth position in Solar Power capacity. India has set a target of achieving 50 percent of its electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030. In the last 10 years, 11 new solar parks have been built. Today, work is in progress on 9 solar parks. Just a few days ago, a new scheme for solar rooftop installations has been launched. 1 crore families will be provided assistance under this scheme. This will also reduce people's electricity bills and surplus electricity generated will be purchased in the power market. Work is also being done at a very fast pace in the field of nuclear energy. My government has approved 10 new nuclear power plants. India is also progressing

at a fast pace in the field of Hydrogen energy. So far, we have started two projects in Ladakh and Daman-Diu. My government has done unprecedented work in the field of Ethanol. The country has achieved the target of 12 percent Ethanol blending. The target of 20 percent ethanol blending is also going to be accomplished very soon. This will increase the income of our farmers. Till now, government companies have procured Ethanol worth more than Rupees one lakh crore. All these efforts will reduce dependence on foreign countries for our energy needs. Just a few days ago, oil production has started in a new block in the Bay of Bengal. This is a big achievement for the country.

Honorable Members,

The quantity of important minerals in the earth is limited. That is why my government is encouraging circular economy. India's first 'Vehicle Scrappage Policy' also seeks to achieve this aim.

It is also important to explore prospects of minerals through deep sea- mining. Deep Ocean Mission has been started with this goal in mind. This mission will also better our understanding of marine life. India's '*Samudrayaan*' is engaged in research on this.

My government is engaged in making India a major space power in the world. It is a means to improve human life. Besides, this also attempts to increase India's share in the space economy. Major decisions have been taken to expand India's space programme. This has led to the formation of many new space startups. The day is not far when India's *Gaganyaan* will reach space.

Honorable Members,

My government has made India one of the world's leading digital economies. This has provided employment to crores of youth. It is our endeavour that India remains at the forefront of the world in the fourth industrial revolution.

My government is working on Artificial Intelligence mission. This will provide new opportunities to the youth of India. This will open avenues for new startups. This will bring revolutionary changes in the fields of agriculture, health and education.

My government has also approved the National Quantum Mission. Quantum computing will develop a new age digital infrastructure. Now work is in progress to ensure that India remains ahead in this.

Honorable Members,

My government is continuously taking new initiatives for the education and skill development of India's youth. For this, a new National Education Policy was framed and is being implemented rapidly. In the National Education Policy, emphasis has been laid on education in mother tongue and Indian languages. Teaching of subjects like engineering, medical, law has been started in Indian languages.

To provide quality education to school students, my government is working on more than 14,000 'PM Shri Vidyalayas'. Out of these, more than 6000 schools have started functioning. The dropout rate in the country has reduced due to efforts of my government. The enrolment of girls in higher education has increased. Enrolment of Scheduled Caste students has increased by about 44%, that of Scheduled Tribe students by more than 65% and that of OBC by more than 44%. Under Atal Innovation Mission, 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established to promote innovation. More than 1 crore students are involved in it. There were 7 AIIMS and less than 390 medical colleges in the country upto 2014, while, in the last decade 16 AIIMS and 315 medical colleges have been established. 157 nursing colleges are also being established. In the past decade, the number of MBBS seats has more than doubled.

Honorable Members,

Tourism is a big sector providing employment to the youth. In the last 10 years, my government has done unprecedented work in the field of tourism. Along with the number of domestic tourists in India, the number of foreign tourists coming to India has also increased.

The reason for the growth in the tourism sector is owed to India's growing stature. Today the world wants to explore and know India. Apart from this, the scope of tourism has also increased due to excellent connectivity. Building of airports at various places is also advantageous. Now, North East is witnessing record tourist arrivals. Now there is heightened excitement about Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

My government has laid emphasis on the development of pilgrimage destinations and historical sites across the country. This has now made pilgrimage in India easier. At the same time, there is a growing interest in the world towards heritage tourism in India. In the last one year 8.5 crores of people have visited Kashi. More than 5 crores of people have visited *Mahakaal*. More than 19 lakh people have visited *Kedar Dham*. In the 5 days of "Pran Pratishtha" 13 lakh devotees have

visited Ayodhya Dham itself. There is unprecedented expansion of facilities at pilgrimage sites in every part of India, East-West-North-South.

My government also wants to make India a leading destination for meetings and exhibitions related sectors. For this, facilities like *Bharat Mandapam*, *Yashobhoomi* have been created. In near future, tourism will become a major source of employment.

Honorable Members,

We are strengthening the sports economy to connect the country's youth with skills and employment. My government has given unprecedented support to sports and sportspersons. Today India is moving towards becoming a great sporting power.

Along with the players, today we are also emphasizing on other areas related to sports. Today National Sports University has been established. We have developed dozens of Centers of Excellence in the country. This will provide youth an opportunity to choose sports as a profession. All kinds of assistance are also being provided to the sports goods industry.

In the last 10 years, India has successfully organized international sports events related to many sports.

'*Mera Yuva Bharat*' Organization has been formed to motivate our youth to contribute for building a '*Viksit Bharat*' and to instill among them a sense of duty and spirit of service. So far, about 1 crore youth have joined this initiative.

Honorable Members,

We have seen the advantage of having a strong government during a period of upheaval. The world has been in a turmoil in the last 3 years. There are many conflicts raging in different parts of the world. My government has established India as a *Vishwa-Mitra* in these difficult times. It is because of India's role as *Vishwa-Mitra* that we have become the voice of the Global South today.

In the last 10 years, another conventional way of thinking has been changed. Earlier, events related to diplomacy were confined to the corridors of Delhi. My government has ensured direct participation of the public in this also. We saw a great example of this during India's G-20 presidency. The way India connected the G-20 with the public was unprecedented. The world was introduced to the real potential of India through programmes held across the country. Jammu and Kashmir and North East witnessed such big international events for the first time.

The whole world appreciated the historic G-20 Summit held in India. The unanimous adoption of the Delhi Declaration even in a fractured environment is historic. India's vision from 'women led development' to environmental issues has become the basis of the declaration.

Our efforts to secure permanent membership of the African Union in the G-20 have also been appreciated. During this Conference, the development of India - Middle East - Europe Corridor was announced. This corridor will further strengthen India's maritime capability. The launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance is also a big event. Such steps are expanding India's role in solving global problems.

Honorable Members,

Even in this era of global disputes and conflicts, my government has firmly placed India's interests before the world. The scope of India's foreign policy today has gone far beyond the constraints of the past. Today India is a respected member of many global organizations. Today India is a leading voice in the world against terrorism.

Today India responds strongly and takes initiatives for the humanity caught in crises. Wherever there is a crisis in the world today, India tries to respond promptly. My government has instilled new confidence in Indians working across the world. Wherever crisis occurred, we have evacuated every Indian safely through campaigns like *Operation Ganga*, *Operation Kaveri*, *Vande Bharat*.

My government has made continuous efforts to propagate the Indian traditions of Yoga, *Pranayam* and *Ayurveda* to the entire world. Last year, representatives of 135 countries did yoga together at the United Nations Headquarters. This is a record in itself. My government has set-up a new Ministry for Development of Ayush. The World Health Organization's first Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is being established in India.

Honorable Members,

There come junctures in the history of civilizations, which shape the future for the coming centuries. There have been many such defining moments in the history of India also. This year, on January 22, the country witnessed a similar epochal moment. After waiting for centuries, Ram Lalla has now been enshrined in his grand temple in Ayodhya. This was a matter of aspirations and faith for crores of our countrymen and the resolution of this has been accomplished in a harmonious manner.

Honorable Members,

You all represent the aspirations of crores of Indians. The dreams of the youth in schools and colleges today are completely different. It is the responsibility of all of us to leave no stone unturned to fulfill the dreams of the *Amrit* generation. *Viksit Bharat* will fulfill the dreams of our *Amrit* generation. For this, we all have to work together to achieve success in this endeavour.

Honorable Members,

Respected Atal ji had said—

अपनीध्येय-यात्रामें,
हमकभीरुकेनहींहैं।
किसीचुनौतीकेसम्मुख
कभीझुकेनहींहैं।

My government is moving ahead with the guarantee of fulfilling the dreams of 140 crore countrymen. I have full faith that this new Parliament House will continue to give strength to India's aspirational journey and create new and healthy traditions. Many friends will not be in this House to witness the year 2047. But our legacy should be such that the future generations remember us. Best wishes to all of you!

Thank you!

Jai Hind!

Jai Bharat!

**ADDRESSES DELIVERED BY DIGNITARIES AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE
FIFTEENTH SESSION (LAST SESSION) OF THE SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA
ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024**

The Fifteenth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 31st January 2024, was adjourned *sine die* on 10th February 2024. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla delivered Addresses during the Last Sitting of the Fifteenth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha.

We reproduce below the text of the Addresses delivered by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla.

²ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SHRI NARENDRA MODI

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

Today is an important day in the great tradition of democracy. Over the past five years, the 17th Lok Sabha has made numerous significant decisions in the service of the nation. In the wake of many challenges, everyone has endeavoured to steer the country in the right direction with their capabilities. In a way, today is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our five-year ideological journey, dedicated to the nation, and to once again dedicate our resolutions to the nation. These five years of reform, perform, and transform are quite rare. It is rare that reforms happen, performance is achieved, and we witness transformation before our eyes, instilling a new confidence. Today, the nation is experiencing this certainty from the 17th Lok Sabha. And I am confident that the nation will continue to bless the 17th Lok Sabha. All Hon'ble members of the House have played a very important role in all these processes. And this is the time when, as the leader as well as a companion to all of you, I congratulate each and every one of you.

² https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-addressing-last-sitting-of-17th-lok-sabha/?comment=disable&tag_term=pmspeech

Especially, Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

I also express heartfelt gratitude to you. Sumitra (Mahajan) ji occasionally indulged in light-hearted humour (during her five-year tenure as Speaker of the House). However, you always wore a smile on your face. No matter what happened (in the House), that smile never faded. In various diverse circumstances, you have guided and led this House with great balance and impartially in a true sense. I also commend you wholeheartedly for your conduct. There were moments of anger and accusations, but you handled all these situations with complete patience and insight, leading the House and guiding all of us. I am grateful to you for this.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

In these five years, the entire human race has endured the biggest crisis of this century. Who will survive? Can one save anyone? That was the situation. In such times, coming to the House, leaving one's home, was also a period of crisis. Despite that, whatever new arrangements had to be made, you made them, without letting the work of the nation stop. In order to ensure that the dignity of the House remained intact and the necessary work of the country continued to progress, you did not lag behind even a bit in your role of running the House. You handled it with great skill and became an example for the world.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

I also want to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble MPs for agreeing to give up their MPLAD funds without a moment's delay when such a proposal was made in the wake of the needs of the country during that period. Not only that, MPs themselves decided on a 30 per cent salary cut in order to give a positive message to the citizens and instill confidence in society. It led the country to believe that the MPs are the first ones to step forward in this regard.

And Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

Without any reason, we MPs were often criticized in some section of the Indian media twice a year for the privileges we receive and eating subsidised food in the Parliament Canteen. It's like we were constantly being ridiculed over the cost of the food in the Parliament Canteen compared to what is available outside. You made the decision that there would be uniform rates in the canteen for everyone, and MPs never opposed it and never complained. And those who used to embarrass all

MPs for no reason were also enjoying the subsidised food available in Parliament Canteen before. You saved us all from that ridicule, and I express my gratitude to you for this too.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is true that regardless of whether it was our 15th, 16th or 17th Lok Sabha, there was a demand for a new Parliament building. Everyone discussed this collectively, in one voice, but no decision could be made. It is your leadership that made the decision, pushed things forward, held various meetings with the government, and as a result, today the country has got this new Parliament building.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

Establishing the *Sengol* in the new Parliament building, which preserves a part of our heritage and keeps alive the first moment of independence as a guiding light, has been a monumental task under your leadership. It will now be a part of the ceremonial event every year which will forever connect the future generations of Bharat with that moment of independence. And that significant moment of independence will remain etched in our memories, serving as inspiration to propel the nation forward—a sacred task that you have accomplished.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is also true that during this period, Bharat received a lot of praise during the presidency of the G20 summit. Every state of the country showcased Bharat's strength and their own identity in front of the world (by holding various G20 meetings), the impact of which is still felt on the global stage today. Along with that, under your leadership, the P20 summit was held soon after the G20 when speakers from many countries came here. We have carried forward the great tradition of Bharat, the Mother of Democracy, and the democratic values that we have advanced for centuries. Systems may have changed, but Bharat's democratic spirit has always remained, and you presented that fact excellently before the speakers of the world, earning Bharat respect in democratic systems as well under your leadership.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

I also want to extend special congratulations to you for something that perhaps neither our Hon'ble MPs nor the media have paid attention to. We would gather together in the Samvidhan Sadan (the new name for the old Parliament), to offer floral tributes to the statues of great

personalities on their birth anniversaries. But it used to be a 10-minute event, and then we would leave (to perform our duties in Parliament). You initiated a campaign of speech and essay competitions across the country for these great personalities. Two children from each state awarded as the best orators and essayists would come to Delhi on that day and remain present during the floral tribute ceremony on the great person's birth anniversary along with the political leaders and give speeches afterward. They would visit other places in Delhi and try to understand the activities of the MPs. You have done a great job of constantly engaging millions of students with Bharat's parliamentary tradition. And you will be credited for this tradition. I hope everyone will proudly carry forward this tradition in the future. I congratulate you for this as well.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

I cannot say how much they, who were supposed to use, were able to utilize the Parliament Library, but you opened its doors for the common person. You have rendered a great service by opening this treasure trove of knowledge, this heritage of traditions, to the general public. I congratulate you wholeheartedly for this initiative. You incorporated modern technology into our system by way of paperless Parliament and digitization. Initially, some colleagues faced difficulties, but now everyone has become accustomed to it. When I see you sitting here and constantly doing something, you have accomplished a significant achievement. You have established permanent systems. I express my sincere gratitude for this also.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

I can say that your expertise and the awareness of these Hon'ble Members of Parliament and their collective efforts have resulted in 97 per cent productivity of the 17th Lok Sabha. The 97 percent productivity is a matter of satisfaction in itself. But I believe that as we move towards the conclusion of the 17th Lok Sabha today and the beginning of the 18th Lok Sabha (in a few days), we will resolve to ensure that our productivity will be more than 100 per cent. There were also seven sessions where productivity was even more than 100 per cent in the 17th Lok Sabha. And I have seen that you have sat through all night, constantly making efforts to bring the concerns of every Member of Parliament to the attention of the government. I express heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to all the Hon'ble Members and all the Floor Leaders for these successes. In the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, both Houses passed 30 bills, and this is a record in itself. New benchmarks have also been set in the 17th Lok Sabha.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

The celebration of 75 years of independence is a matter of great fortune for all of us, and it is indeed a momentous occasion where our Parliament has played a crucial leadership role in every aspect. Perhaps there is hardly any Member of Parliament who has not played a role in making the 75 years of independence a celebration in their respective domains. Truly, the nation celebrated the 75 years of independence with full fervour, and the significant role of our Hon'ble MPs and this Parliament cannot be overlooked. The 75th anniversary of the enactment of our Constitution has coincided with this time, and all Hon'ble Members of Parliament have had the opportunity to be part of it. The responsibilities of the Constitution start from here, and being associated with them is inherently very inspiring.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

In this tenure, there have been significant reforms, which are game-changers. The strong foundation of Bharat in the 21st century is evident in all these aspects. The country has moved forward at a rapid pace towards a big transformation, and in this, all colleagues of the House have provided excellent guidance with their participation, and contributed significantly. We can say with satisfaction that many changes, which were being awaited for long, have been accomplished through the 17th Lok Sabha, ending the anticipation of generations. Many generations had dreamed of one Constitution, but there was a crack, a pitfall, an obstacle every moment. By abrogating Article 370, the House has manifested the full realization of the Constitution with its complete radiance. And I believe that on the completion of 75 years of the Constitution, wherever the souls of those great men who framed the Constitution may be, they must be blessing us, as we have completed this task. The people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of social justice. Today, we are satisfied that by fulfilling our commitment to social justice, we are also reaching out to our brothers and sisters in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

Terrorism used to haunt the country like a demon, firing bullets into the heart of the country every day, staining the land of Maa Bharti with blood. Many brave and talented individuals of the country would fall prey to terrorism. We enacted strict laws against terrorism, and this very House made them. I firmly believe that those who struggled with such problems before have now gained strength. Confidence has increased psychologically. And Bharat is feeling a sense of complete

liberation from terrorism. And that dream will also come true. We have lived under the British-imposed penal code for 75 years. We will proudly tell the country, we will tell the new generation, you will be able to tell your grandchildren with pride that the country lived under the penal code for 75 years, but the coming generations will live under the code of justice. And that is true democracy.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

I would like to congratulate you on one more thing. The new House, with all its grandeur, commenced with an act that strengthens the fundamental values of Bharat, and that is the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women Empowerment Act). Whenever discussions about this new House will take place, the mention of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam will be made. Even though it was a brief session, it was a session that made far-reaching decisions. The sense of purity of this new House began from that very moment, which gives us a new strength. As a result, when a large number of our mothers and sisters will be seated here in the coming times, the country will feel a sense of pride. Our Muslim sisters were waiting for relief from the triple talaq for so long. The courts had ruled in their favour, but they were not getting their rights. They were forced to endure hardships. Some may say it openly, some indirectly. But the 17th Lok Sabha has done the very important work of freeing them from triple talaq. All Hon'ble members, regardless of their opinions or decisions, will someday say that we were present here to ensure justice for these daughters. We have remedied the injustice done to the generations, and these sisters are blessing us.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

The upcoming 25 years are very important for our country. The hustle and bustle in politics has its place. The aspirations of people in the political arena have their place. But the expectations of the country, the concerns of the country and the dreams of the country have become the determination of the country. So the country will achieve the desired results in the next 25 years. People were not very enthusiastic when Mahatma Gandhi embarked on the Dandi March in 1930, when there was the Salt Satyagraha. Whether it was the Swadeshi movement, whether it was the tradition of Satyagraha, or whether it was the Salt Satyagraha. At that time, these events seemed small but in 1947, that 25-year period instilled the spirit within the country that now we have to live free. Today, I can see the same spirit which is being instilled in the country. From every street corner, from the lips of every child, it is heard that in 25 years we will make a 'Viksit Bharat'. Therefore, these 25 years are an extremely important period for the youth power of my country. And there will be no one among us who does not want Bharat to become a developed nation in 25 years.

Everyone has a dream, some have already made their dream a resolution, perhaps some may take longer to make it a resolution, but everyone will have to join, and those who cannot join and would be still alive will surely reap the rewards, this is my belief.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

These past 5 years have also seen historic laws enacted for the youth. Bringing transparency in the system has provided new opportunities for the youth. Issues like paper leaks, which used to worry our youth, have been addressed very strictly. All Hon'ble members, understanding the sentiments of the youth of the country and addressing the questions or concerns in their minds about the system, have made very important decisions.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is true that no human society can progress without research. Research is essential for continuous evolution. The history of humankind spanning thousands of years is evidence that research has been ongoing in every era, leading to the advancement and expansion of life. This House has done a significant job by formally establishing a legal framework to promote research. The National Research Foundation, though not often the subject of everyday political discussions, will have far-reaching consequences, and this is a very important task undertaken by the 17th Lok Sabha. I firmly believe that due to the talent of our youth, our country can become a hub for research worldwide. The talent of our youth is such that even today, many global companies are conducting their innovation work in Bharat. But our country will become a major hub, I am completely confident about it.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

Our basic needs are undergoing a complete transformation in the 21st century. What had no value until yesterday, no attention was paid to it, has become very valuable. It is data. There is a global discussion about the potential of data. By introducing the Data Protection Bill, we have ensured the security of the entire future generation. We have provided a new tool to the entire future generation, based on which they will also make the right use of it to build their future. And the Digital Personal Data Protection Act has generated interest not only among the youth of our country but also among people around the world. Countries around the world are studying it. They are making efforts to adapt their new systems accordingly. There are also guidelines on how data should be used. That is how its potential can be enhanced while managing protection in a way, which

people call the gold mine, the new oil. I understand that Bharat has this potential because it is a country rich in diversity. The kind of information and data that is with - just consider the data of our railway passengers, it can become a subject of great research for the world. We have recognized its power and given this legal system.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

Discussions about these sectors, namely water, land, and sky, have been ongoing for centuries. But now, there is a need to confront the challenges posed by maritime power, space power, and cyber power, considering the crises the world is going through. As the world is trying to create thoughtful impacts, we also need to generate positive capabilities in these areas and empower ourselves to face challenges from negative forces. Therefore, reforms related to space were very necessary, and with a far-sighted vision, the work of space reform has been completed in our country.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Hon'ble Members of the 17th Lok Sabha have played a significant role in the economic reforms that the country has undertaken. Over the past few years, thousands of compliances have needlessly entangled the public. It is a matter of great pride that the distorted governance systems that had developed have been freed, and a great deal of credit for this goes to this House as well. These kinds of compliances burden ordinary people. As I once said even from the Red Fort that when we talk about "minimum government, maximum governance," I truly believe that the sooner the government exits from people's lives, the more the democracy will be strengthened. Why does the government intervene at every turn in people's daily lives? Yes, the government will always be present for those in need, but a democracy cannot thrive if government interference becomes an obstacle in people's lives. Therefore, our goal should be to minimise government intervention in the lives of ordinary citizens as much as possible, thus presenting a prosperous democracy to the world. We will fulfil that dream.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

We have repealed more than 60 unnecessary laws, including the Companies Act and the Limited Liability Partnership Act. This was a crucial requirement for improving the ease of doing business because if the country is to progress, it must overcome numerous obstacles. Many of our laws were such that people ended up in jail for trivial reasons. For example, if a factory's restroom

was not whitewashed once every six months, it could lead to imprisonment, no matter how big the owner of such a large company. Now, we should have the confidence to get rid of those who call themselves left-liberals, their ideology, and the era of 'Kumar Shahi' in this country. So, the 17th Lok Sabha has done commendable work in increasing public trust. Let's talk about the Jan Vishwas Act. I understand that more than 180 provisions have been decriminalized under this act. I talked about how people were thrown into jail for trivial matters. By decriminalizing these, we have empowered citizens. This House has done it, Hon'ble members have done it. It's very important work to save lives from the courts' tangles, to free them from disputes outside the courts, and mediation laws in that direction have also been instrumental, and Hon'ble members have played a significant role in that too. Those who were always on the sidelines, no one bothered about them, they realized the importance of a government. Yes, they understood the importance of the government when free vaccinations were available during COVID. The government being there was important, and this is very necessary in the lives of ordinary people. The experience of helplessness should not arise now.

The transgender community used to feel discriminated against. And when they were repeatedly discriminated against, the possibility of distortions within them also increased...and we used to shy away from such topics. All Hon'ble members of the 17th Lok Sabha also expressed sympathy for transgender individuals and contributed to making their lives better. And today, Bharat's work for transgender individuals and the decisions made for them are being discussed worldwide. The world is surprised when we say there is maternity leave of 26 weeks during pregnancy for our mothers and sisters, even prosperous countries in the world are amazed. This means these progressive decisions have been made here, in this 17th Lok Sabha. We have given transgender individuals an identity. So far, identity cards have been issued to nearly 16-17 thousand transgender individuals so that their lives are improved. And I have seen that now they are starting small businesses with money from the Mudra scheme, they are earning. We have awarded Padma awards to transgender individuals, a recognition for living a dignified life. They will continue to benefit from various government schemes. The process has begun and they have started living a life of dignity.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

It was a very difficult time, when the COVID pandemic put a lot of pressure on us for about one and a half to two years, but despite that the 17th Lok Sabha has been very beneficial for the country, and has done very good work. However, during this time, we have also lost many

colleagues. Perhaps if they were among us today, they would have been present at this farewell ceremony. But due to COVID, we have had to lose many talented colleagues in between. The sorrow of that loss will always remain with us.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

This is the last session and last hour of the 17th Lok Sabha. The journey of democracy and Bharat is endless. This country is for a purpose, it has a goal that is for the entire humanity. Whether it was seen by Aurobindo or by Swami Vivekananda, today we are witnessing the capability in those words, in that vision, right before our eyes. The world is accepting Bharat's greatness, acknowledging Bharat's capabilities, and we need to move forward with more strength in this journey.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

The elections are not far away. Some people might feel a little nervous, but this is an inherent and essential aspect of democracy. We all accept it with pride. And I believe that our elections will continue to be a source of pride for the country, continuing our tradition of democracy, and will surely continue to amaze the entire world. This is my firm belief.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,

The support I have received from all Hon'ble members, the decisions we have been able to make, and sometimes the attacks have been so amusing that it has brought out the strength within us. And I believe it's by the grace of the Almighty that when challenges come, there's a sense of joy as well. We have faced every challenge with great self-confidence and belief. Today, the resolution passed by this House regarding the construction of the Ram Temple will give the future generations of this country, the constitutional power to take pride in the values of this nation. It's true that not everyone has the courage to engage in such endeavours; some people leave the field. But still, when we look at the records of the future, the speeches made today, the sentiments expressed, the resolutions put forward, there is empathy, determination, and compassion, and there is also an element to advance the mantra of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'.

This nation, no matter how many bad days it has seen, will continue to do something good for the future generations. This House will continue to inspire us, and with collective resolve and

collective strength, we will strive for the best possible outcomes according to the aspirations of the young generation of Bharat.

With this belief, I express my gratitude to all Hon'ble members once again.

Thanks a lot!

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE LOK SABHA SPEAKER, SHRI OM BIRLA

Hon'ble Prime Minister and members of parliament, this Session marks the conclusion of 17th Lok Sabha. The tenure of the 17th Lok Sabha remains very special as we had the privilege to fulfill our parliamentary duties in both the historic old Parliament building, and the new Parliament building during *Amrit Kaal* of India. This experience will always be cherished. The sacred *Sengol* installed in the new building is a symbol of justice, good governance, national unity and political virtuousness. I am grateful for your meaningful cooperation, which has enabled me to fulfill my responsibilities as the Presiding Officer of this esteemed institution of our great democracy. Earlier, the Hon'ble Prime Minister enlightened and inspired us with his words of wisdom.

This is truly a historic and remarkable moment, one that will be cherished by all of us. We are fortunate to have experienced this incredible journey of our democracy. Over the past five years, the Hon'ble Members have worked tirelessly to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of their constituents, thereby strengthening their faith in democracy and democratic institutions. They have also raised important issues concerning their constituencies and the country as a whole.

Today, I also express my gratitude to the government for initiating a new tradition of providing meaningful replies to matters raised during Zero Hour.

On this occasion, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and all the members of this august house for unanimously electing me to the office of the Speaker on 19th June 2019.

This five year journey with all of you is equally important for me and will always be memorable and inspirational.

Hon'ble Members, this august house is characterized by its high traditions and practices, and it holds a unique dignity and prestige. All my predecessors have made significant contributions to enhancing the dignity, prestige, and decorum of this House. I, too, have endeavored to uphold the dignity of this office and the prestige of this institution, with the cooperation of leaders from all parties. I extend my heartfelt thanks to you all for your continued support.

The tenure of the 17th Lok Sabha has been historic in many ways. As the Presiding Officer of the House, I have endeavored to discharge my responsibilities to the best of my abilities. This is only

my second term in the Lok Sabha, and while I may lack extensive experience as an MP, the productive and interruption-free first session of the House stands as a testament to our collective efforts.

In the inaugural session of the 17th Lok Sabha, 540 Hon'ble Members, particularly the newly elected, actively participated—a historic achievement in itself. I am grateful for the support of all Members, which has enabled us to achieve this milestone.

Hon'ble Members, the need for a new Parliament Building has been discussed for a long time, and previous Speakers have also made efforts in this regard. Along with all Hon'ble MPs, I urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the construction of a new Parliament building, and I am pleased to inform you that the Hon'ble Prime Minister graciously acceded to our request and gave approval for its construction.

Thanks to the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, his remarkable working style, and the dedication of our hard workers (*Shramveer*), who tirelessly worked even during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, the new Parliament building was completed in a remarkably short span of 2 years and 5 months.

Hon'ble Members, this period, particularly the threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, has indeed been very challenging for us. It was the biggest challenge to ensure the safety and welfare of people in our country while also discharging our constitutional responsibilities.

I take pride in sharing with you that even during those challenging times, all Hon'ble Members sat till late at night to perform their constitutional duties, resulting in an impressive productivity rate of 167%.

I take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his dedicated efforts in managing the country during the severe crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic. His care for his fellow countrymen and his concern for every Hon'ble MP are truly commendable.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister personally reached out to individuals, expressing his concern and ensuring that proper care was provided. Even when unable to directly contact patients, he made efforts to convey his concerns to the medical professionals. His leadership and compassion during this challenging time are deeply appreciated.

Hon'ble Members, the productivity of this session of the 17th Lok Sabha has been historic. With a productivity rate of 97 percent, this Lok Sabha surpasses the previous five Lok Sabhas. Additionally, this session witnessed significant participation from women MPs, who actively engaged in the proceedings of the House. It was inspiring to see women MPs diligently voicing the concerns of their constituents, often remaining in the House until late at night.

Hon'ble Members, it fills us with pride that the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill, 2023, was taken up for discussion and passed on the very first day in the new Parliament building. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for this historic achievement. This Bill represents an unprecedented milestone in the direction of women empowerment.

Furthermore, the Women's Reservation Bill had long been pending in Parliament. Hon'ble Prime Minister, you have indeed earned this feather in your cap. It is during your tenure that the Women's Reservation Bill was successfully passed, marking a significant step towards gender equality and inclusivity.

In addition to the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill and the Women's Reservation Bill, this House has also witnessed the passage of several other important and historic bills. Many British-era laws were still in force in our country post-independence, and it was imperative to replace them with our own legislations. Bills such as the *Bhartiya Nyay Samhita* Bill, the *Bharatiya Sakshya* Bill, the *Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Samhita* Bill, and the *Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation* Bill were among those successfully passed by this House, marking significant legislative milestones.

Furthermore, numerous historic laws such as the Digital Personal Data Bill, Muslim Women Bill, Consumer Protection Bill, Direct Tax Bill, and bills related to industries were also passed during this tenure. It's important to remember that as members of this Lok Sabha, we have been part of passing these historic bills, which will bring about significant and lasting changes in the economic and social environment of our country. We are indeed fortunate to have had this opportunity. Over the last five years, legislations were passed specifically to advance the Indian ideology.

In these five years, this House also repealed many redundant and obsolete laws. This House also passed three Constitution Amendment Bills.

Hon'ble Members, the 17th Lok Sabha was constituted on 25th May 2019, and its first sitting was held on 17th June 2019. Over the course of its tenure, a total of 274 sittings, lasting 1355 hours,

were conducted. Remarkably, we surpassed the prescribed time for sittings by 346 hours to effectively transact our business. However, it is regrettable that a total of 387 hours were wasted due to disruptions. During these five years, we passed 222 laws after intense deliberations. During this period 202 Bills were introduced and 11 Bills were withdrawn by the Government.

During the 17th Lok Sabha 4,663 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 1,116 questions were answered orally. During the same period, 55,889 Unstarred Questions were also asked, for which written replies were given in the House. There were two occasions in this Lok Sabha when all the 20 questions listed were answered orally.

Hon'ble Members, 729 Private Members' Bills were introduced in this Lok Sabha. During the 17th Lok Sabha 26,750 papers were laid on the Table of the House by the ministers concerned.

During this Lok Sabha, 5,568 matters were raised during Zero Hour, while 4,869 matters were raised by the hon'ble members under Rule 377.

On 18th July 2019 a total of 161 matters were raised in a single day during Zero Hour and the hon'ble members participated in the proceedings till late at night. In the first Session of the 17th Lok Sabha 1,066 matters were raised during Zero Hour, which is a record in itself.

Hon'ble Members, as I mentioned earlier it was for the first time that replies on matters raised under Rule 377 and during the Zero Hour were received timely from the executive. The success of the *Chandrayaan* mission and achievements made by the country in the space sector were also discussed in this Lok Sabha and a resolution was passed by the House on the subject. The House took up "Indian economy and its effects on the lives of people in India" as a subject for discussion under Rule 342.

Hon'ble Members, on 5th February 2020 the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced for constitution of *Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra* Trust. It is a matter of great pride for the country that *Shri Ram temple* has been completed now. The matter was discussed in the House today. All the hon'ble members expressed their views in a meaningful manner and after discussion, we have also passed a resolution to build a developed and inclusive India by 2047.

The Hon'ble Ministers made 534 statements on various subjects. During this Lok Sabha 12 discussions were also held under Rule 193. The Parliamentary Standing Committees performed

excellently during this Lok Sabha and presented a total of 691 Reports. The government accepted more than 69 percent of recommendations made by the parliamentary committees.

Hon'ble Members, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India successfully organized the G-20 Summit, showcasing our country's leadership at the international level. This was followed by the P20 Summit, which brought together Speakers of Parliaments from G-20 countries and other invited nations. During this summit, all the Speakers witnessed the successful journey of our democratic system.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, during his address at the P-20 conference, shared his vision of India's democratic journey. He urged all democratic nations to visit India and witness our vibrant festival of democracy, along with our free and fair electoral system. With our vast population and the sheer number of voters, India serves as an inspiration to all democratic countries.

With the inspiration of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a discussion was held at the parliamentary forum on Mission 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) before the P-20 conference. During this discussion, a pledge was taken to prioritize environmental sustainability for a greener future in harmony with nature. All participating countries expressed their support for this idea, and the Speakers of all Parliaments resolved to propose similar resolutions in their respective countries.

During the term of this Lok Sabha, the Constitution Day program was organized in the Parliament House in the years 2019 and 2021. Additionally, a special program was held in the Central Hall on December 4, 2021, to commemorate the completion of 100 years of the constitution of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament. Furthermore, on September 19, 2023, a special discussion took place in the Central Hall of the '*Samvidhan Sadan*' on the subject '75 years of parliamentary journey since the constitution of the Constituent Assembly: achievements, experiences, memories, and learning.

I would like to apprise you of some of the visionary initiatives of our Hon'ble Prime Minister. Previously, Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV operated separately. However, under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, both channels were merged to form Sansad TV, resulting in substantial financial savings amounting to crores of rupees. Furthermore, the issue of subsidies has often been raised against us. I am pleased to inform you that subsidies have been completely abolished, leading to an annual saving of Rs 15 crore.

I would like to provide an example in this regard. Previously, significant sums were spent annually on arranging temporary lighting for national festivals at the Parliament House. However, our Prime Minister envisioned a more efficient solution—installing permanent façade lights around the outer periphery of the House. These lights were swiftly installed, resulting in substantial cost savings amounting to crores of rupees for Parliament. These lights were installed in the 75th year of our independence, symbolizing our commitment to progress and efficiency. As a result of various such measures implemented during these five years, an impressive amount of Rs 875 crores, which constitutes 23 percent of the total budget, has been saved.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Hon'ble Members generously contributed to the PM CARES Fund and also selflessly chose to forgo their MPLADS fund. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all Hon'ble Members for this noble gesture, which reflects their commitment to serving the nation during challenging times. Furthermore, all Members came together to plant saplings, making the Parliament House complex lush green. This event will undoubtedly remain fresh in their memories. As the trees grow, it will serve as a reminder of the meaningful plantation drive and the unity displayed by all Members during this time.

Hon'ble Members, throughout our tenure, meaningful debates and discussions were held on all Bills, with Members expressing their insightful views in the House. As part of our commitment to transparency and informed decision-making, we introduced new initiatives such as briefing sessions and series of programs to provide Members with comprehensive understanding of the aims, objectives, and impacts of Bills. I am pleased to remind Members that 24-hour research support is available to all Hon'ble Members on all Bills and topics, ensuring access to necessary information for informed deliberations and decision-making.

In addition to that, we introduced a new system of home delivery of material and papers available in library. Work of digitization of Parliament Library has been completed. All the debates of Parliament have been digitized. You can access entire debate through meta data, subject, name and topic. The Parliament has taken this initiative also. The resources of library have been made accessible to the general public. With the efforts and cooperation of all of you, this House has already become paperless. More than 97 per cent of the questions are now being submitted electronically by Hon'ble members.

Efforts have been made to equip the New Parliament Building with interpretation facilities in 10 other Indian languages besides Hindi and English, ensuring language accessibility for all

Members. Additionally, we have endeavored to make the speeches and statements of Hon'ble Members available on the Digital Parliament app and WhatsApp on mobile phones within half an hour, enhancing accessibility and transparency in parliamentary proceedings.

Hon'ble Members, the quarters allotted to Members have become old and in need of renovation. Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, construction of 112 new housing units has been completed, and construction work of 184 housing units is currently underway. These efforts aim to provide newly elected Hon'ble Members with modern and comfortable housing accommodations.

Hon'ble Members, under the guidance of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, a program has been initiated to foster youth participation in democracy and educate future generations about the lives of leaders who contributed to the development of our country post-independence. This program, organized on the birth anniversaries of great personalities and freedom fighters, involves participants from different states engaging in discussions on the lives of eminent personalities in their respective regions. Following a qualifying discussion round, participants are nominated to visit Parliament House, where they have the opportunity to voice their opinions and raise their voices in the Samvidhan Sadan. The aim of this initiative is to inspire our future generations by making them aware of the significant contributions of our great leaders, thereby instilling a sense of pride and motivation in our youth.

Hon'ble Members, during the tenure of this Lok Sabha, six All India Presiding Officers' Conferences were convened, with a focus on upholding dignified and parliamentary language across all democratic institutions of the country, including legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha. It was unanimously agreed upon that maintaining a standard of language and conduct is essential to enhance the faith and respect of the people in democracy and its institutions. Participants stressed the significance of dignified behavior by all members to uphold the dignity and prestige of the House and democratic institutions. Furthermore, there was consensus on the need to ensure the welfare of the people through these institutions in a manner that reflects dignity and respect.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has given a visionary slogan of 'One Nation One Legislative Platform'. Today we can assure you that very soon you will be able to see the budget proceedings and all the debates and discussions and all the proceedings of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of all the States on one platform. We have made efforts in this direction also.

Hon'ble Members, during this Lok Sabha tenure, we have witnessed significant engagement with the international community in parliamentary affairs. Parliamentary delegations from 16 countries visited India, while 42 delegations from India traveled to other countries, fostering stronger diplomatic ties and bilateral relations. Furthermore, our participation in various international parliamentary forums has increased, with Hon'ble Members elected or nominated to serve on several committees. As a result, the power and prestige of India has grown significantly on the international stage.

Hon'ble Members, I am grateful for the positive support extended to me by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, leaders of all parties, and each one of you in ensuring the smooth functioning of the House. Throughout my tenure, I have endeavored to uphold the dignity and decorum of this esteemed institution to the best of my abilities. In doing so, there were instances where tough decisions had to be made. However, I want to emphasize that at no point did I intend to take strict action against any Member. My actions were solely aimed at preserving the sanctity of our parliamentary proceedings and upholding the principles of parliamentary democracy.

In the future, as we transition to the new Parliament building, we remain committed to upholding the dignity and decorum of the House. It is imperative that we strive to enhance our productivity, aiming for a level beyond the current 97 percent. Our conduct and behavior should serve as a model for ideal parliamentary behavior. It is crucial to recognize that dissent and agreement are both pillars of our democracy, each contributing to its strength. Moving forward, we must embrace and respect these differing perspectives, ensuring robust debate while upholding the values of our democratic principles.

Though members are elected from different political parties having diverse ideologies, it is collective responsibility of all of us to maintain the dignity of the House and I hope that we will make efforts for this purpose in future.

Members are elected from different regions and different political parties having different ideologies, but in these five years, I felt like you all were my family members. Working with you will always remain an unforgettable experience in my life.

All honourable members are like a family to me. Whether it is member of the ruling party or opposition, I have always made efforts to give due respect to every member and you all are like my

family members. I had to take some tough decisions to maintain the dignity and decorum in the House.

As the term of this Lok Sabha is about to end, we will again go back to our respective constituencies and share with our constituents, the experiences we have gained in our public life inside the Parliament and the cooperation we have extended to each other for the prosperity and betterment of democracy in India. Apart from this, I would like to convey my special thanks to the government for positively taking cognizance of and resolving the issues raised by us.

I would also like to thank Hon'ble Vice-President for his constant positive support. I specially thank Hon'ble Prime Minister for his guidance and efforts in maintaining dignity and decorum of the House.

The institution of Indian democracy is a source of inspiration for entire world. Hon'ble Prime Minister has always guided us that government will come and go, but the dignity and respect for Parliament should always be maintained. I have always received his guidance to maintain the dignity of the House. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for this.

I thank all the members of the Panel of Chairperson who presided over the House for long period. I also thank the Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, and all members of the Union Council of Ministers who have extended their full support to ensure smooth functioning of the House. I also thank friends from the press and media who have played important role in conveying the sense of the House to the public.

I also complement our dynamic Secretary General, officers and staff of the Lok Sabha secretariat for rendering their dedicated and prompt services, and staying in the office till late hours to conduct the proceedings of the House.

I express my gratitude to our security personnel and all other staff members for attending office till late night to extend support to Hon'ble members.

I thank all the allied agencies deployed to extend their support in conducting the proceedings of the House.

I thank leaders of all the political parties for expressing views in the Honour of Chair of the House and for me.

I pray for a prosperous and healthy and safe life for all of us and expect that all of us will continue to dedicate our lives to promote the values of democracy and benefit the people from the experiences we have gained here. With our efforts, we may continue to make efforts and dedicate our lives for the betterment of the lives of the most deprived peoples. Once again, I thank you all very much. Now national song will be played.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC): An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh, attended the 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) held from 3rd to 6th January 2024 in Kampala, Uganda. The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha made an intervention in each session of the Conference apart from delivering the Keynote Address during the Special Plenary Session of the Conference on the topic “Building Consensus for Parliamentary Business: The Role of Speakers and Presiding Officers”. India is set to host the 28th CSPOC in 2026, and took over from Uganda, the host for the 27th CSPOC. The Deputy Chairman invited all the 9 Regions to India during his Address.

The 84th All India Presiding Officers’ Conference (AIPOC): The 84th All India Presiding Officers’ Conference (AIPOC) was held on 27th to 28th January 2024 at Maharashtra Vidhan Bhawan, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

On 27th January 2024, Shri Om Birla, the Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairperson, AIPOC inaugurated and addressed the Conference. A Message from the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi was also televised during the Inaugural Session. Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri. Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister Maharashtra; Shri Rahul Narwekar, Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Narhari Zirwal, Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Shri Ambadas Danve, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Council, also addressed the Inaugural Session. Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council delivered the Vote of Thanks. The Conference was attended by 27 Presiding Officers (including Speakers/Deputy Chairmen/Deputy Speakers) of the State/Union Territory Legislatures.

Extensive deliberations were held on the two agenda topics during the Conference *viz.* (i) To strengthen people’s trust in Democratic institutions – the need to maintain discipline and decorum in Parliament and the Legislatures of States/UTs; and (ii) How to make the Committee-System more purposeful and effective”. In addition, five (5) Resolutions were adopted during the Conference.

The Valedictory Session of the Conference was held on 28th January 2024 and was addressed by Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Ramesh Bais, Governor, Maharashtra; Shri Om Birla; Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairperson, AIPOC; Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra and Shri Rahul Narwekar, Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly also addressed the distinguished gathering. The Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council.

On the arrival day, i.e. 27th January 2024, of the 84th AIPOC, the Meeting of the Standing Committee of AIPOC was held. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, who is also the Chairman of the Standing Committee of AIPOC, chaired the Meeting. Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and five members of the Standing Committee along with one Presiding Officer as special invitee attended the Meeting. Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Secretary to the Standing Committee Meeting and Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha also attended the meeting.

60th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India: The 60th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was held on the 27th January 2024 at Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Conference deliberated on the topic – ‘Making use of cutting edge technologies in the service of Legislature’.

Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, delivered the Inaugural Address. Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, also addressed the Conference. It was attended by 21 Principal Secretaries/Special Secretary/Secretaries of State/UT Legislatures.

Virtual Meeting of CPA Regional Secretaries: The Virtual Meeting of CPA Regional Secretaries was held on 13th February 2024. Regional Secretaries/Alternate Regional Secretaries from 9 Regions of CPA attended the meeting. From CPA India Region, Shri Anjani Kumar, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the meeting as alternate Regional Secretary. As a part of the regional update from CPA India Region, Shri Anjani Kumar informed the August House about the success of the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit (P20) that was hosted by the Parliament of India in October 2023 at New Delhi. He also informed that the 9th P20 Summit was the most successful P20 Summit ever in terms of participation of delegations. Pan-African

Parliament also participated during the Summit for the first time after the inclusion of Pan African Union as a G20 member.

Shri Anjani Kumar also informed that during India's G20 Presidency, the Parliament of India passed the landmark Women Reservation Bill which provides for reservation of one-third of seats for women in the Lower House of the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies. He further informed about participation of Indian parliamentary delegation led by the Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha to the 27th CSPOC from 3rd to 6th January 2024 in Kampala, Uganda. On the domestic Conference, he informed about the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference and 60th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India which was held from 27th to 29th January 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Virtual Meeting of CPA Working Group on Human Rights: The virtual Meeting of Working Group on Human Rights was held on 13th February 2024. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Member, Lok Sabha is the member of the Working Group from India Region. However, the Member could not attend the meeting. Dr. Yumnam Arun Kumar, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the meeting from CPA India Region. Ms. Akierra Missick, Member of Parliament & Deputy Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands chaired the meeting. The main Agenda of the Meeting was updates on the work related to the CPA Parliamentary Academy and introduction of Ms. Sneh Aurora, Head of London Division, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) who is also a Consultant to CPA on matters related to Human Rights to the Members.

148th Assembly of IPU & Related Meetings: The 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings were held in Geneva, Switzerland from 23rd to 27th March 2024. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) led by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh, and consisting of five members of Rajya Sabha, namely, Shri S. Niranjan Reddy, Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, Dr. Prashanta Nanda, Smt. Sumitra Balmik and Shri Sujeet Kumar attended the Assembly. Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha attended the meetings of the Association of the Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) held concurrently during the Assembly. Shri L.V. Ramana, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, participated in the General Debate and delivered a Statement on the overall theme of '*Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building bridges for*

peace and understanding'. After deliberations, the Assembly unanimously adopted an Outcome Document on the overall theme. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation also participated in the meetings of the four IPU Standing Committees and IPU Governing Council. The Members of Indian Delegation also attended the sideline meetings of the Asia Pacific Geopolitical Group, BRICS Parliamentary Forum and Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Further, Members of the Indian Delegation participated in the following Panel Discussions/Workshops organized during the Assembly: i) *Women peace-builders advancing sustainable peace*; ii) *Climate change and conflict: How can parliaments ensure health during times of crises*; iii) *Interfaith dialogue: Building bridges through interfaith dialogue for more peaceful and inclusive societies*; iv) Roundtable Discussion on the theme "*From Luanda to the UN Summit of the Future: Addressing strategic and existential threats through common security and the rule of law*"; v) *Strengthening climate legislation: Practical tools for parliamentarians*; vi) *Human Security: Equipping parliamentarians for peace building and conflict prevention*; vii) *IPU-OHCHR Joint Event on the Protection of Minority Rights*; and viii) *Parity Debate on Eliminating discrimination, transforming economic losses into gains*.

Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Leader of the Delegation also participated in the high-level meeting on the *Crisis of multilateralism: Root causes and possible solutions*.

The Chair of the IPU Asia Pacific Geopolitical Group (APG) endorsed the candidature of Smt. Aprajita Sarangi, Member of Parliament and Member of the IPU Executive Committee (ExCom) as the Vice President from the Group to the ExCom.

On the sidelines of the Assembly, the IPD led by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha met H.E. Ms. Tulia Ackson, IPU President. The IPD also held bilateral meetings with the following Delegations: i) Thai Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the Senate, Thailand; ii) Armenian Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. H. Arshakyan, Vice President of the National Assembly, Armenia; and iii) Tunisian Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Mohamed Amine Oberghi, Member of Parliament.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan* (old Parliament House), and also on the birth anniversaries of former

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

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1st January to 31st March 2024:

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23rd January 2024 in the Central Hall of the *Samvidhan Sadan*. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi; Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Several Union Ministers; Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge; Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament paid floral tributes at the portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28th January 2024 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Members of Parliament and former members paid floral tributes at the portrait of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, a function was held on 4th February 2024 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh, Members of Parliament, former members and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of the former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13th February 2024 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Smt. Sarojini Naidu.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 29th February 2024 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Parliamentarians paid floral tributes at the portrait of Shri Morarji Desai.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a function was held on 23rd March 2024 in the Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*. Parliamentarians paid floral tributes at the portrait of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Foreign Parliamentary Delegation visiting India

Bulgaria: A Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Rosen Zhelyazkov, President of the National Assembly, Republic of Bulgaria visited India from 4th to 5th January 2024 under bilateral exchange. The delegation arrived in Delhi on 4th January 2024. On 5th January 2024, the delegation called on Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha. On the same day, Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, and the visiting President held bilateral parliamentary dialogue, and was followed by a banquet lunch. A show round of Parliament House Complex was organized for the visiting delegation.

Nepal: A Parliamentary Delegation from Nepal led by Shri Raj Kishor Yadav, Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on International Relations and Tourism of Nepal visited India from 30th January to 7th February 2024. The delegation arrived Delhi on 30th January 2024. On 31st January 2024, Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, and the visiting Chairman, held bilateral parliamentary dialogue. On the same day, the delegation met members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs. A show round of Parliament House Complex was organized for the visiting delegation. Besides Delhi, the Delegation also visited Agra, Goa, Mumbai, Lucknow, Varanasi and Sarnath.

Suriname: A Parliamentary Delegation from Suriname led by H.E. Mr. Marinus Bee, Chairman of the National Assembly of Suriname visited India from 4th to 8th February 2024. The delegation arrived in Delhi on 4th February 2024. On 5th February 2024, Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, and the visiting Chairman held bilateral Parliamentary dialogue, and was followed by a banquet lunch. The delegation also witnessed the proceedings of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha from the 'Special Box'. A show round of Parliament House Complex was organized for the visiting delegation. On the same day, the delegation called on Smt. Droupadi Murmu, President of India; Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha;

and Shri S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs. Besides Delhi, the Delegation also visited Agra, Lucknow and Ayodhya.

Call-on Meeting with the Speaker, Lok Sabha

Thailand: A delegation from Thailand, headed by Senator Pikulkaew Krairish, Chairman, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate, Thailand called on the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla on 8th February 2024 in Parliament House.

Show Round of Parliament

Show-Round of Parliament was arranged for (i) Ms. Natalia Gavrilita, former Prime Minister of Moldova on 24th January 2024; (ii) the Delegation from Fiji on 6th February 2024; (iii) a Thai Senate Delegation led by Senator Pikulkaew Krairiksh, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs on 8th February 2024; (iv) a seven member official delegation of the United States Congressional Staffers on 19th February 2024; (v) a Delegation from Malaysia led by H.E. Mr. Liew Chin Tong, Deputy Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry of Malaysia on 22nd February 2024; (vi) a Parliamentary Delegation from Norway on 26th February 2024 (vii) a Parliamentary Senior Officers' Delegation from Mongolia led by Mr. Enkhbat Damdin, Secretary-General of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia on 26th February 2024; (viii) a Parliamentary Delegation from Danish Parliament led by H.E. Mr. Leif Lahn Jensen , the Deputy Speaker of the Danish Parliament on 5th March 2024; (ix) a Delegation from New Zealand led by Rt. Hon. Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of New Zealand on 12th March 2024; and (x) Mr. Owen W. Paterson, former Secretary of State (Cabinet Minister) for Northern Ireland in the U.K. Government on 18th March 2024.

PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACIES (PRIDE)

During the period from 1st January to 31st March 2024, the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) had organized the following Courses/Programmes/Events for Members/Delegates/ Probationers/Dignitaries/Officials:

I. Orientation Programme for Members of Legislative Assembly: Orientation Programme in Parliamentary Practice and Procedures was attended by: (i) Two hundred twenty-three Members of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 9th to 10th January 2024; (ii) Two

hundred Members of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on 16th January 2024; (iii) Twenty-seven Members of Mizoram Legislative Assembly from 16th to 18th January 2024; and (iv) Ninety Members of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly from 20th to 21st January 2024.

II. National Youth Parliament Festival 2024: Eighty-Seven students attended National Youth Parliament Festival of the year 2023 from 5th to 6th March 2024 at Central Hall of *Samvidhan Sadan*.

III. Training Programme for Officials of Government of India: Fifteen Visually Impaired employees of Government of India attended Workshop and Awareness Session for Visually Impaired employees on 19th March 2024.

IV. Appreciation Courses: Five Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for: (i) One hundred eighteen Probationers/Officer-Trainees of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS-Income Tax), Indian Postal Service (IPOS) and Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS) from 11th to 13th March 2024; (ii) Eighteen Officers of Indian Naval Material Management Service of Engineering Services Examination from 5th to 6th March 2024; (iii) Thirty-six Officer Trainees of the Indian Audit & Accounts Service (IA&AS) and Indian Radio Regulatory Service (IRRS) from 19th to 21st February 2024; (iv) Fifty Officer Trainees of Indian Defence Estates Service, Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Defence Accounts Service and Indian P&T Accounts & Finance Service from 13th to 15th February 2024; and (v) Twenty one Probationers from the International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA) on 18th January 2024

V. Capacity Building/Training Programme for Officials of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats: (i) Ninety-two Officers (Group-A) of Maharashtra attended the Attachment Training Programme for State Services Officers from 3rd to 4th January 2024; (ii) Thirty-five Officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Management Development Program at Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA), Pune, Maharashtra from 8th to 12th January 2024; (iii) Three hundred and two officials/staff of Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Workshop on “Gender Sensitization and Awareness regarding Sexual Harassment at Workplace” on 12th January, 20th February and 19th March 2024; (iv) Thirty-one Officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Capacity Building Programme on Cyber Security Measures for at the C-DAC, NOIDA, from 15th to 19th January 2024; (v) Twenty-one Official/Staff of Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Programme on

Adventure Sports within the Country in Goa from 15th to 19th January 2024; (vi) Ninety-five Officials of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats attended the Training Programme on Income Tax related issues and PFMS portal on 24th January 2024; (vii) Eighty-seven Supervisory Level Officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Training Programme on "Organizational Leadership and Team Building" on 22nd February 2024; and (viii) Seventy officials/staff of Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Seminar on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March 2024.

VI. Know Your Leader: One thousand three hundred ninety-five participants/students attended the Programme "Know Your Leader-Participation of Youths in Events in Parliament to Pay Homage to the National Leaders on the Birth Anniversary of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose" on 23rd January 2024.

VII. Study Visit/Training Programme (International): (a): (i) Seventy-seven PIOs/Indian Diaspora Youth under the Know India Programme (KIP) from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, attended the Study Visit on 22nd January and 21st February 2024; (ii) Twenty-eight Overseas professionals of HUDCO's Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI) sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, under ITEC programme, attended Study Visit on 21st February 2024; and (iii) Seven Officials of the Mongolian Parliament, attended the Training Programme in Parliamentary Practices and Procedures from 27th to 28th February 2024.

Study Visit (National): (b): Thirty-four Study Visits (National) were organized during the period.

MEMBERS' REFERENCE SERVICE

Members Reference Service caters to the information needs of Members of Parliament, primarily in connection with their day-to-day parliamentary work. The Service brings out Reference Notes and Legislative Notes on important issues and Bills/Ordinances before the House.

During the period from 1st January to 31st March 2024, a total of 224 Reference requests were received from Members of Parliament and disposed of, out of which 159 References were Offline and 65 References were Online. Three Legislative Notes and one Reference Note were prepared and uploaded on the Lok Sabha website, and shared

with Members of Parliament through the Members' Portal as well. During this period, one Briefing Session was organized for Members of Parliament on important Legislative Business before the House.

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

During the period from 1st January to 31st March 2024, the Committee of Privileges held two sittings, on the 12th and the 30th January 2024. The Committee of Privileges presented one report during the period.

Committee of Privileges

I

The Seventh Report of the Committee of Privileges, 17th Lok Sabha on 'the Motion/resolution adopted by the House on 18 December, 2023 leading to suspension of Dr. K. Jayakumar, Shri Abdul Khaleque and Shri Vijayakumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth, Members of Parliament from the service of the House for creating grave disorder in the House and referring the matter to the Committee of Privileges for further investigation and report to the House', was presented to the Lok Sabha Speaker on 30th January 2024, and laid on the Table of the House on 31st January 2024.

The Committee, in the light of their findings and conclusions, observed that deliberate attempt on the part of Dr. K. Jayakumar, Shri Abdul Khaleque and Shri Vijayakumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth, Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha by way of creating grave disorder in the House including shouting slogans, displaying placards and advancing towards the 'podium' of the House during the debate on 'Post Office Bill 2023' thereof is a clear case of 'Contempt of the House'. Nevertheless, in view of the regrets expressed by Dr. K. Jayakumar, Shri Abdul Khaleque and Shri Vijayakumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth, Members of Parliament during their evidence before the Committee, the Committee were of the considered view that no further punitive action is called for in the matter. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the suspension suffered by Dr. K. Jayakumar, Shri Abdul Khaleque and Shri Vijayakumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth so far, be regarded as sufficient punishment and the Lok Sabha Speaker may consider discontinuance/revoking the suspension of Dr. K. Jayakumar, Shri Abdul Khaleque and Shri Vijayakumar *alias* Vijay Vasanth, Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha at the earliest.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
(1st JANUARY TO 31st MARCH 2024)

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

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Parliament Session: The Fifteenth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Sixty Third Session of the Rajya Sabha (the last Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha) commenced on 31st January 2024 with the Address by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu to Members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned *sine die* on 10th February 2024. The President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu prorogued both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 15th February 2024.

Resignation of Minister: On 19th March 2024, the Minister for Food Processing Industries, Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras resigned.

Allocation of Additional Charge: On 20th March 2024, the Minister of Earth Sciences, Shri Kiren Rijiju was allocated additional charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Elections to Rajya Sabha: The following members have been elected to the Rajya Sabha during the period from 1st January to 31st March 2024:

Sl.No	Name and Party affiliation & State	Date of Election/Nomination	Date of Commencement of term	Date of taking Oath
1.	Shri Sanjay Singh (Aam Aadmi Party) NCT of Delhi	12.01.2024	28.01.2024	19.03.2024
2.	Shri Narain Dass Gupta (Aam Aadmi Party) NCT of Delhi	12.01.2024	28.01.2024	31.01.2024

3.	Ms. Swati Maliwal (Aam Aadmi Party) NCT of Delhi	12.01.2024	28.01.2024	31.01.2024
4.	Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha (Bharatiya Janata Party) Sikkim	12.01.2024	24.02.2024	12.03.2024
5.	Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Bharatiya Janata Party) Jharkhand	14.03.2024	04.05.2024	Oath will be taken after Commencement of Term
6.	Dr. Sarfraz Ahmad (Bharatiya Janata Party) Jharkhand	14.03.2024	04.05.2024	Oath will be taken after Commencement of Term
7.	Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu (Nominated)	30.01.2024	30.01.2024	31.01.2024
8.	Smt. Sudha Murty (Nominated)	08.03.2024	08.03.2024	14.03.2024

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Member(s): On 27th February 2024, Shri Praful Patel, Member of the Nationalist Congress Party from Maharashtra, resigned.

On 4th March 2024, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party from Himachal Pradesh, resigned.

Vacation of Seat by Member of Lok Sabha: Consequent upon her election to the Rajya Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, an elected member of Lok Sabha representing the Rae Bareilly Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh, ceased to be a Member of the Lok Sabha with effect from 20th February 2024.

Death of Lok Sabha Member(s): On 27th February 2024, Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq, member of the Samajwadi Party from Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, passed away.

On 28th March 2024, Shri A. Ganeshamurthi, member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam from Erode, Tamil Nadu, passed away.

Resignation from Lok Sabha: The following members resigned from the Lok Sabha:

Sl.No.	Name	Constituency	State	Date
1.	Smt. Geeta Kora	Singbhum	Jharkhand	12.03.2024
2.	Shri Brijendra Singh	Hisar	Haryana	12.03.2024
3.	Shri Rahul Kaswan	Churu	Rajasthan	12.03.2024

AROUND THE STATES

BIHAR

Reallocation of Portfolios: On 20th January 2024, the Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar re-allocated the portfolios. The Minister for Education, Shri Chandrashekhar was allocated the Department of Sugarcane Industries; the Minister of Revenue and Land Reforms, Shri Alok Mehta was allocated the Department of Education; and the Minister of Public Health and Engineering was allocated the additional charge of Department of Revenue and Land Reforms.

Oath of Chief Minister: On 28th January 2024, Shri Nitish Kumar was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar.

Political Development: On 12th February 2024, the National Democratic Alliance Government won the Vote of Confidence in the State Legislative Assembly.

Appointment of New Speaker: On 15th February 2024, Shri Nand Kishore Yadav was elected as the Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 15th March 2024, the Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar inducted twenty-one new Ministers in the Council of Ministers. The Governor, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered oath of office and secrecy to twenty-one newly-inducted Ministers, namely, *Sarvashri* Mangal Pandey, Neeraj Kumar Singh, Nitish Mishra, Nitin Nabin, Janak Ram, Kedar Prasad Gupta, Krishnanandan Paswan, Santosh Kumar Singh, Surendra Mehta, Hari Sahni, Ashok Chaudhary, Madan Sahni, Maheshwar Hazari, Sunil Kumar, Jayant Raj, Mohd. Zama Khan, Ratnesh Sada, Dr. Dilip Kumar Jaiswal; and Smt. Renu Devi, Smt. Leshi Singh and Smt. Sheela Kumari.

HARYANA

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 12th March 2024, the Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar resigned.

Oath of Chief Minister: On 12th March 2024, Shri Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Haryana, along with five Ministers.

JHARKHAND

Oath of Chief Minister and Cabinet Ministers: On 2nd February 2024, Shri Champai Soren was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, along with two Cabinet Ministers, *viz.*, *Sarvashri* Satyanand Bhokta and Alamgir Alam.

Political Development: On 5th February 2024, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha led ruling coalition Government won the Vote of Confidence in the State Legislative Assembly.

Expansion of Cabinet: On 16 February 2024, the Chief Minister, Shri Champai Soren inducted eight new Ministers in the Council of Ministers. The Governor, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan administered oath of office and secrecy to eight newly-inducted Ministers, namely, *Sarvashri* Deepak Birua, Banna Gupta, Badal Patralekh, Mithilesh Kumar Thakur, Basant Soren, Hafizul Hasan, Dr. Rameshwar Oraon and Smt. Baby Devi.

PUDUCHERRY

Resignation of Lieutenant Governor: On 18th March 2024, the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned.

Oath of Lieutenant Governor: On 22nd March 2024, the Governor of Jharkhand and Telangana, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan was sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

PUNJAB

Resignation of Governor: On 3rd February 2024, the Governor, Shri Banwarilal Purohit resigned.

TAMIL NADU

Resignation of Minister: On 12th February 2024, Cabinet Minister, Shri V. Senthilbalaji resigned.

Oath of Minister: On 22nd March 2024, Shri K. Ponmudy was sworn in as Minister. The Governor, Shri R.N. Ravi, administered oath of office and secrecy to the Minister.

TELANGANA

Resignation of Governor: On 18th March 2024, the Governor, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned.

Oath of Governor: On 20th March 2024, the Governor of Jharkhand, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan was sworn in as the Governor of Telangana.

UTTAR PRADESH

Expansion of Cabinet: On 5 March 2024, the Chief Minister, Shri Yogi Adityanath inducted four new Ministers in the Council of Ministers. The Governor, Smt. Anandiben Patel administered oath of office and secrecy to four newly-inducted Ministers, namely, *Sarvashri* Om Prakash Rajbhar, Anil Kumar, Dara Singh Chauhan and Sunil Kumar Sharma.

EVENTS ABROAD

AZERBAIJAN

Oath of President: On 14th February 2024, Mr. Ilham Aliyev was sworn in as the President for the fifth term.

BANGLADESH

Oath of Prime Minister: On 11th January 2024, Ms. Sheikh Hasina was sworn in as the Prime Minister for the fifth term.

BHUTAN

Appointment of Prime Minister: On 28th January 2024, Mr. Tshering Tobgay was appointed as the Prime Minister for the second term.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Oath of President: On 20th January 2024, Mr. Felix Tshisekedi was sworn in as the President for the second term.

EL SALVADOR

President re-elected: On 4th February 2024, Mr. Nayib Bukele was elected as the President for the second term.

ETHIOPIA

Appointment of Deputy Prime Minister: On 8th February 2024, Mr. Temesgen Tiruneh was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister.

FINLAND

Oath of President: On 1st March 2024, Mr. Alexander Stubb was sworn in as the President of Finland.

FRANCE

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 8th January 2024, the Prime Minister, Ms. Elisabeth Borne resigned.

Appointment of Prime Minister: On 9th January 2024, the President, Mr. Emmanuel Macron appointed Mr. Gabriel Attal, as the Prime Minister.

HUNGARY

Resignation of President: On 10th February 2024, the President, Ms. Katalin Novak resigned.

New President: On 26 February 2024, Mr. Tamas Sulyok was elected as the President of Hungary.

PAKISTAN

Oath of Prime Minister: On 4th March 2024, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif was sworn in as the Prime Minister for the second term.

Oath of President: On 10th March 2024, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari was sworn in as the President of Pakistan.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

[This Section covers some important Bills assented to by the President of India (after the same were passed by Parliament) during the period – 1st January 2024 – 31st March 2024]

The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Law (Amendment) Act, 2024: The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 sought to amend certain provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 (the Acts) in consonance with the provisions of Part IX and Part IXA of the Constitution.

Part IX and Part IXA of the Constitution relates to "the Panchayats" and "the Municipalities". Clause (6) of articles 243D and 243T of the Constitution empowers the Legislature of a State to make provision for reservation of seats in any "Panchayat" and "Municipality" in favour of backward classes of citizens. However, the Acts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had no provision for reservation of seats for "Other Backward Classes" in the Panchayats and the Municipalities.

According to articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities is vested in a "State Election Commission" consisting of a "State Election Commissioner". Similar provision was incorporated in the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989. However, as per Municipal laws of the Union territory of the Jammu and Kashmir the conduct of all elections to the Municipalities and Municipal Corporations lay with "the Chief Electoral Officer" of Jammu and Kashmir.

Proviso to clause (2) of article 243K of the Constitution envisages that the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court and the conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. But section 36B of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 provided that the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except by an order made by the Lieutenant Governor on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after an inquiry conducted by a sitting or a retired judge of the High Court, on a reference made to him by the Lieutenant

Governor. The provisions pertaining to State Election Commissioner in the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 were at variance with the provisions of the Constitution.

In order to provide reservation to the "Other Backward Classes" in the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and to bring consistency in the local bodies laws of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with the provisions of the Constitution, it had become necessary to amend certain provisions of the Acts and to introduce a Bill in Parliament, namely, the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024. With this, justice will be ensured to the citizens of Other Backward Classes of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time after 75 years of independence.

The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which sought to achieve the above objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 6th February 2024 and 9th February 2024, respectively. The President of India assented to it on 12th February 2024.

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR LOCAL BODIES LAWS (AMENDMENT) ACT,
2024**

An Act further to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (IX OF 1989), the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 (XX of 2000) and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 (XXI of 2000).

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is not in existence and proclamation made by the Government of India *vide number* S.O.3937 (E), dated the 31st October, 2019, in terms of section 73 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 is in force;

And WHEREAS in terms of the aforesaid Proclamation, the powers of the Legislature of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament.

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

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024.

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

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS TO THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR PANCHAYATI RAJ ACT, 1989

2. Amendment of section 2. In section 2 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the Panchayati Raj Act), in sub-section (1), after clause (l), the following clause shall be inserted, namely: –

‘(la) “Other Backward Classes” means the Other Backward Classes declared by the Government of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir from time to time in accordance with sub-clause (iii) of clause (o) of section 2 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004;’.

3. Substitution of section 2A. For section 2A of the Panchayati Raj Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:–

‘2A. Construction of reference of certain expressions by certain other expressions. Throughout the Act, for the words “District Planning and Development Board” and “District Panchayat Officer” wherever they occur, the words “the District Development Council” and “Assistant Commissioner of Panchayat” shall respectively be substituted.’.

4. Amendment of section 4. In section 4 of the Panchayati Raj Act, in sub-section (3),–

(a) in the first proviso,–

(i) in clause (a), the word “and” occurring at the end shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (b), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:–

“(b) the Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) the Other Backward Classes,”;

(iii) in the long line, after the words “or of the Scheduled Tribes in that Panchayat area”, the words “or of the Other Backward Classes in that Panchayat area” shall be inserted;

(b) in the second proviso,—

(i) in clause (a), for the words “or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes,”, the words “or the Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Classes, as the case may be,” shall be substituted;

(ii) in clause (b), for the words “and the Scheduled Tribes”, the words “the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted.

5. Amendment of section 27. In section 27 of the Panchayati Raj Act, in sub-section (3),—

(a) in the first proviso,—

(i) in clause (a), the word “and” occurring at the end shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (b), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(b) the Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) the Other Backward Classes,”;

(iii) in the long line, after the words “or of the Scheduled Tribes in that district”, the words “or of the Other Backward Classes in that district” shall be inserted;

(b) in the second proviso,—

(i) in clause (a), for the words “or, as the case may be, the scheduled tribes,”, the words “or the Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Classes, as the case may be,” shall be substituted;

(ii) in clause (b), for the words “or the Scheduled Tribes”, the words “or the Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted.

6. Amendment of section 36 A. In section 36A of the Panchayati Raj Act, for sub-sections (2) and (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The salary, allowance and other conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Lieutenant Governor may, by rules, determine:

Provided that if a person who, immediately before the date of assuming office as the State Election Commissioner is in receipt of or has received or has become entitled to receive a pension, other than a disability pension, in respect of any previous service under the Government of India or under the Government of a State or under the Government of a Union territory, his pay in respect of service as State Election Commissioner shall be reduced—

(a) by the amount of that pension; and

(b) if he had, before assuming office, received, in *lieu* of a portion of the pension due to him in respect of such previous service, the commuted value thereof, by the amount of that portion of the pension.

(3) The travelling allowance, provision of rent-free accommodation, conveyance facilities, medical facilities available to a person at the time of retirement or at the time of his appointment as State Election Commissioner, so far as may be, shall be admissible to him.

(4) The power to grant or refuse leave to the State Election Commissioner and to revoke or curtail leave granted to him, shall vest in the Lieutenant Governor.”.

7. Substitution of section 36B. For section 36B of the Panchayati Raj Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“36B. Removal of State Election Commissioner. The State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like ground as a Judge of a High Court and the conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.”.

8. Amendment of section 36D. In section 36D of the Panchayati Raj Act, in sub-section (2),—

(a) for the opening portion “The Commission shall have the power to”, the opening portion “The Commission referred to in sub-section (1) shall” shall be

substituted;

(b) in clause (b), for the words “give such directions”, the words “by order give such directions” shall be substituted;

(c) in clause (c), for the word “delegate”, the words “by order, delegate, subject to such restrictions mentioned therein,” shall be substituted.

9. Amendment of section 39. In section 39 of the Panchayati Raj Act, after clause (iii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) such other grounds as may be determined by the State Election Commission.”.

10. Amendment of section 45A. In section 45A of the Panchayati Raj Act,—

(a) in sub-section (4),—

(i) in clause (a), the word “and” occurring at the end shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (b), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(b) for the Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) for the Other Backward Classes,”;

(iii) in the long line, after the words “or of the Scheduled Tribes in the district”, the words “or of the Other Backward Classes in the district” shall be inserted;

(b) in sub-section (5), for the words “or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes,”, the words “or the Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted.

(c) in sub-section (6), for the words “Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted.

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENTS TO THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR MUNICIPAL ACT,

2000

11. Construction of reference of certain expressions by certain other expressions. Throughout the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000, (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the Municipal Act), for the words “Chief Electoral Officer” and “Backward Classes”,

wherever they occur, the words “State Election Commission” and “Other Backward Classes” shall respectively be substituted.

12. Amendment of section 2.In section 2 of the Municipal Act,—

(a) clause (l) shall be omitted;

(b) after clause (27), the following clause shall be inserted, namely;—

‘(27a) “Other Backward Classes” means the Other Backward Classes declared by the Government of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir from time to time in accordance with sub-clause (iii) of clause (o) of section 2 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004;’;

(c) after clause (29b), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

‘(29bb) “State Election Commission” means the Commission constituted under section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989;’.

13. Amendment of section 11A. In section 11 A of the Municipal Act,—

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words “the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes”, the words “the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (2), for the words “the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes”, the words “the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted;

(c) in sub-section (3), for the words “the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes”, the words “the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted;

(d) in sub-section (3A), for the words “Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe Certificate”, the words “Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or Other Backward Class Certificate” shall be substituted; and;

(e) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely,—

“(4) The State Election Commissioner shall be the competent authority for the purposes of this section.”.

14. Amendment of section 282. In section 282 of the Municipal Act, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:–

“(2) The Commission referred to in sub-section (1) shall–

(i) require any person, including an officer or an employee of the Government of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, subject to any privilege which may be claimed by that person under any law for the time being in force in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, to furnish information on any matter which, in the opinion of the Commission, may be useful for or relevant to the subject of enquiry;

(ii) by order, give such directions to the officers and employees of the Government of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, or any other statutory body or society as it considers necessary to ensure smooth and efficient conduct of elections under this Act;

(iii) by order, delegate, subject to such restrictions mentioned therein, any of its powers to such officers and employees of the Government of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir;

(iv) determine and delimit the municipalities in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

(v) regulate its own procedure, including the fixing of time and place of its sittings; and

(vi) exercise such other powers as may be determined by the Government of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, from time to time.”.

15. Insertion of new section 282A. After section 282 of the Municipal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:–

“282A. Application of certain provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act.

1989. Sections 36, 36A, 36B, 36C, 37 and section 39 of the Panchayati Raj Act [as amended by the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024] shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to this Act.”.

CHAPTER IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT, 2000

16. Construction of reference of certain expressions by certain other expressions. Throughout the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the Municipal Corporation Act) for the words “Chief Electoral Officer” and “Backward Classes”, wherever they occur, the words “State Election Commission” and “Other Backward Classes” shall respectively be substituted.

17. Amendment of section 2. In section 2 of the Municipal Corporation Act,—

(a) clause (1) shall be omitted;

(b) clause (6) shall be omitted;

(c) after clause (37), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

‘(37a) “Other Backward Classes” means the Other Backward Classes declared by the Government of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir from time to time in accordance with sub-clause (iii) of clause (o) of section 2 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004;’;

(d) after clause (59), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

‘(59a) “State Election Commission” means the Commission constituted under section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.’.

18. Insertion of new section 9A. After section 9 of the Municipal Corporation Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“9A. Application of certain provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj

Act, 1989 and Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000. Sections 36, 36A, 36B, 36C, 37 and section 39 of the Panchayati Raj Act and sub-section (2) of section 282 of the Municipal Act [as amended by the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024] shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to this Act.”.

19. Amendment of section 10A. In section 10A of the Municipal Corporation Act,—

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words “the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes”, the words “the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (2), for the words “the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes”, the words “the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled tribes or the other Backward Classes” shall be substituted;

(c) in sub-section (3), for the words “the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes”, the words “the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes” shall be substituted;

(d) in sub-section (3A), for the words “Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe Certificate”, the words “Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or Other Backward Class Certificate” shall be substituted; and

(e) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The State Election Commissioner shall be the competent authority for the purpose of this section.”.

The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024: Scheduled Tribes have been defined in clause (25) of article 366 of the Constitution as such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of the Constitution.

Article 342 of the Constitution provides as under:—

"342. Scheduled Tribes.—(1) The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by

public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification."

In accordance with the said Constitutional provisions, the first list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was notified *vide* the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989. The said list of Scheduled Tribes was amended *vide* the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 1991. By virtue of the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the said list of Scheduled Tribes, presently applied to both the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union territory of Ladakh.

The Administration of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir had requested to include the communities of "Gadda Brahmin", "Koli", "Paddari Tribe" and "Pahari Ethnic Group" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. On the basis of the recommendation of the Administration of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and after consultation with the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, it was proposed to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989.

Accordingly, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 proposed to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989, to include the communities of "Gadda Brahmin", "Koli", "Paddari Tribe" and "Pahari Ethnic Group" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which sought to achieve the above objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 6th February 2024 and 9th February 2024, respectively. The President of India assented to it on 12th February 2024.

**THE CONSTITUTION (JAMMU AND KASHMIR) SCHEDULED TRIBES ORDER
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024**

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989.

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

1.Short title. This Act may be called the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024.

2.Substitution of Schedule to Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989. In the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989, for the Schedule, the following Schedule shall be substituted, namely:—

THE SCHEDULE

PART I.— Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

1. Bakarwal
2. Balti
3. Beda
4. Bot, Boto
5. Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin
6. Changpa
7. Gadda Brahmin
8. Gaddi
9. Garra
10. Gujjar

11. Koli
12. Mon
13. Paddari Tribe
14. Pahari Ethnic Group
15. Purigpa
16. Sippi.

PART II.—*Union Territory of Ladakh*

1. Bakarwal
2. Balti
3. Beda
4. Bot, Boto
5. Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin
6. Changpa
7. Gaddi
8. Garra
9. Gujjar
10. Mon
11. Purigpa
12. Sippi”

The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024: Scheduled Castes have been defined in clause (24) of article 366 of the Constitution as "such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of this Constitution."

Article 341 of the Constitution provide as under:—

"341. Scheduled Castes.—(1) The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification."

According to the provisions of article 341 of the Constitution, a list of Scheduled Castes of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir was first notified on 22.12.1956 through the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956 and the said list was last modified on 17.12.2002, *vide*, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 (61 of 2002). The Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir had recommended for inclusion of Valmiki community as a synonym of Chura, Bhangi, Balmiki, Mehtar at Sl. No. 5 in the list of Scheduled Castes of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the basis of the recommendation of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it was proposed to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in respect of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir by amending the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956.

The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 proposed to amend the Schedule of the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956 for inclusion of Valmiki (in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir only) in entry 5.

The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which sought to achieve the above objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 6th February 2024 and 9th February 2024, respectively. The President of India assented to it on 12th February 2024.

**THE CONSTITUTION (JAMMU AND KASHMIR) SCHEDULED CASTES
ORDER (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024**

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956.

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

1.Short title. This Act may be called the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024.

2.Amendment of Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956. In the Schedule to the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, for entry 5, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“5. Valmiki (in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir only), Chura, Bhangi, Balmiki, Mehtar”.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Act, 2024: Scheduled Castes have been defined in clause (24) of article 366 of the Constitution as “such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of this Constitution.”.

Scheduled Tribes have been defined in clause (25) of article 366 of the Constitution as “such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution.”.

Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution provide as under:—

“341. Scheduled Castes.—(1) The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by

public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

342. Scheduled Tribes.—(1) The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.”.

According to the provisions of articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, the first list of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were notified during the year 1950 in respect of various States and Union territories, vide the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, respectively. These lists were modified from time to time. List of Scheduled Tribes of the State of Odisha had been modified, *vide*, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 (10 of 2003).

The State Government of Odisha has recommended for inclusion of four Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in their own names in the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect to the State of Odisha, as under:—

(i) Pauri Bhuyan, Paudi Bhuyan as synonyms of Bhuiya, Bhuyan at Sl. No. 6;

(ii) ChuktiaBhunjia as synonym of Bhunjia at Sl. No. 9;

(iii) Bondo as sub-entry under Scheduled Tribes “Bondo Paraja, Bonda Paroja, Banda Paroja” at Sl. No.13; and

(iv) Mankidia as synonym of Scheduled Tribe “Mankirdia” at Sl. No. 47.

The State Government of Odisha had also recommended to omit two community names listed as Scheduled Castes namely, (i) Tamadia at Sl. No. 87 and (ii) Tamudia at Sl. No. 88 from the list of Scheduled Castes and to include the said community names in the Scheduled Tribes list in respect of the State of Odisha, as under:—

“Tamadia, Tamaria, Tamudia, Tamodia Bhumij, Tamudia Bhumij, Tamundia Bhumij, Tamulia Bhumij, Tamadia Bhumij”, as a sub-entry under main entry “Bhumij” at Sl. No. 8.

The State Government of Odisha had also recommended for inclusion of communities which have phonetic variations of the communities in the existing list of Scheduled Tribes, as under:—

(i) Banda Paraja, Bonda Paraja, Bonda, Banda as sub-entry under Schedule Tribes “Bondo Paraja, Bonda Paroja, Banda Paroja” at Sl. No.13;

(ii) Durua, Dhurua, Dhurava as subsect of Dharua, Dhuruba, Dhurva at Sl. No. 17;

(iii) Kaur, Kunwar, Kaonr, Kuanr, Konwar, Kuanar, Kaanr, Koanr, Kuanwar as synonym of Scheduled Tribes “Kawar, Kanwar” at Sl. No. 28;

(iv) Inclusion of Kui (Kandha) as a new sub-entry under the Scheduled Tribe Khond and Kandha Kumbhar community as a subsect of Kandha Scheduled Tribe at Sl. No. 31;

(v) Uram, Oram, Uraon, Dhangara and Oraon Mudi communities as synonyms of Oraon listed at Sl. No. 53;

(vi) Bareng Jhodia Paroja, Penga Paroja, Pengu Paroja, Porja, Selia Paroja, as synonym of Scheduled Tribe Paroja at Sl. No. 55;

(vii) Rajual, Rajuad as synonym of Scheduled Tribe Rajuar at Sl. No. 57;

(viii) Saara as synonym under Saora, Savar, Saura, Sahara, etc. at Sl. No. 59.

The State Government of Odisha had also recommended for inclusion of communities as new entry, as under:—

(i) Muka Dora, Mooka Dora, Nuka Dora, Nooka Dora with area restriction (in undivided Koraput District which includes Koraput, Nowrangapur, Rayagada and Malkangiri districts) at Sl. No. 63;

(ii) Konda Reddy, Konda Reddi at Sl. No. 64.

On the basis of recommendation of the State Government of Odisha and after consultation with the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and National Commission for Scheduled Castes, it was proposed to modify the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in respect of the State of Odisha by amending the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024 proposed to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the Schedule in PART XIII.—Odisha and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, in the Schedule, in PART XII.—Orissa,—

(A) In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the Schedule, in PART XIII.—Odisha, entries 87 and 88 shall be omitted;

(B) (a) for PART XII.—Orissa, the following shall be substituted, namely:— “PART XII.—Odisha”;

(b) for entry 6, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“6. Bhuiya, Bhuyan, Pauri Bhuyan, Paudi Bhuyan”;

(c) in entry 8, after “Tamaria Bhumij”, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

“Tamodia Bhumij, Tamudia Bhumij, Tamundia Bhumij, Tamulia Bhumij, Tamadia Bhumij, Tamadia, Tamaria, Tamudia”;

(d) for entry 9, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“9. Bhunjia, ChuktiaBhunjia”;

(e) in entry 13, after “Banda Paroja”, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

“Banda Paraja, Bonda Paraja, Bondo, Bonda, Banda”;

(f) for entry 17, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“17. Dharua, Dhuruba, Dhurva, Durua, Dhurua, Dhurava”;

(g) in entry 28, after “Kanwar”, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:—

“Kaur, Kunwar, Kaonr, Kuanr, Konwar, Kuanar, Kaanr, Koanr, Kuanwar”;

(h) in entry 31, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“31. Khond, Kond, Kandha, Kandha Kumbhar, NanguliKandha, Sitha Kandha, Kondh, Kui, Kui (Kandha), Buda Kondh, Bura Kandha, Desia Kandha, Dungaria Kondh, Kutia Kandha, Kandha Gauda, Muli Kondh, Malua Kondh, PengoKandha, Raja Kondh, Raj Khond”;

(i) in entry 47, after “Mankidi”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“Mankidia”;

(j) in entry 53, after “Uran”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“Uram, Oram, Uraon, Dhangara, Oraon Mudi”;

(k) in entry 55, after “Solia Paroja”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“Bareng JhodiaParoja, PengaParoja, PenguParoja, Porja, Selia Paroja”;

(l) in entry 57, after “Rajuar”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“Rajual, Rajuad”;

(m) in entry 59, after “VesuSaora”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“Saara”;

(n) after entry 62, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“63. Muka Dora, Mooka Dora, Nuka Dora, Nooka Dora (in undivided Koraput District which includes, Koraput, Nowrangapur, Rayagada and Malkangiri districts)

64. Konda Reddy, Konda Reddi”.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which sought to achieve the above objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 8th February 2024 and 6th February 2024, respectively. The President of India assented to it on 15th February 2024.

**THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES)
ORDERS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024**

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Odisha.

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

1. Short title. This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Act, 2024.

2. Definitions. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Scheduled Castes Order” means the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950;

(b) “Scheduled Tribes Order” means the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

3. Amendment of Scheduled Castes Order. The Scheduled Castes Order is hereby amended in the manner and to the extent specified in the First Schedule.

4. Amendment of Scheduled Tribes Order. The Scheduled Tribes Order is hereby

amended in the manner and to the extent specified in the Second Schedule.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

In the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the Schedule, in PART XIII.—
Odisha, entries 87 and 88 shall be omitted.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

In the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, in the Schedule, in PART XII.—
Orissa,—

(a) for “PART XII.— Orissa”, the following shall be substituted , namely:—

“PART XII.— Odisha”;

(b) for entry 6, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“6. Bhuiya, Bhuyan, Pauri Bhuyan, Paudi Bhuyan”;

(c) in entry 8, after “Tamaria Bhumij”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“, Tamodia Bhumij, Tamudia Bhumij, Tamundia Bhumij, Tamulia Bhumij, Tamadia Bhumij, Tamadia, Tamaria, Tamudia”;

(d) for entry 9, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“9. Bhunjia, ChuktiaBhunjia”;

(e) in entry 13, after “Banda Paroja”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“, Banda Paraja, Bonda Paraja, Bondo, Bonda, Banda”;

(f) for entry 17, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“17. Dharua, Dhuruba, Dhurva, Durua, Dhurua, Dhurava”;

(g) in entry 28, after “Kanwar”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“, Kaur, Kunwar, Kaonr, Kuanr, Konwar, Kuanar, Kaanr, Koanr,

Kuanwar”;

(h) for entry 31, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:–

“31. Khond, Kond, Kandha, Kandha Kumbhar, NanguliKandha, Sitha Kandha, Kondh, Kui, Kui (Kandha), Buda Kondh, Bura Kandha, Desia Kandha, Dungaria Kondh, Kutia Kandha, Kandha Gauda, Muli Kondh, Malua Kondh, PengoKandha, Raja Kondh, Raj Khond”;

(i) in entry 47, after “Mankidi”, the following shall be inserted, namely:–

“, Mankidia”;

(j) in entry 53, after “Uran”, the following shall be inserted, namely:–

“, Uram, Oram, Uraon, Dhangara, Oraon, Mudi”;

(k) in entry 55, after “Solia Paroja”, the following shall be inserted, namely:–

“, Bareng JhodiaParoja, PengaParoja, PenguParoja, Porja, Selia Paroja”;

(l) in entry 57, after “Rajuar”, the following shall be inserted, namely:–

“, Rajual, Rajuad”;

(m) in entry 59, after “VesuSaora”, the following shall be inserted, namely:–

“, Saara”;

(n) after entry 62, the following entries shall be inserted, namely:–

“63. Muka Dora, Mooka Dora, Nuka Dora, Nooka Dora (in undivided Koraput district which includes Koraput, Nowrangapur, Rayagada and Malkangiri districts)

64. Konda Reddy, Konda Reddi”.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2024: Scheduled Tribes have been defined in clause (25) of article 366 of the Constitution as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution."

Article 342 of the Constitution provides as under:—

“342. Scheduled Tribes.—(1) The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.”

According to the provisions of article 342 of the Constitution, the first list of the Scheduled Tribes was notified during the year 1950 in respect of various States and Union territories, *vide* the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, respectively. The list of Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh was last modified *vide*, The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 (No. 6 of 2014.)

On the basis of recommendation of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and after consultation with the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, it was proposed to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the State of Andhra Pradesh by amending the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 proposed to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 in the Schedule, in PART I.—Andhra Pradesh, C.O. 22,—

(a) for entry 25, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“25. Porja, Bondo Porja, Khond Porja, Parangiperja”

(b) for entry 28, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“28. Savaras, Kapu Savaras, Maliya Savaras, Konda Savaras, KhuttoSavaras”

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which sought to achieve the above objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 8th February 2024 and 6th February 2024, respectively. The President of India assented to it on 15th February 2024.

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

BE it Enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fifth Year to the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title. This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2024.

2. Amendment of Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. In the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, in the Schedule, in PART I.— *Andhra Pradesh*,—

(a) for entry 25, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“25. Porja, Bondo Porja, Khond Porja, Parangiperja”;

(b) for entry 28, the following entry shall be substituted, namely:—

“28. Savaras, Kapu Savaras, Maliya Savaras, Konda Savaras, KhuttoSavaras”.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA FIFTEENTH SESSION

The Fifteenth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 31st January 2024, concluded on 10th February 2024. It was the last session of the 17th Lok Sabha as the tenure of this Lok Sabha ended with this Session. The Seventeenth Lok Sabha is also distinct in itself since the House carried out its responsibilities in both the old and New Parliament Buildings.

During the Session, the House had a total of 9 sittings spread over 63 hours and 30 minutes. In the last five Lok Sabhas, the highest productivity in this Lok Sabha was 97 per cent. The House was prorogued by the President of India on 15th February 2024.

The Seventeenth Lok Sabha was constituted on 25th May 2019. The first meeting of this House was held on 17th June 2019. A total of 274 sittings were held in the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, which lasted for 1355 hours. During the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, 540 out of 543 members participated in the discussions in the House. During these five years, the House passed 222 laws after intensive discussions and dialogue. During this period, 202 Bills were introduced and 11 Bills were withdrawn by the Government. During the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, 4,663 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 1,116 questions were answered orally. During the same period, 55 thousand 879 Unstarred Questions were also asked, written replies to which were given in the House. During the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, the concerned Ministers laid 26,750 papers on the Table of the House. During this Lok Sabha, 5,568 matters were raised in the Zero Hour, while 4,869 matters were raised by the Members under Rule 377.

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

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

President's Address to the Parliament: On 31st January 2024, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu addressed Members of both the Houses assembled together in the Lok Sabha Chamber of Parliament House. As a statement of policy of the Government, the Address outlined the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year. It also underlined the policy priorities that the Government wishes to pursue in the forthcoming year.

Motion of Thanks on President's Address to Members of Parliament: The Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was moved by Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit (BJP) on 2nd February 2024, and was seconded by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel. The discussion took place on 2nd and 5th February 2024. The discussion lasted for 15 hours and 28 minutes. 114 members participated in the discussion.

Moving the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit (BJP) said that in the 75-minute address, Her Excellency, the President spoke about the 75-year journey of our country, and put before all, the vision of the coming 25 years. She further said that just as the earth is built on the five elements, similarly the Government has worked for the development of the country by focusing on the five elements *i.e.* women, farmers, deprived and poor, youth and infrastructure. She informed that the Government has charted out many policies to empower women, and added that be it Chandrayaan-3, or the Covid-19 pandemic, the contribution of women has been widely witnessed everywhere. Dr. Gavit noted that today 10 crore Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed in the country and they have been given Bank loans worth Rs 8 lakh crores and financial assistance worth Rs 40 thousand crores to make women economically strong and self-reliant,, and a huge contribution of the self-help groups is being seen in the rural economy. She also said that the Government has come up with a very good scheme like '*NaMo Drone Didi*' to connect women of rural areas with technology. While stating that only boys were given admission in Sainik Schools, she expressed happiness saying that now women will also get admission as female cadets in institutions like Sainik Schools and the National Defence Academy. The Government has provided 33 per cent reservation to women through the *Nari Shakti Vandan* Act. While mentioning the Government's schemes for empowering the farmers, she said that under the '*Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi*' scheme, Rs 6,000 is being given to the farmers every year, and more than 12 crore farmers of the country are getting the benefit. Dr. Gavit also said that the Government has worked towards enriching the farmers of the country by introducing schemes like '*Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana*' and '*Per Drop More Crop*', and if farmer suffers any loss in farming, the Government comes forward to help under the *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana* scheme. Along with farming, farmers are getting benefits from many schemes under fisheries, poultry business and goat rearing. She further said that two crore people have been given houses under the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* scheme. She further said that by bringing an important and ambitious scheme like '*Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal*', piped water has been supplied to the houses of 11 crore people for the first time. Under the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*, 10 crore households have been provided gas

connections in the country. During the Corona period, the Government provided free ration to 80 crore countrymen. Today, good schools like the Eklavya Model Residential School have been built in every block for tribal children. Since 2014, 16 AIIMS and 315 new medical colleges have been set up in the country, due to which the MBBS seats have also doubled. She informed that the Government is also paying special attention to the development of tourist places. Dr. Gavit concluded by saying that by developing a tourist destination, not only does that particular place get developed, but the entire area gets developed. This also provides employment opportunities.

Seconding the Motion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel said that after independence, the biggest scheme of this era is the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana*, in which the entire family gets treatment worth Rs. 5 lakhs per person, per year. He further said that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has widened the coverage of this healthcare scheme through the induction of 25 lakhs Anganwadi sisters and ten lakhs *Asha* sisters since this (Budget presented on 1st February 2024) Budget. He informed that street vendors are living their lives with the PM Swanidhi of Rs 10,000 today, and the Government made 29.62 crore Ayushman cards, and more than 10 thousand *Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras* have been opened. Before, there were 6 AIIMS. Today their number has gone up to 22. MBBS seats have been increased by 112 per cent. Now there are 1,08,940 seats. He further said that through the 103rd Amendment Act of the Constitution, a 10 per cent reservation was introduced in 2019 for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the society. For the first time, provision of reservation for OBC, EWS was made in All India Quota in Medical NEET PG and UG. Nearly a thousand irrelevant laws have been repealed. The Government has meted out justice to Muslim women by removing the *triple talaq* practice. Regarding Animal husbandry, he said that it has always been a parallel economy and with the Government's encouragement, milk production has increased by 70 per cent. The Government has vaccinated about 12 crore cattle to prevent foot and mouth disease among them. The Government is providing a subsidy of Rs. 50 lakhs for rearing goats, sheep and *Desi* cows.

¹*Participating in the discussion*, Shri Gaurav Gogoi (INC) said that in the last Session, 146 Members of Parliament were suspended in a single day and 14 Bills were passed in three days which

¹**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Chandrashekhar Sahu, Malook Nagar, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Sudhir Gupta, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Rajendra Agrawal, Tejasvi Surya, Asaduddin Owaisi, Ramcharan Bohra, Karti P. Chidambaram, Ramesh Bidhuri, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Vincent H. Pala, Santosh Pandey, Abdul Khaleque, Sanjay Seth, Girish Chandra, Jasbir Singh Gill, Shrirang Appa Barne, Benny Behanan, P.P. Chaudhary, Hasnain Masoodi, Jagdambika Pal, Jayadev Galla, Brijendra Singh, Arvind Sawant, Shri K. Subbarayan, Rajmohan Unnithan, Nama Nageswara Rao, N. Reddeppa, Prataprao Jadhav, N.K. Premachandran, P. Ravindhranath, Ganesh Singh, Naba Kumar Sarania, Dulal Chandragoswami, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Satish Kumar Gautam, Hansmukhbhai S. Patel, Ratansinh

is a record. Out of 172 Bills passed, 64 Bills have been passed with less than one hour of discussion. Shri Gogoi noted that the current Lok Sabha will complete its five-year term without the position of the Deputy-Speaker being allocated to a Member of the Opposition. Expressing his concern on various issues in the country, he said that in Manipur, 190 people were killed and about 50,000 people were rendered homeless, but the Prime Minister did not visit there. About ten thousand farmers are committing suicide every year and the youth are unemployed. Women are facing the issue of inflation and economic inequality in the country is increasing. About 42.3 per cent of undergraduate youth below the age of 25 years are unemployed. While stating that today, our youth are illegally going to America in quest of jobs, he also said that human trafficking has become a major problem, and human traffickers exploit our poor daughters. The soldiers of the *Agniveer* scheme are worried about their future. Today, medical students have to pay crores of rupees for studies in the country. So, they go to the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia and China to study medicine. Today, the average amount of outstanding loans per agricultural household is around 70 thousand rupees. Earlier 11 crore people used to get benefits under the *PM Kissan Sampada Yojana* but now only 3 crore people are getting benefits under this scheme. The number of beneficiaries declined because of corruption in providing benefits to the beneficiaries. Thousands of posts are lying vacant in the Central Universities and in the Central Government. Shri Gogoi concluded by saying that about one and a half lakh youths have passed the Army recruitment exams, but they have not been appointed till date.

Joining the discussion, Shri T.R. Baalu (DMK) said that in December 2023, Tamil Nadu witnessed unprecedented floods and cyclones. More than two crore people of Tamil Nadu were

Magansinh Rathod, Vishnu Dayal Ram, V.K. Sreekandan, Krishan Pal Singh Yadav, Sangam Lal Gupta, Rahul Kaswan, C.N. Annadurai, P.R. Natarajan, A. Ganeshmurthi, Raju Bista, Arun Kumar Sagar, Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Rajesh Naranbhai Chudasama, Mohanbhai Kundariya, Gopal Shetty, Suresh Kashyap, Nihal Chand Chouhan, Pashupati Nath Singh, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Mitesh Patel (Bakabhai), Naranbhai Kachhadiya, P.C. Mohan, K. Navaskani, Sunil Kumar Singh, D.M. Kathir Anand, Sumedhanand Saraswati, Sudhakar Tukaram Shrangare, Vinod Lakhmshi Chavda, Devaji Patel, Ashok Mahadeo Rao Nete, Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Unmesh Bhaiyasaheb Patil, K. Subbarayan, P. Ravindhranath, Ram Shiromani Verma, Shankar Lalwani, Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava, Ashok Kumar Rawat, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Adv. A.M. Ariff, Adv. Adoor Prakash, Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi, Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Dr. Dnv S. Senthilkumar, Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. S.T. Hasan, Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen, Dr. Lorho Pfoze, Dr. Sanghamitra Maurya, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Bharatiben D. Shyal, Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav, Dr. Mohammad Jawed, Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule, Shrimati Locket Chatterjee, Shrimati Satabdi Roy Banerjee, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, Shrimati Ranjanben Bhatt, Shrimati Sharda Anil Patel, Shrimati Gitaben V. Rathva, Shrimati Rama Devi, Shrimati Ranjeeta Koli, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar, Shrimati Poonamben Maadam and Shrimati Sangeeta Azad.

affected, and more than 8,000 tons of food grains were spoiled in FCI godowns. He further said that the State Government has demanded financial support to the tune of Rs. 37,000 crore, but the Government has not yet released even a single paisa. He also said that five years back, the Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of AIIMS in Madurai. But no progress has been made in this regard. It is a Rs. 1,800 crore project. The Government should have provided Rs. 300 crore to Rs. 400 crore every year to complete this project. In 2005 the foundation of Sethusamudram Project was laid by Dr. Manmohan Singh. The project is yet to be taken up. The Government changed the name of the National Maritime Development Programme to Sagarmala. But this project is also stuck up. The Parliament also enacted a law to grant Citizenship to the persecuted minorities from the neighbouring countries. But Tamil Minorities from Sri Lanka are not getting citizenship. The second phase of the metro is going on in Tamil Nadu. But the State Government could not proceed for want of money. The Government has abolished all other taxes and levied GST except on the petroleum products. He requested that petroleum products should be brought within GST, and the 5% tax on LPG should be zero.

Joining the discussion, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar (AITC) said that in the President's Address, many things were said about *Nari Shakti*, but even today women are being subjected to atrocities in the North Eastern part of the country, especially in Manipur. She further said that the fabric of our Constitution is being violated everyday in the nation today, but we do not see any action being taken by the Government. A draconian notice has been given by the National Medical Commission (NMC) to the doctors recently, wherein, they have to sign at 9 o'clock in the morning and sign at 4 the next morning. She requested the Government that such notice should not be served to the doctors. She further said that there is no development in the Northeastern States, and there is no proper facility for medical treatment and education. The doctors are underpaid. The Government is erecting college buildings but there are no teachers and infrastructure. She said that in the country there is a demographic deficit. Nearly 44 per cent of people seeking jobs are jobless. There is no job market. This is the first time possibly in Independent India that more than 45 per cent reverse migration is happening. People are going away from cities and towns towards villages looking for jobs in the farmland. The farmers are also committing suicides under the regime of this Government. The digital transactions are also opening a death trap as the suicide rate among adolescents and young adults is increasing so much. India has become the centre of the biggest UPI scam because of the Apps being put up by a neighbouring country. There is no vigilance over those Apps. There is no safe track for the high-speed trains. She was of the view that without repairing the tracks, and

without laying new tracks, these fast-moving trains should not be developed. She also said that the prices of medicines have increased across the country. Expressing her concerns regarding farming, she said that farmers are not getting any benefit because FDI is entering the farming sector also. She concluded by stating that the Government talks about the grain storage plan, but there is capacity to store only half of the grains produced in the country and the remaining half is getting rotten.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said that the strength of the Indian economy is being hailed across the world today and the whole world is influenced by it. The policies and programmes introduced by the Government have been implemented at a much more accelerated pace. Be it making *Pucca* houses, providing gas connections, or be it sanitation coverage, work has been undertaken and delivered at an unprecedented pace on all fronts. The Prime Minister said that when this Government got elected for the first time, in the first term it removed the infirmities embedded in the system which involved a substantial amount of time and energy. In the second term, the Government laid the foundation of a new India and in the third term, it will add new momentum to the building of a developed India. He also stated that in the first term, the Government introduced a good number of schemes like “*Swachh Bharat*”, “*Ujjwala*” “*Ayushman Bharat*” “*Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao*”, “*Sugamya Bharat*”, “*Digital India*” and remained committed to their implementation on the ground. To simplify the tax regime, the Government took decisions like GST. The second term has been the term of fulfilling the resolutions, such as the abrogation of Article 370. It has been in their second term that “*The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam*” has been enacted. The power of women resonated right from Space to the Olympics, Armed forces to Parliament. The Prime Minister further said that the Government has been able to progress to the extent of replacing old penal laws enacted during the British Rule with the *Nyaya Samhita*. The Government has repealed hundreds of such laws that had lost their relevance. The Government had done away with more than 40 thousand compliances. It is for the first time that efforts are being made to ensure that things and facilities must reach those who are actually entitled to them. As many as 10 crore sisters are associated with the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and they are engaged in economic activities. As far as farmers are concerned, the Government has procured paddy and wheat worth Rs 18 lakh crores over the ten years’ time. The Government has transferred Rs 2 lakh 80 thousand crore under *PM Kisan Samman Nidhi*. Under the *PM Fasal Yojna*, the Government has facilitated them with an amount of Rs 30 thousand of Premium and along with that, it has released one and a half lakh crores for those engaged in farming. While stating that animals essentially play a pivotal role in running the economic cycle, he said the Government has spent over 50 crores rupees

on vaccination of livestock to insulate them from being subjected to diseases. There has been an unprecedented growth in the tourism sector in the last ten years. India has become the third biggest domestic Aviation Sector. Airlines have placed orders for the procurement of one thousand new Aircrafts. There would be one thousand new aircrafts. The Aviation Sector has emerged as a very big opportunity for India. In the EPFO there has been a fresh induction of 18 crore subscribers in the last ten years. Among the beneficiaries of Mudra loans, there are 8 crore people who have started their businesses for the first time. The Prime Minister further said that the country has always been dependent on the energy sector, and a lot needs to be done to be self-reliant in the energy sector, and informed that the country is moving forward with all the more potential in terms of Hydrogen. Similarly, the country has definitely been all the more empowered in the field of security as compared to the last 10 years of the previous government. The Government has zero tolerance against terrorism in India. In the current scenario, the entire world has been compelled to adopt the policy propounded by India.

All the amendments moved were negatived. The Motion was adopted.

The Union Budget - 2023-2024: On 1st February 2024, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Interim Union Budget 2024-2025.

While presenting the Interim Budget, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Indian economy has witnessed profound positive transformation in the last ten years. She stated that with the 'whole of nation' approach of '*Sabka Prayas*', the country had overcome the challenge of a once-in-a-century pandemic, taken long strides towards '*Atmanirbhar Bharat*', committed to '*Panch Pran*', and laid solid foundations for the '*Amrit Kaal*'. Consequently, it was noted that our young country harbored high aspirations, took pride in its present and held hope and confidence for a bright future. She also said that the empowerment of women through entrepreneurship, ease of living and dignity for them has gained momentum in these ten years. She mentioned that as per the Prime Minister's firm belief, there was a need to focus on four major categories, namely, '*Garib*' (Poor), '*Mahilayen*' (Women), '*Yuva*' (Youth), and '*Annadata*' (Farmer).

The Minister further informed that besides delivering on high growth in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Government was equally focused on a more comprehensive 'GDP', namely, 'Governance, Development, and Performance', and the multipronged economic management over the past ten years had complemented people-centric inclusive development.

Some of the major elements highlighted were: 1) All forms of infrastructure, whether physical, digital, or social, were being built in record time. 2) All parts of the country were becoming active participants in economic growth. 3) Digital Public Infrastructure, recognized as a new 'factor of production' in the 21st century, played a crucial role in the formalization of the economy. 4) Goods and Services Tax implementation had facilitated 'One Nation, One Market, One Tax', while tax reforms had resulted in the deepening and widening of the tax base. 5) Strengthening the financial sector had contributed to making savings, credit and investments more efficient. 6) Initiatives such as GIFT IFSC and the unified regulatory authority, IFSCA, were establishing a robust gateway for global capital and financial services for the economy. 7) Proactive inflation management measures had helped to maintain inflation within the policy band.

General Discussion on the Budget

General Discussion on the Interim Union Budget for 2024-2025 took place on 7th February 2024, and lasted for 7 hours and 06 minutes. In all, 87 Members took part in the debate.

Initiating the discussion on the Interim Union Budget 2024-2025, Dr. Shashi Tharoor (INC) said that the people of the country have been sadly betrayed by this Government as their economic mismanagement has left the people of India staring at widespread distress, hardships and high unemployment. The Government's reckless decision of demonetisation broke the back of the Indian economy. The sudden lockdown of 24th March 2020 imposed without warning or proper planning led to lakhs of migrant workers trudging thousands of miles back to their homes. During that national lockdown, individual income in India dropped by 40 per cent. Shri Tharoor said that if demonetisation was a bad policy badly implemented, GST was a good idea, badly designed and shabbily implemented. The Government imposed GST on basic commodities too, like on toothpaste it is 5 per cent, on footwear, it is 18 per cent, on shirts and pants, it is 5 per cent, on rice and wheat, it is 5 per cent. Instead of flushing out black money, it simply resulted in concentrating wealth in the hands of the Government at the expense of the *aam aadmi*. Expressing his concern, he said that the country is facing unprecedented levels of unemployment today. It is tragic that desperate young people are queuing up to risk their lives in Israel in the middle of a war because they have no decent work in India. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) shows that regular salaried employment has stagnated for five years. The Government had set out a goal of skilling 40 crore workers by 2022 under the Skill India scheme. But, the number of total workers trained under the *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana* is 1.3 crore only. And, of that 1.3 crore workers, only 24 lakh people have

been placed in jobs. MSMEs have been the main employment generators in this country, but they have also shrunk during this Government's tenure. Many MSMEs were permanently closed after the disastrous demonetisation. He further said that the Government claims that it made 25 crore people free from multidimensional poverty in the last 10 years. He questioned as to why 81 crores still receiving free food grains if 25 crores people have indeed been freed from poverty, He further stated that the UPA era created the fastest-ever decline of poverty levels in Indian history between 2005 and 2015, whereby 27.1 crore Indians were lifted out of poverty. Despite all the Government's tall claims of growth, the official national poverty line is very low at Rs.1286 per month per person in urban areas and Rs.1059 per month per person in rural areas. Retail inflation measured by the CPI rose to a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July 2023. Referring to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report, another unimpeachable international document, he said that a significant 74.1 per cent of India's population cannot afford healthy food. He said that about 7,500 millionaires left India in 2022, and 6,500 last year, taking their resources to invest them abroad and not in the country where private investment is seriously down under the NDA Government. He further questioned about the Finance Minister claims that a large number of new institutions of higher learning, especially AIIMS, IITs, and IIMs, are being set up. Mentioning his own State, Kerala, he said that the establishment of an AIIMS is still awaited there to boost the quality of medical services for the residents. In other cases, like AIIMS Bhubaneswar, posts are lying vacant and nothing has been operationalized. In the last fiscal year, 90 lakh beneficiaries of the Government's flagship '*Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*' did not refill their cylinders. Data revealed through an RTI showed that out of 9.58 crore *PM Ujjwala Yojana* households 1.8 crore bought no refills whereas another 1.5 odd crore bought just one refill. As regards *Ayushman Bharat*, in August 2023 the CAG found that Rs. 43,000 crore had been misappropriated in the *Ayushman Bharat* scheme. While stating that the Prime Minister had disparaged MGNREGA in his first Lok Sabha speech of 2014, he said that demand for MGNREGA continues to be higher even than the pre-COVID levels despite low wages being given and the various bottlenecks in accessing the scheme. So far as farmers are concerned, close to 689 lakh farmers enrolled under the *Fasal Bima Yojana* during the 2023 season, but claims were only paid to 7.8 lakh farmers. During this Government's period from 2014 to 2022, at least one lakh farmers have committed suicide as per a recently released National Crime Records Bureau report. Women are doing tedious, lowpaid or unpaid work which is technical unemployment in this country. India ranks 127 out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index in 2023 – a searing indictment of our inability to provide the space that our women need to survive and thrive in the labour force. The Government has also missed its

disinvestment target for the fifth year in a row. He concluded by saying that fiscal deficit averaged 4.63 per cent under the UPA Government, but it is averaging 5.13 per cent under the NDA Government.

²*Participating in the discussion*, Prof. Sougata Ray (AITC), while stating that the Government has not given due attention towards the poor, minority and working class, also said that 21 lakh MGNREGA workers were not given their wages for three years in West Bengal. He further said that the present Government has failed to make necessary reforms in the economy, and that GST and IBC were structural reforms, but they failed to make positive development. There is no mention of the rampant unemployment or the death of farmers and agricultural labourers by suicide, as well as the low participation of women in the workforce. The Government made big cuts in the Budgeted expenditure for all the social sectors including education and health. The disadvantaged sections of society such as SCs, STs and minorities have witnessed cuts as well. In the context of macroeconomics, the GDP grew at an average of 5.6 per cent between 2014 and 2022 but India's growth rate was 6 per cent from 2000 to 2010. Growth has been good but it has to be set in perspective. India's unemployment rate remains high compared to pre-pandemic levels. Women's participation in the labour force has been one of the lowest in South Asia and it is lower than the regional neighbours namely Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. A lot of countries depend on research and development. The share of contribution under this section has dropped to 0.7 per cent of GDP. It is lower than any of the BRICS countries. He further said that a free press is crucial to the

²**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Dayanidhi Maran, Santosh Kumar, Girish Chandra, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Jayant Sinha, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Prathap Simha, Rahul Kaswan, Hasnain Masoodi, Harish Dwivedi, Raju Bista, S.S. Palanimanickam, Saumitra Khan, Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, K. Subbarayan, Syed Imtiaz Jaleel, Sunil Dattatray Tatkar, Chandeshwar Prasad, Dayanidhi Maran, Prathap Simha, Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Krishanpalsingh Yadav, P.R. Natarajan, Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar, S. Jagathrakshakan, Sangam Lal Gupta, C.N. Annadurai, Ritesh Pandey, Dulal Chandra Goswami, M.K. Raghavan, Ram Shiromani Verma, Kaushlendra Kumar, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, M. Badruddin Ajmal, N.K. Premachandran, Ramcharan Bohra, Tejasvi Surya, Nihal Chand Chouhan, V.K. Sreekandan, Dileshwar Kamait, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Su. Thirunavukkarasar, Malook Nagar, D.K. Suresh, Thomas Chazhikadan, Janardan Singh Sigreewal, Jagdambika Pal, Khagen Murmu, Naranbhai Kachhadia, Asit Kumar Mal, Arvind Sawant, Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Unmesh Bhaiyyasaheb Patil, Sunil Kumar Singh, Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Mitesh Patel, Ratansinh Mansingh Rathod, Hasmukhbhai S. Patel, Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel, Adv. A. M. Ariff, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Adv. Adoor Prakash, Dr. Nishikant Dubey, Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Dr. M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, Dr. Mohammad Jawed, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Dr. Sanghamitra Maurya, Dr. D. Ravikumar, Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. K. Jayakumar, Kumari Ramya Haridas, Shrimati Bhavana Gawali (Patil), Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Shrimati Sandhya Ray, Shrimati Sangeeta Azad, Shrimati Ranjanben Bhatt, Shrimati Dimple Yadav, Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana, Shrimati Rama Devi, Sushri S. Jothimani and the Minister of Women and Child Development and Minister of Minority Affairs, Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani.

economy, but India's ranking in Press Freedom is declining. The Country's ranking has dropped to 161 in 2023. As per CMIE, new announcements have crashed to a 20-year low reflecting insufficient animal spirits in the economy. The country's infrastructure still has many gaps in supporting a vibrant manufacturing sector. The young people are not equipped with vocational skills and the job growth has been weak in the manufacturing and service sectors posing the risk of social instability. A well-functioning legal system, a free Press etc., are considered keys for maintaining investors' confidence. Each of these pillars has been eroded. Prof. Ray also said that India has hundreds of millions of under-skilled youngsters and our path is neither that of China nor that of the West. India's growth has been debt-fueled and the Budget presented by the Government has not come up with any solutions.

Joining the discussion, Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy (YSRCP) noted that the Finance Minister, by discussing agriculture and food processing, emphasised the intensified efforts for value addition to the agricultural sector and raising farmers' income. However, he lamented that the upcoming year's allocation for this scheme was only Rs 729 crore, marking a 21 per cent decrease against last year's Budget estimates. He opined that the Government should consider increasing the financial assistance allocated to this pivotal scheme, and requested the Central Government not to reduce the allocation of fertilizers for coastal regions that have suffered the brunt of the cyclones. While noting that the Labour Ministry has seen a decreased allocation from Rs. 13,221.73 crore to Rs. 12,531.47 crore, he expressed his concern, and said that unemployment is the biggest harm facing the youth of today. He urged for significant investment to be made for employment generation. He also noted that the Budgetary allocation of Rs 538 crore for the Centre's Capacity Building and Skill Development scheme does not seem adequate. While stating that application of Artificial Intelligence is on the rise and unfortunately, being weaponized against women, he pointed out that regrettably, it is being done via deep fakes, among other reprehensible acts. He felt that higher budgetary allocation is required to deal with such new threats. He informed that the Andhra Pradesh Government has consistently sought an increase in MGNREGA man-days, proposing an augmentation from 100 to 150 days for individuals and a total of 16 crore man-days. Given the prevailing drought conditions leading to rural migration, the State urges the Central Government to support its economy by enhancing MGNREGA man-hours and incorporating new initiatives under the scheme. He urged the Government to formulate and implement a time-bound plan for granting special category status to Andhra Pradesh promptly. The Polavaram Irrigation Project is a project of national importance and it is of huge importance for the people of Andhra Pradesh. The total cost of the project is Rs.55,548.87 crores at

the 2017-18 price level as approved by the Technical Advisory Committee. However, this Revised Cost Estimate is not yet approved by the Central Government. Further, funding for Phase-1 completion has been limited to Rs.12,911.15 crore but this amount is inadequate for providing rehabilitation and resettlement to the 36 additional villages and 48 habitations. Hence, the Andhra Pradesh Government submitted a proposal of Revised Cost Estimates of Rs.17,144.06 crore for Phase-1 of the project which includes the cost of such rehabilitation as well. He requested that the Revised Cost Estimate be approved by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Revised Cost Estimate for Phase-1 and provide compensation of the additional cost of Rs.4222.91 crore incurred by the Andhra Pradesh Government for resettlement and rehabilitation. Production activities in all NTC mills were suspended from March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He urged the Central Government to take immediate action to make the NTC mill in Tirupati fully functional to provide relief and support to the BPL families through its operations.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that this is an Interim Budget for capital expenditure. The Minister informed that for 2024-25, the Government has kept an outlay of Rs. 11,11,111 crore which is 17 per cent higher than the RE of 2023-24. This outlay is higher than the projected GDP growth of 10.5 per cent. The Department of School Education and Literacy allocation has now increased upto Rs. 72,474 crore for the year 2024-25. For Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Rs. 86,175 crore was the BE, and now it is Rs. 87,657 crore. For the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Rs. 3,098 crore was the BE, and now Rs. 3,183 crore is the BE. For the Ministry of Rural Development, Rs. 1,57,545 crore has now become Rs. 1,77,566 crore. For the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Rs. 12,847 crore was the BE, and now it is Rs. 13,000 crore. For the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Rs. 25,449 crore was the BE, and now it is Rs. 26,092 crore. Department of Road Transport and Highways received Rs. 2,58,606 crore in the BE, and it is now receiving Rs. 2,72,241 crore. The Department of Railways received Rs. 2,40,000 crore before and now it is receiving Rs. 2,52,000 crore. Ministry of Defence received Rs. 1,71,375 crore before and now the allocation has gone up to Rs. 1,82,241 crore. The State Capex Loan Scheme which is interest-free for fifty years has been retained at Rs. 1,30,000. The allocation for major flagship schemes has either remained so or gone up. For *PM Kisan Samman Nidhi*, the allocation of Rs. 60,000 retained at the same level in 2024- 25. For *PM Awas Yojana-Rural*, the allocation of Rs. 54,487 crore is now Rs. 54,500 crore. For *PM Awas Yojana-Urban*, the allocation of Rs. 25,103 crore has gone up to Rs. 26,171 crore. For *Jal Jeevan Mission*, the allocation of Rs. 70,000 crore has gone up to Rs. 70,163. For MGNREGA,

the allocation of Rs. 60,000 crore has gone up to Rs. 86,000 crore. The allocation under *PM Gram Sadak Yojana* for Rs. 19,000 crore remains the same. *Samagra Shiksha's* allocation of Rs. 37,453 crore has gone up to Rs. 37,500 crore. For the PLI Scheme, an amount of Rs. 8,965 crore was given in BE 2023-24, it has gone up to Rs. 16,021 crore. Department of Fertilizers gets an allocation of Rs. 3,000 crore for Nutrient- based Subsidy Scheme for P&K fertilizers. Department of Food and Public Distribution gets Rs. 9,231 crore for *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana*. Defence services on revenue expenditure gets Rs. 13,548 crore. Jammu & Kashmir gets an amount of Rs. 3,000 crore for meeting the additional expenditure. Jammu and Kashmir is seeking a Vote on Account of Rs. 59,364 crore which is only for part-year because the whole year's BE is Rs. 1,18,728 crore. The labour force in the country has increased from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 57.9 per cent in 2022- 23. Now, the workforce in the country has increased from 46.8 per cent in 2017 to 56 per cent in 2022-23. The unemployment rate has decreased from 6.0 per cent in 2017-18 to 3.2 per cent in 2022-23. The labour force of youth has also increased from 38.2 per cent in 2017-18 to 44.5 per cent in 2022-23. The number of net new subscribers to EPFO in the age group of 18-25 years has increased consistently. A total of 28.7 lakh net female subscribers were added to EPFO. Out of the total registration of more than 29 crore unorganized workers on the e-Shram portal, 53 per cent are women under various occupational sectors. The allocation to PM POSHAN has increased to Rs. 12,467.39 crore. Retail inflation has declined from an average of 6.8 per cent in April-December 2022 to 5.5 per cent. The core inflation has actually declined from 5.1 per cent in April 2023 to 3.8 per cent in December 2023. The prices of essentials like atta, dal, onion and also rice have come down. Bharat Atta, along with subsidized grains, atta or dal or others - rice also has been launched at absolutely subsidized prices. Dal is also getting subsidized and distributed through NAFED, Mother Dairy and other cooperative stores. Onions are being sold at Rs.25 per KG. Fourteen sectors got benefited from the PLI Scheme. Manufacturing locations are coming up in 24 States and in more than 150 districts. The Government has committed nearly Rs. 1.97 lakh crores which is about 26 billion US Dollars over five years starting from 2021-22. Rs. 1.07 lakh crores investment is already committed by people who want to set up businesses; around 7 lakh employment both direct and indirect has already been created; Rs. 3.40 lakh crores of exports are happening; Rs. 8.7 lakh crores of production and sales are happening; and 176 MSMEs are selected as direct beneficiaries of the PLI Scheme. Regarding Covid-led poverty increase, she highlighted that actually, MPI has nearly halved from 0.117 to 0.066 in 2019-21, thereby setting a clear path for Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved for India by the stipulated time of 2030. Health and other indicators which are very important components of the Multidimensional Poverty Index are benefitting from the measures

taken by the Government. Largest improvements were reported in the States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan with rural areas actually steering the fall in the incidence of poverty.

All the cut motions moved were negatived. All the Demands for Grants were voted in full.

All the Supplementary Demands for Grants were voted in full. All the Demands for Grants (Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir) were voted in full. All the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir) were voted in full.

White Paper on Indian Economy: On 9th February 2024, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, moving the Motion on the consideration on the White Paper on Indian Economy said that this is a White Paper on the Indian economy and its impact on the lives of the people of India. She informed that the White paper has been laid on the Table by the Government after 10 full years of pulling out the Indian economy, which was among the 'fragile 5', to scale it up to reach the stage of top five economies and at the threshold of being the one among the top three economies. While stating facts on this matter, she said that the UPA government did not save India after the Global Financial Crisis, but the Country is aware of how the Prime Minister handled the country after COVID-19, provided free vaccines to everyone and protected the country. She recalled that during the Commonwealth Games held in Delhi for 12 days brought a bad name to India the world over. But the G-20 was organised all over India and not a single State was left out, and they were asked to showcase their local products to foreign guests and promote their tourism. But, the UPA government caused huge losses to the country through the coal scam. In the CAG report on the Coal Scam, it was unearthed that a loss of Rs 1.86 lakh crore was caused to India. The Supreme Court cancelled the licences of 214 coal blocks. Due to this, there was job loss, investment stopped coming into the country and small and medium-scale industries came to a standstill. To generate electricity, coal had to be imported. There is plenty of coal in the country, yet its import was resorted to. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh suffered major revenue losses attributed to this move. The Prime Minister provided the pipeline gas connection and reconstructed the Barauni Refinery. This Government got the Coal Mines Special Provision Act passed in the year 2015. The District Mineral Fund was also created in the year 2015 under the provisions made through the MMDR Amendment Act. By opening 100% FDI, every facility has been put in place to facilitate investment through an automatic route, resulting in attracting investments. In order to commercialise coal mining the Government has brought an open policy. Under the policy, coal blocks were allocated 9 times in the auction since the year 2020. The District Mineral Fund was established by

the law. Rs 84,900 crores has been collected from the District Mineral Fund in all the states. Good work is being done by setting up digital dispensaries from the District Mineral Fund of various States and facilities like basic health care, telemedicine consultation, and free medicine are being dispensed and malnourishment is being addressed. Domestic coal production has reached 900 million tonnes in the year 2023-24 and is likely to reach 1 billion tonnes in the coming year. In 2013-14 it was 567 million tonnes. This has led to an increase in production, there will be no import of coal, and there will be no foreign exchange payment either. The public sector did not benefit from the policy of the UPA government. During 2013-14 to 2022-23, the public sector undertaking Coal India Limited's capital expenditure has increased 4.3 times as compared to the earlier era. So, the public sector is also thriving in terms of production and is also making investments. From 2004 to 2014, the UPA had advertised 'make a call, get a loan' in the name of phone Banking. With the gift of recommendations, the NPA crisis started from that time and even there was no collateral or the entire loan was given by giving half collateral. Now, this Government is going to rectify the NPAs. The gross non-performing asset ratio in the public sector Banks increased by 12.3 per cent in 2013 itself. Return on assets for public sector Banks fell from 0.97 per cent to 0.5 per cent between 2009-10 and 2013-14. Top 200 companies in March 2014 owed about 8.6 lakh crore to the Banks. Nearly 44 per cent of those loans were yet to be recognized as problem assets. This Government recapitalised Banks, and did an asset quality review, the Reserve Bank of India issued orders to this effect. The Government made the strategy of 4R- Recognition, Resolution, Recapitalization and Reforms. IBC brought such laws that the cases can be dealt with quickly and the money of the Bank is recovered. The Banks were merged and then professional boards and independent directors were appointed. Today, there is a decline in the gross NPA ratio to many years low of 3.2 per cent. Profitability of PSBs increased from Rs. 37,000 crore to Rs. 1.08 lakh crore. The Banks are handing over record dividends to the Government, which has enabled to launch public welfare programs. The same Banks that were debt-ridden are becoming the pillars of public welfare. This Government is undertaking good programmes like Revival of Credit Growth, Capital Formation and *Mudra SVANidhi* for public welfare. Scaling up of the whole economic growth and driving it to a robust level is largely attributed to the good steps, policies, and legislative measures that this Government undertook with transparency be it Banks or the coal sector of India.

Moving the Substitute Motion, Shri N.K. Premachandran (RSP) said that having considered the white paper, this House disapproves of the contents of the white paper on the following grounds: This is a political attempt to ignore the valuable efforts of the previous UPA Government and the

contributions of the renowned economists, scientists and experts of the country during the period 2004-2014. After 10 years of the NDA Government in office, making baseless allegations against the previous Government is unfair, improper, unjust and against all basic tenets of parliamentary democracy. He further said that during the 10 years of NDA led Government, the country had experienced exponential growth of unemployment, inflation resulting in price rise of essential commodities and increased actual poverty. He was of the view that shifting the blame to the previous Government for the abysmal failures of present Government and thereby avoiding its own responsibility is not proper. He further stated that the NDA Government, which is in power for 10 years now, has devastated the country's economy and agriculture sector, abetted crime against women and committed a grave injustice to Minorities.

Moving the Substitute Motion, Prof. Sougata Ray (AITC) said that this House disagrees with the conclusion reached by the White Paper on Indian Economy.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Manish Tewari (INC) said that this is a political manifesto, not a White Paper. He stated that when the UPA Government came to power in 2004, it carried out fundamental reforms that strengthened the economic, social and political foundations of the people. While mentioning about the achievements of the UPA Government, he said that the then Government gave the Right to Information to 130 crore people. The second major achievement is the MNREGA which the UPA Government brought in 2005. The third major achievement of the UPA Government was enacting the law of free education, as per which children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, irrespective of caste and religion would be imparted free education across the country. Fourth, is the National Food Security Act. It was the UPA Government that gave wheat, rice and coarse grains at affordable prices to 77 per cent of the population of this country. Fifth, is 'Aadhaar'. While questioning about the achievements of the Government over the last ten years, he said that this government implemented the GST in such a way that it destroyed the entire small-scale industry of India for many years. With regard to the economy, he said that in 2004, the fiscal deficit was 4.5 per cent. In 2007-08, the recession was reduced to 2.8 per cent compared to the global recession. The revenue deficit in 2003-04 was 3.6 per cent. It came down to 1.2 per cent in 2007-08. The savings-to-GDP ratio, which runs the economy, had increased from 29.8 per cent in 2003-04 to 34 per cent in 2006-07. The investment-to-GDP ratio increased from 28.2 per cent in 2003-04 to 35.9 per cent in 2006-07. From 2004 to 2008, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) was increased by Rs.300. From 1998 to 2002, the inflation rate was 5.15 per cent which fell to 5.12 per cent from 2004 to 2008. From 1999 to 2004, the average growth rate of the economy was 5.8 per cent, which increased to 8.9

per cent in the first four years of the UPA. He further said that there are five main pillars of any economy *i.e.* savings, consumption, investment, production and employment. In the year 2013 savings to GDP ratio was 34 per cent but in the year 2022, it was reduced to 30 per cent. In the year 2013-14, private financial consumption expenditure was 60 per cent but in the year 2023-24 it declined to 56.9 per cent. The investment to GDP ratio was 33.8 per cent in the year 2013-14 and it fell to 29.20 per cent in the year 2023-24. The fiscal deficit is in the range of 17-18 lakh crore rupees. The gross capital formation was 33.8 per cent in the year 2013-14 which declined to 31.4 per cent in the year 2022-23. The rate of unemployment was 4.9 per cent in the year 2013-14, but it is 8-9 per cent in the year 2022-23. The Government has said that 25 crore people were liberated from multidimensional poverty, but it is also a fact that 27 crore people were pulled above the poverty line from the year 2004 to 2014. In the year 2013-14 the Budget of MGNREGA was 33 thousand crore rupees. In the year 2023-24, it has been increased to 86 thousand crore rupees, which means the economy is not creating avenues of employment. The number of people seeking employment under MGNREGA has increased twofold. The economy of the country has now become a 3.75 trillion dollar economy, but the government's loan has increased threefold. The economy is growing not because of increased revenue collection. It has scaled up due to the huge amount of loans raised by the Government during the last 10 years. The biggest component in the budget that accounts for 28 per cent is of borrowings and the biggest outgo *i.e.* 20 per cent is interest payment bears a striking testimony to it. Indian economy grew at the rate of 6.8 per cent cumulatively during the year from 2005 to 2014. From the year 2015 to 2024 it increased at the rate of 5.9 per cent. He noted that there has been a significant increase in the prices of LPG, diesel, petrol and mustard oil, flour, milk etc. over the last 10 years, and the common man has severely borne the brunt of inflation during the last 10 years.

³*Participating in the discussion*, Dr. Nishikant Dubey (BJP) said that when the Prime Minister took charge, he set up a task force on black money in the very first Cabinet meeting. The prices of petrol, and diesel were increasing rapidly during the rule of the Opposition. They issued oil

³**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Girish Chandra, Gaurav Gogoi, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Ravi Shankar Prasad, Om Pavan Rajenimbalkar, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, S. Venkatesan, Jayant Sinha, Asaduddin Owaisi, Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Anubhav Mohanty, Vijay Kumar Hansdak, Ramesh Bidhuri, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, N.K. Premchandran, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Dnv Senthilkumar S., Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Prof. Sougata Ray, Shrimati Vanga Geetha Viswanath, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule, Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana, Sushri Sunita Duggal and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, Shri Ajay Bhatt.

bonds as sovereign guaranty and the responsibility to repay them lay on the succeeding Government. He informed that the growth rate of the years 1997, 1996, 1995, and 1994 was 2 per cent, 3 per cent, 3.5 per cent, and 4 per cent respectively. When the present Government took charge, the growth of the economy was only 3 per cent. He further noted that the Minister of Finance said that the NPA of Banks was around 13 per cent when the present government took charge in the year 2013-14, and said that the NPA is about 3 per cent today. He recalled that when the erstwhile RBI Governor appeared before the Estimate Committee, he deposed that the condition of banks had turned from bad to worse due to political corruption. The Finance Minister said that so much import of gold is affecting our Balance of Payment adversely. The Ministry of Economic Affairs issued an order on 14th May 2014 to RBI and import of gold ensued. Gold imported in Delhi started to be exported from Haridwar within five hours. It was a big scam. In the Antrix Devas Deal, Antrix signed an agreement with Devas without any collateral. The then Minister of Finance signed this agreement on 28-01-2005 and it was maintained that arbitration would be held in another country. The Government of India is still paying the price for it. The present government wants 'Make in India'. He also said that Defence is a sector where we are in a position to export. Export to the tune of one lakh crore rupees has been made from the defence sector. He concluded by saying that corruption has neither increased, nor will it be allowed to spiral up during the tenure of the present Government.

Joining the discussion, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy (DMK) highlighted the status of the Indian economy since the pre-Independence era and said that after the country got Independence in 1947 from British rule, India's GDP was only about one per cent of the world's GDP. He further said that the Indian Government at that time faced the biggest challenge of nation-building, poverty was the biggest threat to the nation at that point in time, and the Green Revolution and the White Revolution were focused upon to improve agricultural production and milk production. Dr. Veeraswamy noted that in 1991, the economy of the country opened up and improved under the leadership of the then Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao and the then Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He recalled that after assuming office, in 2014, the Prime Minister promised that two crore jobs would be offered to people every year and that the prices of gas and petrol would be halved, and the exchange rate of the US dollar would be reduced, but even after ten years, there is no mention of these things in the White Paper presented by the Government. It does not find mention of demonetization, its effects and achievements. He opined that this Government has only increased the cess throughout the country since 2014, and noted that over the last two years, the Government has imposed windfall tax on oil companies. This windfall tax is for making excessive profits and it has

been informed that the cost of petrol and diesel is now market-driven and not under their control. The Government claims to have alleviated 25 crore people out of poverty but it is far from the truth. During the COVID period, eighty crore people had to be provided free rations which is something commendable. Now after that pandemic is over, the same promise has been repeated for the next five years. Dr. Veeraswamy concluded by saying that the dependence of 80 crore people, which accounts for 55 per cent of the country's population, on free ration for sustenance is a sad state of affairs.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that the White Paper is a serious document with documentary evidence for everything that is said in it. This document is placed with the intent that the House will be informed of the ten years literally dedicated effort to get this Government to work in such a way that the economy is back on rails. The two tracks which the Government have followed since 2014 are one to remove all the hurdles and all the misgovernance and equally focus on reforms so that the economy can move forward. This Government also took every step which had to be taken to clean up the system. The Minister further said that India has reached the place of the 5th largest economy and soon, it will become the 3rd largest economy. While comparing the tenure of the present Government with the previous Government, the Finance Minister focused on three issues: how national security was compromised in those ten years; how the Environment Ministry had become a bottleneck, and finally how the leadership failed the country. The Minister spoke of the critical shortage of ammunition and defence equipment was the main feature of 2014, that the Armed Forces were totally ignored, and how the present Government took corrective measures. The Defence Budget has doubled during the last ten years. The FDI limit in defence production has been raised to 74 per cent. All the production units of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) have been converted into seven Defence PSUs. The present Government has increased the business of HAL to four lakh crore rupees. The value of defence production in 2022-23 has crossed one lakh crore rupees. Defence exports are at an all-time high. Delays in grant of environmental clearances increased on an average from 86 days to 316 days during 2011-2014. The image of India as a business destination went for a toss. The present Government brought in transparency and standardized and streamlined Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. The average time for clearance and the average time for approvals to be cleared at the Central level has been reduced to 70 days. Forest cover increased by 50,000 square kilometres. Globally India stands 4th in renewable power, 4th in wind power and 5th in solar power. The Minister also said that the country has progressed so much that there has been a 30-fold increase in solar energy capacity since 2014. The target of achieving 40 per

cent renewable capacity addition has been fulfilled nine years ahead of time. Leadership problem is the key to the 10 years of UPA's mismanagement and scams. While stressing that many Members talked about the misuse of Black Money, CBI and ED, she said that the PMLA law is enforced by the Enforcement Directorate. There were 102 prosecutions from 2005 to 2014 which implies that the law was not implemented. The Enforcement Directorate was treated as a caged bird. The present Government gave full discretion to the ED to do their work and stop money laundering. There were 1200 cases of prosecution. There are 58 cases of conviction during the term of the present Government. This Government has brought back 16,333 crore rupees. Red corner notices have been issued to 24 people during the last 9 years of their tenure. This Government has brought back 906.74 crore rupees from the fugitive offender. The previous Government jeopardised the right of the farmers and poor families to food under the Bali declaration and is now giving contradictory statements. Labour markets have witnessed falling unemployment rates declining from 5.8 per cent in 2018-19 to 3.2 per cent in 2022-23. The unemployment rate particularly for graduates has also declined. The decline has been even sharper for female graduates. There is an investment of 1.07 lakh crore rupees in the PLI Scheme. 8,82,191 Central Government vacancies have been filled up in the last nine years. Regional Recruitment Boards gave Government jobs to 4,30,592 youth between 2014 and 2023. Under UPA, the retail inflation was more than 9 per cent. The retail inflation during the tenure of the present Government was mostly 5 per cent. The vision of leadership of the present Government is to make India a developed nation by 2047.

The substitute motions moved were negatived.

Short Duration Discussion regarding Construction of historic Shri Ram Temple and the Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala: On 10th February 2024, while initiating the discussion, Dr. Satyapal Singh (BJP) said that Shri Ram does not belong to Hindus only, rather he is an entity of universal presence. Whereas he is the ancestral being of all of us, he is an epitome of sustained inspiration for all of us as well. Ram is an abiding consciousness and the legacy. He is the civilization and the culture. Ram is omnipresent. He further said that the persona of Lord Ram is so wide-ranging and stupendous that one simply cannot afford to limit his presence to the geographical metrics of any denomination, and his presence is prevalent across several countries across the world. The '*Valmiki Ramayan*' is the solitary bibliographic authentic source to know Lord Rama, which finds mentions that Lord Rama was born in the 24th Treta Yuga. While recalling that in the course of struggle for the freedom movement, Mahatma Gandhi used to say that there would be *Ram Rajya* in independent India, He also said that Goswami Tulsidas ji wrote in the *Ram Charit Manas* that the

Ram Rajya had no instance of disorder or disease and people would lead their lives driven by the jewel of love in a spirit of harmony. Dr. Singh concluded by saying that Ram temple is not a mere structure built of concrete and stones, it is the embodiment of the faith of crores of people of the country presented in tangible form.

⁴*Participating in the discussion*, Shri Gaurav Gogoi (INC) said that this is a country characterised by devotion, a country of faith, and we bind our diversity with goodwill and cherish the society with a sense of service. He further said that Lord Rama belongs to everyone and he is with us all the time. When we meet each other, we exchange greetings by saying 'Ram-Ram' in North India or Western India. While explaining the definition of Mahatma Gandhi's *Ram Rajya*, he said that where everyone is happy and no one is sad. Gandhi ji has also said that his Hindu dharma teaches him to respect all religions, the secret of *Ram Rajya* is inherent in this definition. He asked to ponder upon whether all the backward, deprived and minorities are happy. Expressing his concerns over rising crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, he said that comparing it with the year gone by, crime has gone up by around 50 per cent in the year 2023. Today the backward classes are demanding a caste census because they see that injustice is being meted out to them and caste discrimination is taking place. It is mentioned in the report of Parliamentary Committee that women belonging to the Scheduled Castes are being harassed on the basis of caste and gender and they are also sexually exploited. After this discussion in the Lok Sabha, when all the MPs go to their respective constituencies, they will see helplessness among the youth. Today, due to unemployment, the helpless Indian youth has chosen the path of drugs and crime, and helplessly arrange some funds and migrate to a foreign country. He also said that his party has been doing social service for so many years and his party has done a lot, but still a lot remains to be done. He said that the people of his party follow Gandhi's *Ram Rajya*, walk on the path of justice and believe in equality of all religions. Not just scripture, but there is so much strength in the soil of this country that binds the different languages and faiths of 140 crore people with integrity, love and goodwill. It is the egoistic approach of the Government that keeps it from casting a look on rising inflation and instability in the

⁴**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Rampriti Mandal, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Malook Nagar, Hans Raj Hans, Arvind Sawant, Sunil Kumar Pintu, Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Asaduddin Owaisi, B.B Patil, Naba Kumar Sarania, Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane, Girish Chandra, Anubhav Mohanty, Mohan Mandavi, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Amol Ramsingh Kolhe, Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav, Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana, Shrimati Sangeeta Azad, the Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shrimati Anupriya Patel; and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti.

country, whether it is in Manipur, Ladakh or along the border with China. He opined that the Government's ego prevents it from perceiving the growing apprehension that exists in society today, particularly among minorities. There should be love and goodwill in saying Jai Shri Ram. The Indian National Congress Party has always worked to confer rights on the citizens of India in a spirit of service, inspired by the values of Gandhiji and the guidance of Dr. Ambedkar. While reminding that in this country, there are many religions, many scriptures, many prophets, but if there is any scripture of governance, it is only the Constitution.

Joining the discussion, Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy (YSRCP) speaking about Lord Rama and the importance of his eternal teachings said that as depicted in the Ramayana, his reign, termed as 'Ram Rajya' symbolized good governance and epitomised justice, welfare and happiness for all. The leadership of Lord Rama was dedicated to fairness, compassion and the welfare of his people above all else. He said that the Lord Venkateshwara Temple in his parliamentary constituency at Tirupati is one of the most famous temples in our country. Anjanadri Hill, one of the seven Hills, is supposed to be the birthplace of Hanuman. Another location Lepakshi is referenced in the Ramayana which stands as a testament to the widespread reverence of Lord Rama's legacy. He further said that by developing these sites, India's cultural heritage tourism will be enhanced and the bonds of unity and spirituality inspired by Lord Rama will be reinforced. He requested the Government for a comprehensive development and better connectivity to all religious sites nationwide to further enrich the cultural heritage of the country and thereby strengthen the fabric of the society.

The discussion was not concluded.

The Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, while addressing all the Members said that the construction of a grand, divine temple of Lord Shri Ram at his birthplace in the ancient holy city of Ayodhya is a historic and a glorious achievement for the country. All of the MPs are participating in the joy and enthusiasm of the countrymen on this occasion with full unity, reverence and devotion. This is an unforgettable moment in the country's development journey, which is very important for India socially, culturally and historically. Lord Shri Ram, his consort Sita and the Ramayana are present in every particle of the Indian civilization and culture. The Speaker further said that our Constitution, dedicated to our democratic values and justice for all, has been inspired by the ideals of Ram Rajya. January 22, 2024, is such a historical date for the whole of India, remembering that our generations will remain overwhelmed for ages. He also said that the Prime Minister has played a unique and an unparalleled role in uniting the entire nation on this auspicious occasion associated

with Lord Ram. He observed the difficult *Yam-Niyam* with absolute dedication to the ritual of consecration of the idol of Shri Ramlala. During this time, he also visited important pilgrimage places associated with Lord Shri Ram from Nashik to Lipakshi and Triprayar to Rameshwaram and gave the message of national unity. Shri Birla also said that in the consecration ceremony on 22nd January, the Prime Minister spoke in great detail about the awakening of the spiritual consciousness of the country. He opined that the temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya is a direct symbol of the sentiments of '*Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat*'. The Speaker said that people's faith in the law and democracy shows how strong and deep the foundation of our democratic institutions is, and the temple of Lord Shri Ram, built in Ayodhya after centuries of penance, has started a new era of good governance and public welfare in the country.

⁵**Valedictory References:** On 10th February 2024, Smt. Supriya Sadanand Sule (NCP), expressed gratitude to the Lok Sabha Speaker, the Treasury Benches, and the entire Opposition. She felt that the past five years had passed so swiftly, that the election results seeming as recent as the previous day. She acknowledged that everyone had suffered a setback of two years due to COVID-19 and commended the commendable work of the Lok Sabha Speaker and their office. Further, she noted that despite many disagreements over the five years, the relationship among members remained intact. She observed that the current batch of Members of Parliament had experienced working in both the old and the new buildings, reflecting on the development the country had achieved over the past 70 years due to collective hard work. She expressed gratitude towards the people of her constituency and her party. Additionally, she emphasized that while political disagreements may persist, maintaining unity and cordiality in relationships was crucial, highlighting it as a fundamental aspect of democracy.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Smt. Anupriya Patel said that for all of the Members of Parliament who have spent five years, from the *Samvidhaan Sadan* to the Parliament House are unforgettable moments of life for everyone, which are captured in everyone's memories forever. Expressing her gratitude towards the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, she said that during his tenure, he has taken many innovative initiatives to increase the efficiency of MPs, particularly those who are elected for the first time. These new experiments and

⁵**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Ritesh Pandey, Prince Raj, Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Anubhav Mohanty, Sunil Kumar Pintu, Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, Virendra Singh, B.B. Patil, Girish Chandra, Pinaki Misra, Haji Fazlur Rehman, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Malook Nagar, Kunwar Danish Ali and Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana.

his new innovative initiatives helped them a lot. She said that this is her second term and during this period she gained a lot of experience. In the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, the Parliament also saw many historic decisions of the Government, the Parliament has done the work of amending the IPC, CRPC and Indian Evidence Act, which were symbols of British slavery. The work of passing the Women's Reservation Bill with the aim of ensuring justice and participation for half of the country's population has been done by the NDA Government. When the whole world was struggling with the pandemic, India, keeping its spirit of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' paramount, worked to supply vaccines and medicines to more than 100 countries under the '*Vaccine Maitri*' Initiative. She suggested that during the 18th Lok Sabha, whoever members of different political parties are elected here, all should try to make good use of every moment of the House. Questions should be asked to the Government. This is a system on which all parties need to collectively brainstorm. Members of Parliament are accountable towards millions of people. Therefore, when they use their time for meaningful discussions and raise issues of public interest, they are able to do justice to their responsibility. If the uproar in the House cannot be completely ended, then at least there should be a resolution that the Question Hour should not be postponed at any cost, because the biggest weapon that the opposition has is the Question Hour itself.

Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC) said that the current Lok Sabha too has had its share of tumultuous and also epoch-making events. Everyone witnessed the inauguration, opening and shifting of the Parliamentary business to the new Parliament House. The journey of the Parliament from this new Parliament House commenced from 19th September 2023 onwards. While mentioning the initiatives taken by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, he said that right from the day of assuming office, Shri Birla has been steadfastly taking and is continuing to take a number of initiatives for smoothening and improving the parliamentary practices and processes and providing better amenities to the Members, be it accommodation, medical facilities, transport or appropriate support mechanism for discharging one's parliamentary duties. As Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, Shri Chowdhury expressed gratitude to the Lok Sabha Speaker for his leadership and guidance in holding the centennial celebrations of the PAC on a grand scale in December, 2021, and the event was truly epoch-making in the history of the Indian Parliament and its Committees. He further said that not only a number of matters of public importance were discussed, debated and voted upon in the House, but also there were a fair share of adjournments and loss of business time of the House. This is a part and parcel of the democratic process. Debates and discussions are the hallmarks of the parliamentary system. Appreciating the role played by Lok

Sabha Speaker, Shri Chowdhury said that despite the pulls and pressures of the times, the Speaker has always maintained his composure and tried to accommodate all sections of the House in expressing their viewpoints and conducted the proceedings of the House with diligence and dignity. Appreciating the role of Opposition, he said that the Opposition in the House played its role responsibly in raising and debating on issues of immense public interest and concern that included the fallout of the COVID pandemic on the common people, the threat posed to our nation's security, problems posed by pollution, rising levels of unemployment and the effect of increasing inflationary pressures on the lives of common people. On the productivity during the 17th Lok Sabha, he said that in statistical terms, the 17th Lok Sabha has been very productive with a very significant number of legislations passed, questions posed, matters of public importance raised during the Zero Hour and under Rule 377 and discussions held on matters of public importance. As a responsible Opposition, he said that his party has always endeavoured to strengthen the parliamentary system of governance and had always stood and fought for preserving, protecting and upholding our hard-earned freedom and democratic rights and will always continue to do so.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said that these five years have been an era focused on three axial and centripetal ends *viz.* Reform, Performance and Transformation in the country. While appreciating the role played by the Lok Sabha Speaker, he said that the Speaker guided all the members in the House in a very meaningful way maintaining equanimity against all odds and he deserves encomium for the same. He produced an example to the world through his managing acumen while the entire world was facing the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was during the Covid era that he proposed to the members to forego the funds under the MPLADS and all the members readily agreed to this proposal at the spur of the moment. Not just that, in a bid to send across a positive message in society the Members decided to opt for a 30 per cent deduction from their salaries on their own. This move made the countrymen believe that their representatives were the first ones to make sacrifices. The Prime Minister further said that during this period, India got the presidency of G-20. Every State of the country presented India's strength and its identity before the world in its own way, whose impact is still on the minds of the world. In line with G-20, the Lok Sabha Speaker organised the P-20 conference which was attended by Speakers of several countries and familiarised themselves with the essence of Indian democracy. He mentioned that the productivity of the 17th Lok Sabha is almost 97 per cent and expressed confidence that the 18th Lok Sabha will be more than 100 per cent productive. The Prime Minister said that the country celebrated 75 years of independence with full enthusiasm and the MPs and the House have played a

very big role in this. There were many reforms in this tenure and it is reflective of the strong foundation of India in the 21st century. The Prime Minister recalled that it was in this House that Article 370 was abrogated which led to the re-emergence of the Constitution with full illumination. This House witnessed the enactment of stringent laws to deal with Terrorism. He further said that for 75 years, we had been following the penal code handed down to us by the British. Even though the country has continued to be governed by the penal code for 75 years, the posterity shall henceforth be governed by the *Nyaya Samhita* and this is democracy in the true sense of the term. The grandeur of the new House is there, but it has started with an act that reinforces the fundamental values of India and that is the *Nari Shakti Vandan Act*. This is going to give us a new strength and in the coming times when our mothers and sisters will be sitting here in large numbers, the country will feel proud. In these five years, very historic laws have also been made for the youth. It is true that no human race can move forward without research. This House has done a great job of encouraging research through legislation of the National Research Foundation, the results are going to be very far-reaching. In the 21st century, our basic needs are changing completely. There is a discussion in the world about the power of data. This House has secured the entire future generation by bringing the Data Protection Bill and given them a new weapon through the enactment of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act. The countries of the world are studying it and are trying to adapt the system in their respective countries. All the MPs of the 17th Lok Sabha have played a major role in the economic reforms that the country has done. It was mentioned that in the past few years, there had been thousands of unnecessary compliances in place, causing the public to remain entangled in the bureaucratic processes. It was noted that such a perverse system of governance had developed, but efforts had been made to rectify it. Specifically, it was stated that the Companies Act, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, and more than 60 non-essential laws had been removed as part of these efforts. This was a huge requirement for Ease of Doing Business. The *Jan Vishwas Act* has led to the decriminalisation of more than 180 provisions. He expressed his confidence that the elections will enhance the pride of the country and tradition of democracy will surprise the whole world.

The Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla, remarked that the 17th Lok Sabha possessed its own distinctiveness as it had fulfilled its responsibilities in both the old and the New Parliament Buildings. He emphasized the significance of the sacred *Sengol* installed in the New Building, symbolizing justice, good governance, national unity and political uprightness. He said that this democratic journey would remain memorable throughout their lives. While recalling that during the past five years, all the Members had endeavored to meet the hopes and aspirations of the people in

their respective constituencies, aiming to enhance public confidence in democracy and its institutions. The Speaker also said that Members had raised issues concerning both their constituencies and matters of national importance. He then referred to June 19, 2019, when he was unanimously elected as the Speaker, expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister and all Members for this honour. He stated that these five years held great importance for him, as the moments spent with everyone were inspiring and unforgettable. He acknowledged the high traditions and conventions of the House, which had been held in high esteem by previous incumbents who had enhanced its dignity, prestige and honour. He expressed his sincere efforts to uphold the dignity of his office and the highest prestige of the institution, thanking the leaders of all parties for their cooperation. Despite facing challenges, especially the global pandemic, Corona, they successfully fulfilled their constitutional responsibilities with the cooperation of the people, ensuring the safety and welfare of the country. During those challenging times, all the Members sat till late at night and carried out their constitutional responsibilities and the productivity was 167 per cent. Shri Birla also said that this session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha was historic in its productivity also. In the last five Lok Sabhas, the highest productivity in this Lok Sabha was 97 per cent. Women Members have especially participated in this session and they also had active participation in the House. It was a matter of pride for us that the *Nari Shakti Vandan Bill, 2023* was brought up for discussion on the very first day in the new Parliament House. All parties supported it and this Bill was passed. This Bill will be a remarkable achievement in so far as the empowerment of women is concerned. Besides, very important and historic Bills were passed in this House. The *Bhartiya Nyay Samhita*, the *Bhartiya Sakshya Bill*, *Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Samhita* and notably this House also passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. Along with that, many such historic laws like Digital Personal Data, Muslim Women Bill, Consumer Protection Bill, Direct Tax Bill, Industrial Bill, etc. were passed. The Lok Sabha Speaker suggested that the Members should carry as a memory in their life also that they passed very historic Bills which will herald a paradigm shift in the economic and social milieu of the country for a long time. Over the last five years, this House also repealed such laws that were archaic and had become redundant. This House also passed three Constitution Amendment Bills. While mentioning the work done during the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, he said that this Lok Sabha was constituted on May 25, 2019. The first meeting of this House was held on June 17, 2019. The Speaker informed that a total of 274 sittings were held in the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, which lasted for 1355 hours. The House sat for more than 346 hours. Due to disruption, 387 hours of time was also wasted. During these five years, 222 laws were passed after intensive discussion and dialogue. During this period, 202 Bills were introduced and 11 Bills were withdrawn by the

Government. During the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, 4,663 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 1,116 questions were answered orally. During the same period, 55 thousand 879 Unstarred Questions were also asked, written replies to which were given in the House. There were two occasions in the same Lok Sabha when all the 20 questions listed were replied to. In this Lok Sabha, 729 Private Members' Bills were presented in the House. During the 17th Lok Sabha, the concerned Ministers laid 26,750 papers on the Table of the House. During this Lok Sabha, 5,568 matters were raised in the Zero Hour, while 4,869 matters were raised by the Hon. Members under Rule 377. On July 18, 2019, 161 issues were raised during Zero Hour and hon. Members participated till late at night. In the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, 1,066 matters were raised in the Zero Hour, which is a record in itself. For the first time, the answers to Rule 377 and Zero Hour have come here at the right time from the Executive. In the same Lok Sabha, the success of the *Chandrayaan Mission* and the achievements of the country in the field of space were also discussed. A resolution was passed on this subject by the House. The topic 'Indian Economy and its impact on the lives of the people of India' was also discussed by the House under Rule 342.534 statements were made by the Ministers on various issues. During this Lok Sabha, discussion on 12 issues was also held under Rule 193. Appreciating the Standing Committees, the Speaker said that the Standing Committees of Parliament did excellent work in this Lok Sabha and presented 691 Reports. More than 69 per cent of the recommendations of Parliamentary Committees were accepted by the Government. Regarding the G-20 Summit, he said that the G-20 Summit was successfully held under the leadership of the Prime Minister. This showcased India's leadership capability and after that, the P-20 summit of the G-20 countries involving the Presiding Officers of their parliaments was also held. Through this, all the Presiding Officers experienced the journey of Country's democracy in the world. With the inspiration of the Prime Minister, Mission LiFE Lifestyle for Environment was also discussed at the parliamentary forum in the P20 conference, in which a resolution was taken for a green future in harmony with nature. All the participating countries supported this program and the Speakers of all the Parliaments pledged that they would take a similar resolution, and propose and discuss it within their respective countries. In this Lok Sabha, the Constitution Day program was held in the Parliament House in the year 2019 and 2021. A special program was organised in the Central Hall on the occasion of the completion of 100 years of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament on December 4, 2021. On September 19, 2023, a special discussion took place in the Central Hall of the *Samvidhan Sadan* on the "Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha—Achievements, Experiences, Memories, and Learnings". Shri Birla mentioned that as the Presiding Officer of the Lok Sabha, he had organized six conferences of Presiding

Officers, where all Presiding Officers endeavored to ensure that the words, dignity and conduct of Members in all democratic institutions of the country, whether the Legislative Assembly or the Lok Sabha, were such that people had more faith and trust in democracy and democratic institutions. He recalled that the Prime Minister had introduced a new vision at that time - 'One Nation, One Legislative Platform.' He highlighted a novel initiative aimed at making all debates, discussions and budget proceedings of Legislative Assemblies across the country, along with those of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, accessible on one platform in the future. During this Lok Sabha tenure, parliamentary delegations from 16 countries visited India, while 42 delegations from India visited many other countries, thereby increasing the country's participation in various international organizations and committees, consequently enhancing India's power and prestige globally. As the Lok Sabha approached its conclusion, he said that Members would return to their respective Lok Sabha constituencies, and expressed his hope that they would utilize the experiences gained in Parliament in their public life, and the cooperation provided, aimed at enhancing the prosperity and prestige of Indian democracy.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Constitution (Jammu-Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Constitution (Jammu-Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023: On 6th February 2024, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar moved the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, for consideration and the Minister of Tribal Affairs and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda moved the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989 for consideration.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. Amar Singh (INC) said that the reservation in Jammu and Kashmir was not sufficient and suggested to bring such an amendment that reservation be provided based on the population. As per the census conducted in the year 2011, the Scheduled Castes account for 16.6 per cent population of the country, whereas only 2.2 per cent of them have their own land and the remaining 97.8 per cent are landless. In the year 2019 the NSSO maintained that 21 per cent of the people in this country are poor. But, the definition of poverty is severely confined to survival. It is Rs.26 per day for rural areas and Rs.32 per day for urban areas. In the case of Bank loans, only 15-16 per cent are getting loans, the remaining 85 per cent are not getting loans. According to the 2018 survey, only 11 per cent of people are enrolled in undergraduate and post-graduate courses. There are only 9 or 10 per cent students enrolled in PhD. There are 8.3 per cent students in MBBS.

SCs in the All India Services are only 7.65 per cent, while 15 per cent reservation is earmarked for them in the Government of India services. These are the figures of the Government. The average income in the country is about Rs 1,64,000 per year and the income of SC people is Rs 89,000. It is almost 50 per cent. He questioned the Government reason for discontinuing pre-matric scholarships in the year 2022-23 and suggested to introduce some schemes to uplift these weaker sections of the society.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma (BJP) said that discussion in respect of granting SC status to the people of the Valmiki community through the Constitution Scheduled Castes Order Amendment Bill, 2023 and ST status to the Paharis through the Constitution Scheduled Tribes Order Amendment Bill, 2023 is going on. Both of these Bills are very important and historical ones. The Gujars, Bakkarwals, Gaddis and Sippies had been requesting for their rights for years. They have now been given ownership rights of the land. Gujar and Bakkarwal were given political reservation. The demand that the OBC class had been making for 50 years has now been fulfilled. Earlier, PoK refugees were not given citizenship in Jammu and Kashmir. Now they have got citizenship and the allied facilities. The hill tribes living in PoK have been fighting for their rights for 50 years and today efforts are being made to grant ST status to the tribal people living in the Hills.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar said that The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 is about including the Valmiki community in the Scheduled Castes list of the Union Territory. He said that with the able guidance of the Prime Minister of India, various welfare schemes were devised for the Scheduled Castes community during the last 9 years. The Government of India has a procedure to make amendments to the Scheduled Castes list. He explained that after receiving proposals from the States and Union Territories, approval was accorded from the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, and then only the Bill was placed before the Parliament for the approval of the Union Cabinet. He further said that now Scheduled Caste people will get the benefit of *Aawas Yojana and Ayushman Bharat Yojana*. Their children will get the benefit of getting admission to the educational institutions of the State and the Central

Others who participated in the discussion: *Sarvashri* Malook Nagar, Arvind Sawant, Dilleshwar Kamait, Ramesh Chandra Majhi, Mohammad Sadique, Bhola Singh, Hasnain Masoodi, Tapir Gao, Ramshiromani Verma, Kodikunnil Suresh, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Dr. D. Ravikumar, Dr. Dnv Senthilkumar S., Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Kumari Goddeti Madhavi, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule and Sushri Sunita Duggal.

Government and of scholarship schemes. While stating that the 272 families who migrated from Gurdaspur and Amritsar of Punjab have not received their permanent domicile certificate for years, he said that this Bill will provide them with fresh opportunities for equal rights and that of employment. They can purchase property and exercise their right to vote for the Legislative Assembly. They will get the benefit of reservation in allotment of dwelling units, in Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, Panchayati Raj Institutions and in Municipal Corporation. They will get benefits of pre-matric, metric, overseas scholarships and scholarship for their higher education. They will get loans on concessional rates, provisions for the prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Tribes will be applicable to them and they will get the benefit of the Namaste Scheme and Venture Capital Fund. The pre-matric and post-matric scholarship funds will be directly credited to the accounts of students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). As of Tamil Nadu, he informed that the Government has not received any proposal with regard to change in the list of Scheduled Castes. There are proposals to change some caste names which are with the Registrar General of India (RGI). With regard to awarding the status of Scheduled Castes to the members of the Christian and Islamic communities, he informed that the K.G. Balakrishnan Commission has been constituted, and they would submit its report in two years. *Shilp Samagam* is initiated for Scheduled Castes category persons through which the Government is providing a platform for the sale of handicrafts made by the community. The Minister further informed that a Venture Capital fund has been started, *Shrestha Scheme* has been initiated for the preparation of competitive examinations through 31 Central Universities, and urged the House to support the Bill.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Tribal Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda said that the members discussed both the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the House, expressed their opinion and almost all of them have supported the Bill. He further said that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs, by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A have given a message not only to the people of the country, but to the whole world that India is one from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. While stating that the Indian Penal Code Act was passed recently, he said that from now onwards, whatever law will be enacted, it will be applicable for the entire country. The Minister further informed that the Government has launched a Rs 24,000 crore scheme for primitive tribes and vulnerable tribes through the PM-JANMAN Scheme, and explained that the motto of the Bill was that all should progress collectively and the country should move forward through everyone's efforts. The Minister

concluded by saying that today the people of Jammu and Kashmir are getting justice; reservation of the Gujjar-Bakkarwal, Gaddi community in education and jobs will remain intact; the people of Ladakh are also getting justice, and requested the House to pass the Bill.

The Bills were passed.

The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024: On 6th February 2024, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, while moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said that the Bill seeks to provide reservation for OBCs in elections to the panchayats and municipal corporations in Jammu and Kashmir. While stating that after the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of progress, he said that through this amendment, the conduct and control of elections to municipalities shall henceforth be vested in the State Election Commissioner. In the wake of abrogation of the Article 370, all the provisions of the Constitution of India, including all Central Acts, have since been made applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. This Bill seeks to amend three Acts related to Jammu & Kashmir as per the provisions made in the constitution. The amendments will provide an opportunity for the OBCs to represent themselves in elected local bodies there. He requested the House to consider and pass the Bill.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Jasbir Singh Gill (INC) said that Panchayati Raj system is the basic structure of democracy, which starts from the grassroots level, from the village level. It is very important to implement it in Jammu and Kashmir. This Bill seeks to provide reservation facilities to the OBCs. Shri Gill said that with their participation, this system will be further strengthened and suggested to make some provisions for minorities too, so that they may also have their representatives there.

⁷*Participating in the discussion,* Smt. Chinta Anuradha (YSRCP) said that this Bill brings several positive changes, and inclusive representation in it. She further said that inclusion of OBCs in local bodies by providing reservation enhances social inclusivity and ensures that these communities have a voice in local governance. Centralising the election process under the State Election Commission promotes a more organised and standardised approach. It ensures the

⁷**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Jugal Kishore Sharma, Hasnain Masoodi, Prataprao Jadhav, Kaushlendra Kumar, Ramesh Bidhuri, N.K. Premachandran, Ve. Vaithilingam, Sunil Kumar Pintu, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Prof. Sougata Ray, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule and Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana.

empowerment of women by ensuring reservations for women. The Bill promotes gender equality in local governance. The progressive legislations for Jammu and Kashmir are much needed and appreciated across all benches of this august House. She urged the Central Government to bring a law to provide for further representation of OBCs such as reservation of 33 per cent in State Assemblies and also in the Lok Sabha. This would ensure that the issues pertaining to OBCs are resolved more effectively. She also suggested the Government to launch skill development programs, specifically tailored for OBC youth to enhance their employability in various sectors. On the lines of a dedicated ministry for tribal communities, a separate ministry for the OBCs needs to be carved out to focus on their unique needs and issues. This proposed ministry would play a crucial role in ensuring the effective implementation of quotas reserved for OBCs, both in educational institutions and employment sectors. She supported the Bill on behalf of her party.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai said that the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Amendment Bill is a pioneer Bill which contains the provision for extending reservation to the Other Backward Classes including those belonging to the weaker and deprived sections. He informed about the Government's commitment and concern about OBCs, and has rolled out many schemes for their welfare and development. He further said that for the first time, 27 ministers in the cabinet are from the OBC community, which accounts for 35 per cent. The OBC Commission has been given constitutional status and reservation for OBCs has gained significance. Under the All India Quota Scheme, a provision has been made for OBC reservation in MBBS and MD admissions including the NEET. The OBC community has been offered the facility of 27 per cent reservation in school admissions. The enrollment of OBC students has increased by 33 per cent during the last nine years. A provision has been made to provide concessional finance to Entrepreneurs belonging to OBC. A financial assistance ranging from Rs 4000 to Rs 1,25,000 per annum is being provided to OBC students under the Prime Minister Young Achievers Scholarship Award PM-Yashaswi. Many schemes have been implemented for the welfare and development of Other Backward Classes in Jammu and Kashmir. The people belonging to SC, ST as well as women, children and Senior Citizens, all have been guaranteed equality and fairness like four per cent reservation for the hill community, ten per cent reservation for the economically weaker sections etc. The abolition of Article 370 has proved to be a transformative phase in Jammu and Kashmir, which has brought justice to the State in terms of development, security and socio-economic dimensions. There has been progress in agriculture, industry, health, education, tourism and employment. The Panchayati Raj system has been

strengthened. The attention has been given to peace, security and development of Jammu and Kashmir under the stewardship of the Prime Minister. Development is also attributed to the adoption of Zero tolerance by the Government. The Minister explained that the Bill comprises three amendments and all of these are in the interest of OBCs which will facilitate in implementation of OBC reservation, and people belonging to the OBC will get the right to reservation in Village Panchayats and Municipal Corporations of Jammu-Kashmir.

The Bill was passed.

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill 2024: On 6th February 2024, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, while moving the Motion for consideration of the Bill, said that in the last ten years, youth-centric provisions were brought especially in terms of appointments of youth in government jobs and their selection for pursuing studies in higher educational institutions, wherein each and every youth is afforded an opportunity as per his/her talent, ability and diligence. He also mentioned about many instances when a candidate would fail in the written examination even after scoring 100 marks as some other candidate used to be offered a job or admission in the academic institution on the basis of marks obtained in the interview by allowing the vice of favouritism, nepotism and corruption to come into play. The Minister informed that since January 1, 2016, the practice of holding interviews for recruitment to government posts has been dispensed with in order that every candidate may get equal opportunity. A greater transparency has been ensured through online and Computer-Based Tests. The duration of the Staff Selection Commission's examination process has since been curtailed to seven-eight or nine months and efforts are underway to reduce it even further. There have been many instances related to malpractices, paper leaks, impersonation and papers being solved outside reported from different parts of the country. The irregularities were found in the Teacher Recruitment Scam in Rajasthan in December 2022, SET for teachers in Rajasthan in February 2022 and the exam had to be conducted again. There have been 12 such scams in Rajasthan since 2018. Similarly, there are many instances like the Sub-Inspectors' Recruitment Scam and the CGL Exam, 2017 conducted by the Staff Selection Commission in Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2022 and there are many more precedents of this nature. While mentioning about a child from Kota who committed suicide, he said that children should be protected from this kind of situation, and spoke of the necessity to have some provision of

punishment for those involved in organized crime and playing with the future of children. He also said that children are the future of the nation and the Bill has been brought in to safeguard their interests.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh (INC) said that the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 seeks to identify various unfair means and offences committed during public examinations. The long process of rescheduling examinations takes years and the grinding Government process forces many applicants to leave their attempts due to getting over-aged or personal precarious situations. He suggested the Government consider holding the examination within three months from the date of cancellation and ensure that a re-examination wing is created in the case of cancelled exams. He requested the Government to decide the quantum of punishment for the direct culprits along with the conspiracy plotters and the intermediary agents as well. Citing the recent case of question paper leak and manipulation mafia in the state of Kerala, he asked for more stringent laws to be made to curb this horrible crime, and requested the Government to enhance anti-malpractice measures and implement the latest technology. He also suggested that the Bill must also take care to protect students from the weaker sections of the society, including SCs and STs and hope that this law will curb these types of incidents in future and thus help lakhs and lakhs of the youth of our country.

⁸*Participating in the discussion*, Dr. Satyapal Singh (BJP) said that the Bill aims to bring transparency and fairness to our examinations and create credibility not only within the country but also across the world. While stating that not only our country is earning a bad reputation due to cheating in examinations, the level of the education is also going down, and felt that education should, instead be meaningful, enjoyable, fame-oriented and pleasing. He congratulated the Minister for bringing such a Bill, under which the punishment is three to five years, five to ten years, one lakh rupees to ten lakh rupees, one crore rupees to ten crore rupees. While stating that paper leaks has been called an organised crime, he suggested that there should be a section on organised crime in the Bill. Recalling that many years ago, the youth used to pass the examination conducted by the Staff

⁸**Others who participated in the discussion:** Sarvashri D.M. Kathir Anand, Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Malook Nagar, Chandeshwar Prasad, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Kalyan Banerjee, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Hasnain Masoodi, N.K. Premachandran, Sumedhanand Saraswati, Syed Imtyaz Jaleel, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Sanjay Seth, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad, Dr. K. Jayakumar, Dr. S.T. Hasan, Dr. Dnv Senthilkumar S, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Kunwar Danish Ali, Prof. Achyutananda Samanta, Shrimati Chinta Anuradha, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule and Shrimati Sangeeta Azad.

Selection Commission and became Customs Inspectors, he mentioned instance of selection of 50-60 children from one or two districts and said that this could not be possible without copying. Some people work in an organised way. Therefore, there was a need to bring a very strict law on this. He said that India is the second largest producer of PhDs after China. People used to be awarded PhDs by paying money. People used to write a PhD for twenty thousand rupees. Such people have also been arrested. There is a need to promote education in the country. Therefore, the manner in which the Prime Minister is laying emphasis on innovation and research, this kind of law is essentially called for in our country, so that no one will dare to copy or get it done. Such centres need to be shut down and such schools and colleges should be derecognized.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State in the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that an attempt is being made to bring this legislation or law against those who commit crimes by tampering with the examination system. He mentioned a positive suggestion given by the Member that if any examination is cancelled, efforts should be made to get it conducted as soon as possible. The exam conducting agencies also try to conduct the examination within the stipulated time limit. He informed that this was the first time that the Staff Selection Commission examination is being conducted in 13 regional languages. The government has included 13 regional languages in various types of examinations including MTS non-technical, constable in paramilitary forces and Combined Higher Secondary Level examinations. Union Public Service Commission examinations are being held in 13 languages included in the eighth schedule and further efforts are being made to conduct these examinations in 22 languages. In all the schemes related to convenience, security and respect, special focus has been given on border villages. The Minister also said that there should also be transparency in the actions taken under this Act. While informing the intention of the government to identify and define 'unfair means' in the conduct of examinations to the best of its ability, he said that if crime related to this is bigger than the limit, it will definitely fall within the ambit of the '*Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita*', and that provision has been made to not spare any officer if he has helped any mafia through collusion.

The Bill was passed.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024(As Passed by Rajya Sabha) and the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (As Passed by Rajya Sabha): On 8th February 2024, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar moved the motion for consideration of the Bills.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka (INC) said that there used to be a procedure where a JPC would be constituted and MPs of both the Houses would be its members. They used to visit places and undertake site visits. They used to check these criteria and would recommend as to who is a Scheduled Tribe and who is not. For the last four to five years, starting with Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka almost 150 to 200 tribes have been included as Scheduled Tribes. The Odisha Government has referred the matter relating to around 180 tribes to be considered for inclusion in the list of the Scheduled Tribes. This naturally raises a concern whether all the cases are genuine. There are only 8.6 per cent tribals in the country but 80 per cent of the tribals get displaced because of development projects. From 2014, the Government has tried to dilute the Land Acquisition Act and now, it is diluting the Forest Rights Act. The Forest Rights Act was a flagship programme of the UPA Government where there was the provision to give land to the tribals. Now, the Government is not settling the forest rights' claims. There has been 80 per cent rejection of claims. Privatisation of PSUs is also a major concern. There is tribal reservation policy in jobs and all. But if you do not have PSUs, there is no way one shall utilise reservation benefits. There is the issue of closure of schools. Small schools are being converted into clusters. A model has been developed called Factory School. In this concept of factory schools, they take the tribal children from villages and far off interior areas and get them educated in cities. The sponsors of these schools are mining mafias and big industrialists of the country. They sponsor these big factory schools and slowly tribals' culture is being diluted. He urged to constitute a JPC and to make MPs its members so that the genuine demands can be considered across the country. This will also have checks and balances.

Participating in the discussion, Prof. Sougata Ray (AITC), while supporting both Bills, said that the first Bill relates to the inclusion of certain tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra

⁹**Others who participated in the discussion:** Sarvashri N. Reddeppa, Ramesh Chandra Majhi, Girish Chandra, Tapir Gao, Abdul Khaleque, Shirang Appa Barne, Dulal Chandra Goswami, K. Navaskani, S. Muniswamy, Syed Imtiaz Jaleel, Vincent H. Pala, Dr. Dnv Senthilkumar S, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule, and the Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

Pradesh. The second Bill relates to exclusion of some tribes from Scheduled Castes and their inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes community. However, he pointed out that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities continued to face neglect across the country. He noted the existence of separate lists of Scheduled Tribes in every State, highlighting amendments made to these lists in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. He further stated that the conditions of tribes in the country were still below satisfactory levels, citing instances of Maoist insurgency in Bijapur in Chhattisgarh and Gadchiroli in Maharashtra. He expressed concern over the inability to deter Scheduled Tribes from the path of violence and emphasized the need for development efforts, which he felt were lacking. He cited examples from West Bengal, where significant success had been achieved, particularly in areas previously afflicted by Maoist insurgency, through the creation of job opportunities and development initiatives. He mentioned that even before the introduction of government initiatives, the West Bengal Government had provided free ration to tribals. He raised concerns about the encroachment of forest areas by large multinational corporations, in violation of the Scheduled Tribe Order in the Constitution, which stipulates that tribal land cannot be acquired without the permission of Gram Sabhas. He criticized the cumbersome process involved in including the name of a tribe in the Scheduled Tribe list and advocated for simplifying this process.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar said that it is important to understand PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups), and the process to include these Groups. She further said that the Scheduled Tribes amendment also prescribes certain modalities according to which amendments are made to those proposals in that State. It is then recommended and approved by the concerned State Government followed by the Registrar General of India and then consent is given by the NCST (National Commission for Scheduled Tribes). Our primitives tribes are decreasing. While stating that the Government paid attention not only to the tribes but also to the most backward tribes, she noted that their numbers are on the decline and from this point of view it is necessary to take steps for their development. She informed that a budget of Rs. 24 thousand crores have been given from the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Man Vikas Yojana* through which work of rural development, road construction and providing water to homes is being carried out. As demand is placed, the Budget will increase. Apart from this, the Government is also making medical units operational for the tribal community. Multi-purpose centers have been sanctioned. Tribal Development Mission is running through TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing

Development Federation). A big fair like *Aadi Mahotsav* is also organised. For the first time, Budget has been given to 18 states and one UT Andaman and Nicobar. Apart from the two budgets, the third budget of '*PM Janman*' is different. This is a budget of Rs 24 thousand 500 crores and that goes for tribal welfare from the different Ministries. Be it aspirational blocks or aspirational districts, the Government has started working on it. Under the *Pradhan Mantri Jan-Mana Programme*, this Government is working for the development of the most backward people, especially by identifying the vulnerable tribal groups. While stating that three communities of Andhra Pradesh – Bondo Porja, Khond Porja and Konda Savara were deprived of PVTGs and Pauri Bhuiyan, Chuktiya Bhuiyan, Bonda and Mankidi communities of Odisha were also deprived, she said that by passing the Bills, they will get justice on all fronts like housing, water system, education and health etc.

The Bills were passed.

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024 (as passed by Rajya Sabha): On 8th February 2024, the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Minister of Labour and Employment, Shri Bhupender Yadav, while moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said that the important changes proposed by the amendment Bill will not only give impetus to the industries, but will also prove helpful in environmental protection. He further said that the proposed amendments are being made by the Government for ease of doing business and ease of living, while keeping in mind environmental protection. He explained that in the new amendments, the provision of imprisonment for all the provisions except violation of the provisions of Sections 25 and 26 and failure to pay fine or additional fine is being abolished. While mentioning about the three major issues addressed under the Bill, he said that the first is to streamline the appointment of key officials in the state boards. Second is to improve ease of living business and eliminate unnecessary penal provisions, and the third is to make efforts to streamline the mechanism of consent to establish and consent to operate for setting up industries in the state.

Initiating the discussion, Shri B. Manickam Tagore (INC) said that this Bill is against the federal nature of this country itself. The Bill is aimed at shifting the powers of the State Governments to the Central Government regarding the Constitution of the SPCBs. The major issue of this shift is that the elected State Governments will be losing their authority over critical decisions that impact the functionality of the Bill. It is also mentioned in the Bill that every State Government should act according to orders/guidelines issued by the Central Government. This is a clear move to overpower the decisions of the State Governments. The proposed Bill grants the Central Government

the authority to exempt certain industry categories from the obligatory need to obtain consent for discharging industrial waste into water bodies. One of the major concerns the Bill poses is the omission of imprisonment for repeated offenders under Sections 24, 25 or 27.

¹⁰*Participating in the discussion*, Shri N.K. Premachandran (RSP), opposing the Bill said that it is a draconian legislation as far as environmental protection is concerned. He felt that in the name of ease of doing business and in the name of ease of living, entire federal principles of the country are being taken away. While stating that global warming and climate change is a hot topic for discussion at international forums, and the Prime Minister had made a very specific statement in the UNFCCC as per which we are committed to have zero carbon emission by the year 2070 and the programmes are being planned in that direction, he said that carbon emission can be abated by mitigating the pollution; both water pollution and air pollution. But, it is surprising to note that the Government is coming up with a legislation to dilute the laws relating to the prevention and control of water pollution just to satisfy the interest of the industry in the name of ease of doing business. He said that the forest coverage area of the country is protected because of stringent and strict provisions in the Forest Conservation Act, Environment Protection Act and Wildlife Protection Act. But here in this Bill, the Government is decriminalising the offences coming under the Water Act. By virtue of various provisions in this Amendment Bill, all penal provisions have been freed from imprisonment and will be replaced by penalty except Sections 25 and 26. The Bill is also very vague. It can be interpreted in any way. The water borne diseases in India are increasing day by day. More than four crore Indians are suffering from these diseases, leading to nearly four lakh fatalities every year. He said that stricter and more stringent, environment related laws are needed to protect the environment, ecology and also the pure water.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Minister of Labour and Employment, Shri Bhupender Yadav said that this Government is working with commitment to protect the environment and strengthen the foundation of the federal structure and has fully addressed both the issues in this Bill. He further said that in the 1974 law, there was a provision for punishment even for the violations of ordinary misconduct. The Government has removed the provision for punishment from the court and made provisions for imposing penalties.

¹⁰**Others who participated in the discussion:** *Sarvashri* Shankar Lalwani, D.M. Kathir Anand, Shrirang Appa Barne, Sunil Kumar, Anubhav Mohanty, Ramshiromani Verma, Gaurav Gogoi, Ganesh Singh, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Syed Imtiaz Jaleel, Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Nihal Chand Chouhan, Adv. A.M. Ariff, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Shrimati Vanga Geetha Viswanath, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule and Shrimati Sarmistha Sethi.

The Minister assured that whatever rules will be formed under this, there will be a thorough investigation with regard to them. If someone is found violating the rules, then in the rules, provisions will be made to give that person a full opportunity of being heard. And after being completely satisfied with the evidence, a decision will be taken in that matter. Still, if a person has a grievance, he would have the opportunity to approach the appellate authority. Appellate has the ability to decide things; hence the Government has selected the officer under it at the level of Joint Secretary. Addressing the doubt of one Member, the Minister said that the Government will not issue any such guidelines wherein it would appear that it is taking over the powers of the State Pollution Boards. The Government will give exemptions to some industries which are only green industries, but that exemption will also be given completely as per the rules. While addressing the issue raised by Members regarding the distribution of fines, he said that 75 per cent of the money collected from this will be given back to the states. The Minister said that there should be environmental awareness in the schools and colleges of the country. Water pollution is not only due to industries, but it is also due to micro-plastics and pollution of ponds in villages. The concerns of the Members are actually the concerns of a common citizen also. The Minister also informed that the Ministry is revising and updating Solid Waste Management. A huge fund has also been provisioned by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for Solid Waste Management under *Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0*. The Government has prepared a comprehensive plan under the '*Namami Gange*' project. The Ministry of Water Resources is working on that topic. This entire Bill has given an easy way to free the industries from the bondage of water pollution.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

The Fifteenth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha commenced on 31st January 2024 and adjourned *sine-die* on 10th February 2024.

The actual number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Question tabled by Members were **5907** (SQ **2486**+ USQ **3421**). However, as a result of splitting of a few questions, where two or more Ministries were involved, the number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions increased to **5934**. No Short Notice Question (SNQ) was received from the Members. The minimum number of notices of Questions included for ballot in a day was **919** (SQ **381** + USQ **538**) for the Sitting held on 7th February 2024 and the maximum number of notices of Questions included for Ballot in a day was 1042 (SQ **439** + USQ **603**) for the Sitting held on 8th February 2024. The maximum and

minimum number of Members whose names were included for the Ballot were **212** and **245** for the Sittings held on 2nd February 2024 and 9th February 2024, respectively.

Notices were examined in the light of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Directions by the Speaker, Parliamentary conventions and past precedents to decide their admissibility. Out of **5934** notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions received (including split questions), 120 Questions were included in the lists of Starred Questions and 1379* Questions in the lists of Unstarred Questions. No Short Notice Question notice was received during the Session.

The Ministry-wise break-up of admitted notices of Questions shows that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare answered the maximum number of questions (Starred and Unstarred), *i.e.* 185, followed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development who answered 87 Questions (Starred and Unstarred).

Names of 294 Members were included in the Lists of Starred and Unstarred Questions. The maximum number of Questions by any Member admitted/clubbed was 22 against the name of Shri Bholu Singh.

The minimum and maximum number of Members whose names appeared in the Lists of Questions were 211 on 2nd February 2024 and 244 on 8th February 2024, respectively. No Half-an-Hour Discussion Notice was received during the Session. Two (02) Statements were made by the Ministers correcting the replies already given to Questions in Lok Sabha.

A total of 39 Starred Questions were orally replied/taken up during the Session. The average number of Starred Questions answered orally per Sitting was 7. The minimum number of Starred Questions answered orally in a single day by a Minister were 05 (Five) on 5th February 2024 and the maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally in a single day by a Minister were 08 (Eight) on 7th February 2024.

The average number of Unstarred Questions appearing in the Lists was 230 per day during the Session. Written replies to 1462 Questions (83 Starred and 1379 Unstarred Questions excluding one Question deleted due to withdrawal of Question by the Member) were laid on the Table.

*Excluding one Question deleted due to withdrawal of Question by the Member.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of 4 former members of Lok Sabha, viz. *Sarvashri* Bhadreshwar Tanti, Sonawane Pratap Narayanrao, Harmohan Dhawan, Smt. Rubab Sayeda and the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

E. FIRST-TIME HAPPENINGS IN THE SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

In the 15th session, which was the last session of the 17th Lok Sabha, an effort was made to provide continuous simultaneous interpretation services in ten other Indian languages namely, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu other than Hindi and English in the Lok Sabha Chamber of the New Parliament Building. The Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla made a reference about it in his valedictory address on 10th February 2024.

RAJYA SABHA
TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY THIRD SESSION*

A Resume of the important business transacted by the Rajya Sabha during the 263rd Session of Rajya Sabha and other significant developments are given below:

The Two Hundred and Sixty Third (263rd) Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced with Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India, assembled together in the Lok Sabha Chamber on 31st January 2024 for the first time in the new building of Parliament. The House assembled at 12:55 P.M., half an hour after the conclusion of the President's Address and a copy of the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together, was laid on the Table of the House. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 10th February 2024, one day beyond schedule.

During the 263rd Session, the Rajya Sabha had a total of nine sittings in all, and the House sat for 56 hours and 49 Minutes. The House gained 20 hours and 24 minutes beyond the scheduled time, by sitting late and skipping lunch recess, to complete the legislative and other Business before the House.

Motion of Thanks on President's Address

The Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was moved by Ms. Kavita Patidar on 2nd February 2024, and was seconded by Shri Vivek Thakur. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for four days on 2nd, 5th, 6th and 7th February 2024, spanning about 14 Hours and 57 Minutes, wherein 54 Members participated in the discussion. The discussion concluded with the reply by the Prime Minister on 7th February 2024. Out of the total 102 amendments admitted, 80 amendments were moved by 14 Members. All the amendments moved were either negatived or withdrawn. The Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was adopted on 7th February 2024.

Suspension of Rule 17

On 6th February 2024, a motion was moved by Shri Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of Coal and Minister of Mines, to suspend the provisions of

*As provided by the Table Office, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) in its application to the motions for consideration and passing of the following Government Bills, was adopted:

- (i) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024;
- (ii) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and
- (iii) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024 by the House.

Interim Union Budget 2024-25

On 1st February 2024, the House assembled at 12:30 P.M., half an hour after the conclusion of the Budget speech of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs in the Lok Sabha. The Minister laid on the Table of the House a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government for the year 2024-25 and the Medium Term Fiscal Policy cum Strategy Statement and Macro-Economic Framework Statement under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. The discussion on the Interim Budget 2024-25 took place on 7th February 2024, and lasted for 4 hours and one minute. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs replied on 8th February 2024 to the combined discussion on the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024; The Appropriation Bill, 2024; The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024; The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024 and the Finance Bill, 2024. 31 Members participated in the Interim Union Budget 2024-25 discussion.

Oath by Newly Nominated/Elected Members

One newly nominated Member, Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu, and two elected Members, Shri Narain Dass Gupta and Ms. Swati Maliwal from the National Capital Territory of Delhi took oath on 31st January 2024 and took their seats in the House.

Short Duration Discussions

On 10th February 2024, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi raised a Discussion on the “White Paper on the Indian Economy and its impact on the lives of the people of the Country”, laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 8th February 2024. In all 21 Members took part in the discussion and the discussion lasted for 3 hours and 44 minutes. The discussion concluded with

the reply by the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

Further, on the same day *i.e.* on 10th February 2024, Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi raised another discussion on "*Shree Ram Mandir Ke Etihasic Nirman aur Pran Pratishta*" (Historic construction of Shree Ram Temple and Pran Pratishta). 15 Members participated in the Discussion that lasted for 2 hours and 46 minutes.

Important Developments/Rulings – Observations etc. by the Chair

On a point raised by the Leader of Opposition on 2nd February 2024, that it was against the rules for the Leader of the House to have referred to a Member of the other House, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha ruled that there can be no issue or individual beyond the purview of discussion in the Rajya Sabha and the same is exclusively subject to regulation by the House and the Chairman.

On a point of order raised by Shri Digvijaya Singh on 2nd February 2024, regarding the order of moving amendments before the Mover and the Seconder are allowed to speak, the Chairman gave the ruling that as per practice, after the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address is moved by a Member and seconded by another Member, the Members who have given amendments thereto are called to move their amendments and thereafter, the Mover and Seconder are allowed to speak. In this regard, the Chairman said that the practice is regulated by Rule 242 of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) regarding *inter-alia* Order of Speeches. Accordingly, the Mover of a Motion has the right to speak thereon immediately after moving the Motion and similarly, the Seconder would also speak after seconding the Motion. After that, the Motion becomes the property of the House and Amendments may be moved thereto by other Members. Therefore, that is the stage when the Members who have given amendments are called to move their amendments, if they so desire. The Chairman held that sequence followed by the House is therefore in order.

At the conclusion of the Short Duration Discussion on "*Shree Ram Mandir Ke Etihasic Nirman aur Pran Pratishta*" (Historic construction of Shree Ram Temple and Pran Pratishta), the Chairman observed that “the construction of a magnificent and divine temple of Lord Shri Ram at his birthplace in the ancient holy city of Ayodhya is a historic and glorious achievement for the nation. The grand temple of Lord Shri Ram, in Ayodhya, has become a

symbol of public sentiment. This historic achievement will convey the values of hope, unity and collectiveness to the generations to come and strengthen the spirit of unity in the diversity of our country”.

Dispensing with Lunch Hour / Zero Hour / Question Hour:

As recommended by the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 1st February 2024, the Lunch Hour was skipped on all days of sittings from 2nd to 10th February 2024 to dispose of the listed business.

The Zero Hour and the Question Hour were dispensed with on 8th February 2024 to bid farewell to 68 retiring Members. Accordingly, the answers to Starred and Unstarred Questions listed in the day’s lists of Questions were treated as laid on the Table.

Government Legislative Business

During the Session, the following Government Bills were introduced/passed/returned, namely :

Introduced: (i) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (ii) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and (iii) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024.

Passed: (i) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (ii) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (iii) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024; (iv) The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (v) The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (vi) The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and (vii) The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024.

Returned: (i) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024; (ii) The Appropriation Bill, 2024; (iii) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024; (iv) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024; and (v) The Finance Bill, 2024.

Private Members’ Legislative Business

The Private Members’ Legislative Business was held on one day, *i.e.*, 2nd February 2024 during the Session wherein 22 Private Members’ Bills were introduced on that day. The

Private Members' Resolutions that were listed for 9th February 2024, were dispensed with to complete Government Legislative business.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Amendment of Article 153 and substitution of Article 155 and 156) introduced by Dr. V. Sivadasan, Member, Rajya Sabha, which was considered and discussed on 9th December 2022 was taken up for further discussion on 2nd February 2024. After intervention by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Kumar, Dr. V. Sivadasan, replied to the Discussion and the Bill was withdrawn by the leave of the House. Further, the Sal Leaves Collectors and Traders' Welfare Bill, 2021 was considered and discussed. After intervention by the Minister of Tribal Affairs and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda, Dr. Sasmit Patra replied to the discussion and the Bill was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Statistical Information

During the Session, 90 Starred Questions and 960 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered/laid. Of these, 29 Starred Questions were orally answered and a Statement by Prof. S.P.S. Baghel, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, correcting answer to unstarred question 1869 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December 2023 regarding 'India-Israel joint trial on Covid-19 patients' was also laid during the Session.

56 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance were made/laid during the Session. Further, 67 matters (Zero Hour submissions) were also raised with the permission of the Chair.

A software application named e-Slip was implemented to send/receive text messages for paperless communication between the Presiding Officers and the Secretary-General, and also between the Secretary-General and officers at the Table of the House to obviate the need for movement of paper slips in the Chamber.

Termination of Suspension of Member

The Chairman, Rajya Sabha made an announcement in the House on 31st January 2024, that on the basis of recommendation made in the 76th Report of the Committee of Privileges and presented to the Chairman on 30th January 2024, the Chairman in consultation with the Leader of the House, and the Leader of the Opposition and exercising the power vested under rule 202 read with rule 266 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council

of States (Rajya Sabha), revoked the suspension of eleven Members *w.e.f.* 30th January 2024 to enable them to attend the Special Address by the President of India to both the Houses of Parliament on 31st January 2024.

Farewell to retired/retiring Members

The House bade farewell to 68 Members including four nominated Members of the Rajya Sabha, representing the States of Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Kerala, retiring in the months of January, February, April, May and July, 2024 on completing their term of Office. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Chairman associated with the sentiments expressed by the Chairman. Leaders and Members of various parties also spoke on the occasion. Some of the retiring Members responded to the sentiments expressed by the Chairman and others. Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Minister of Textiles and Leader of the House, also associated himself with the sentiments expressed by Chairman and other Members.

Felicitations

On 9th February 2024, the Chairman offered felicitations to Late Shri Charan Singh, former Prime Minister, Late Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, eminent scientist and Late Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister on being conferred with the Bharat Ratna, posthumously.

Obituary Reference

During the Session, the Chairman made obituary references to the passing away of three former Members and Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia. The House observed silence, all Members standing, as a mark of respect to the Memory of the departed, on each occasion.

Conclusion of the Session

The 263rd (Budget) Session which commenced on 31st January 2024 was adjourned *sine die* on 10th February 2024. The Rajya Sabha was prorogued by the President of India on 15th February 2024.

SESSIONAL REVIEW
STATE LEGISLATURES

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY¹

The Tenth Session of the Fifteenth Assam Legislative Assembly commenced on 5th February 2024, and was adjourned *sine die* on 26th March 2024. There were 12 sittings in all.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following seventeen Bills were introduced, considered and passed: (i) The Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2024; (ii) The Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 2024; (iii) The Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024; (iv) Assam Tourism (Development & Registration) Bill, 2024; (v) The Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University Bill, 2024; (vi) The Kokrajhar University Bill, 2024; (vii) Assam State School Education Board Bill, 2024; (viii) The Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (ix) The Tiwa Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (x) The Deori Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (xi) The ThengalKachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (xii) The Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (xiii) The Missing Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (xiv) The Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024; (xv) The Assam Village Defence Organisation (Amendment) Bill, 2024; (xvi) The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and (xvii) Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2024.

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY²

The Fifth Session of the Seventh Delhi Legislative Assembly commenced on 15th February 2024, and was adjourned *sine die* on 8th April 2024. There were 21 sittings in all.

Address by the Lieutenant Governor: Being the First Session of the year, the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena addressed Members of the House on 15th February 2024. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Addressed was moved by Shri Gopal Rai, Member of the Legislative Assembly. Seventeen Members participated in the discussion. The Chief Minister,

¹ Material provided by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

² Material provided by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Shri Arvind Kejriwal replied to the discussion. The Motion was put to vote and adopted by voice vote on 26th February 2024.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following two Bills were introduced, considered and passed. (i) The Delhi Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2024; and (ii) The Delhi Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2024.

Financial Business: During the Session, the Finance Minister, Smt. Atishi, presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2023-24 (Final Batch) and 2024-25. The Supplementary Demands were considered and passed by voice vote.

The Finance Minister also presented the Budget for the year 2024-25. Eighteen Members participated in the discussion. The Finance Minister replied to the discussion. The Budget was passed on 9th March 2024.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Ajay Rawal, Secretary to the Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly; three CRPF jawans who died in naxalite attack in district Sukma, Chhattisgarh; Sant Acharya Vidyasagar; Shri Fali S. Nariman, famous legal expert and eminent jurist; Shri Shubhakaran Singh, farmer, who passed away during the farmer's protest at Khanauri on the Punjab-Haryana border; Shri Ameen Sayani, iconic radio announcer and programme presenter; and noted Gazal singer, Shri Pankaj Udhas.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY³

The Fifth Session of the Twelfth Manipur Legislative Assembly commenced on 28th February 2024 and was adjourned *sine die* on 5th March 2024. There were five sittings in all.

Legislative Business: During the Session, the following eight Bills were introduced, considered and passed: (i) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2024; (ii) The Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2024; (iii) The Manipur Labour Laws (Exemption from Renewal of Registration and License by Establishments) Bill, 2024; (iv) The Manipur Names of Places Bill, 2024; (v) The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024; (vi) The Manipur Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2024; (vii) The Manipur Prevention of Malpractices in High School Leaving Certificate and Higher Secondary

³ Material provided by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Examinations Bill, 2024; and (viii) The Manipur Municipalities (11th Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.B. Acharya, former Governor of Manipur; *Sarvashri* Chungkhokai Doungel, Meinam Nilchandra Singh, R.K. Thekho, R.V. Mingthing, Konsam Tomba Singh, Konthoujam Sharat Singh, Tongbram Mangibabu Singh, Ningthoujam Bihari Singh, Salam Gopal, Daisin Pamei, all former members of the Manipur Legislative Assembly; and Ningthoujam Hera Singh, former Secretary of the Manipur Legislative Assembly.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY⁴

The Fourth Session of the Fourteenth Nagaland Legislative Assembly commenced on 26th February 2024 and was adjourned *sine die* on 1st March 2024. There were 4 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: Being the first Session of the year, the Governor, Shri La Ganesan addressed Members of the House on 26th February 2024. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Addressed was moved by Shri Moatoshi Longkumer, and seconded by Shri Sethrongkyu, both members of the Legislative Assembly. Eleven Members participated in the discussion. The Chief Minister, Shri Neiphiu Rio replied to the discussion. The Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Governor was adopted by the House.

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 26th February 2024, Shri S. Toiho Yeptho was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following four Bills were introduced, considered and passed. (i) The Nagaland Salaries, Allowances & other Facilities of the Chief Minister, Speaker, Deputy Chief Minister/Ministers, Leader of Opposition, Deputy Speaker and other Members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly and Pension for Ex-Members (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024; (ii) The Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Eight Amendment) Bill, 2023; (iii) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2024; and (iv) The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2024.

Financial Business: During the Session, the Chief Minister, Shri Neiphiu Rio, who also holds Finance portfolio, presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2023-24. The Supplementary Demands were considered and passed by voice vote.

⁴ Material provided by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

The Chief Minister presented the Budget for the year 2024-25. Seven Members participated in the discussion. The Chief Minister replied to the discussion.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri P.B. Acharya, former Governor of Nagaland; Shri Manohar Gajanan Joshi, former Speaker of the Lok Sabha and former Chief Minister of Maharashtra; and *Sarvashri* Hokheto Sema, S.K. Sangtam, and L. Khumo, all former Members of Nagaland Legislative Assembly.

PUDUCHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY⁵

The third part of the Fourth Session of the Fifteenth Puducherry Legislative Assembly commenced on 22th February 2024 and was adjourned *sine die* on the same day.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following four Bills were introduced, considered and passed: (i) The Appropriation Bill, 2024; (ii) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024; (iii) The Puducherry Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Exemption from Approvals to Commence Business) Bill, 2024; and (iv) The Puducherry Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of *Thiru* P. Kannan, former Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry; Shri M.S. Swaminathan, Agriculture Scientist; Shri Bangaru Adigalar, spiritual leader and philanthropist; Shri N. Sankaraiah, politician and activist; Smt. Fathima Beevi, first woman Judge in the Supreme Court and former Governor of Tamil Nadu; and Shri Vijayakanth, founder of the *Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam* (DMDK).

⁵ Material provided by the Puducherry Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

RECENT LITERATURE OF PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

I. BOOKS

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APPENDIX-I

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE FIFTEENTH
SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	31.01.2024 to 10.02.2024
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	9
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	63 Hours 30 Minutes
4.	TIME LOST DUE TO INTERRUPTIONS/FORCED ADJOURNMENTS	Nil
5.	HOUSE SITTING LATE TO COMPLETE LISTED BUSINESS	20 Hours and 27 Minutes
6.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	05
(ii)	Introduced	07
(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	03
(iv)	Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ Recommendation and laid on the Table	Nil
(v)	Discussed	12
(vi)	Passed	12
(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil
(viii)	Negatived	Nil
(ix)	Part-discussed	Nil
(x)	Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	05
(xi)	Pending at the end of the Session	03
7.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	673
(ii)	Introduced	Nil
(iii)	Discussed	Nil
(iv)	Passed	Nil
(v)	Withdrawn	Nil
(vi)	Negatived	Nil
(vii)	Removed from the Register of Bills pending	-
(viii)	Part-discussed	01*
(ix)	Pending at the end of the Session	673
8.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
(i)	Notice received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Discussed	Nil
9.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	126
10.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	133
11.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193	
(i)	Notice received	02
(ii)	Admitted	01
(iii)	Discussion held	01
(iv)	Part-discussed	01

12.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197	Nil
13.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	15
14.	ADJOURNMENT MOTION	
(i)	Notice received	Nil
(ii)	Brought before the House	Nil
(iii)	Admitted	Nil
15.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED BY WAY OF CALLING ATTENTION	Nil
16.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notice received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Part-discussed	Nil
17.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notice received	03
(ii)	Admitted	03
(iii)	Discussed	-
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Part-discussed	01*
18.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	01
(ii)	Admitted	01
(iii)	Moved & Discussed	01
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil
19.	PRIVILEGES MOTIONS	
(i)	Notice received	Nil
(ii)	Brought before the House	Nil
(iii)	Consent withheld by Speaker	Nil
(iv)	Observation made by Speaker	Nil
20.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITER PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	396
21.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE PARLIAMENT MUSEUM DURING THE SESSION	--
22.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i)	Starred	120
(ii)	Unstarred	1379*
(iii)	Short Notice Questions	Nil
(iv)	Half-an-Hour discussions	Nil

* At the end of 11th Session

* Out of 1380 Questions, One Question was deleted due to withdrawal of Question by the member.

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sittings	No. of Reports
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	1	1
(ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sitting of the House	-	1
(iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	-	-
(iv)	Committee on Estimates	5	6
(v)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	3	4
(vii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	-	-
(viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	1	8
(ix)	Committee on Petitions	1	5
(x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	-	-
(xi)	Committee on Privileges	2	1
(xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	10	56
(xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	9	1
(xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	-	-
(xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	2	2
(xvi)	General Purpose Committee	-	-
(xvii)	House Committee	-	-
(xviii)	Library Committee	1	-
(xix)	Railway Convention Committee	-	-
(xx)	Rules Committee	-	-
(xxi)	Committee on Welfare of OBCs	1	4

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE

S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sittings	No. of Reports
(i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	Nil	Nil
(ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	-	-

DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sittings	No. of Reports
(i)	Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing	1	4
(ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	1	3
(iii)	Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel	Nil	Nil
(iv)	Committee on Defence	1	1
(v)	Committee on Energy	4	Nil
(vi)	Committee on External Affairs	3	3
(vii)	Committee on Finance	2	3
(viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	1	2
(ix)	Committee on Communication and Information Technology	2	4
(x)	Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development	3	6
(xi)	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	2	1
(xii)	Committee on Railways	Nil	Nil
(xiii)	Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj	1	1
(xiv)	Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment	1	Nil
(xv)	Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs	1	1
(xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	1	1

APPENDIX-II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY THIRD SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	31.01.2024 to 10.02.2024
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	09
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	56 Hours 49 Minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	Nil
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	21 ¹
(ii)	Introduced	03
(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	09
(iv)	Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
(v)	Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
(vi)	Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
(vii)	Referred to Department-related Standing Committee	Nil
(viii)	Reported by Select Committee	Nil
(ix)	Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(x)	Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	Nil
(xi)	Discussed	12
(xii)	Passed/Returned	12 ²
(xiii)	Withdrawn	Nil
(xiv)	Negatived	Nil
(xv)	Part-discussed	Nil
(xvi)	Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	05
(xvii)	Discussion postponed	Nil
(xviii)	Pending at the end of the Session	21
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	149
(ii)	Introduced	22
(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
(iv)	Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v)	Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi)	Discussed	02
(vii)	Withdrawn	02
(viii)	Passed	Nil
(ix)	Negatived	Nil
(x)	Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi)	Part-discussed	Nil
(xii)	Discussion postponed/adjourned/deferred/terminated	Nil
(xiii)	Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv)	Referred to Select Committee	Nil

¹ 263rd Session (31/01/2024 to 10/02/2024)

² 7 Bills passed and 5 Returned to Lok Sabha

(xv)	Lapsed due to retirement/resignation/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	Nil
(xvi)	Pending at the end of the Session	169
7.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
(i)	Notice received	02
(ii)	Admitted	02
(iii)	Discussions held	02
8.	NUMBER OF STATEMENT MADE UNDER RULE 180 (CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
(i)	Statement made/laid on the Table by Ministers	Nil
(ii)	Half-an-hour discussions held	Nil
9.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	01
(ii)	Admitted	01
(iii)	Moved	01
(iv)	Adopted	01
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
10.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
11.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Received	05
(ii)	Admitted	05
(iii)	Discussed	Nil
(iv)	Withdrawn	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Adopted	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil
(viii)	Discussion Postponed	Nil
12.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved & discussed	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Part-discussed	Nil
13.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i)	Received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Part-discussed	Nil
(vi)	Negatived	Nil
(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil
14.	MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i)	Received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil

(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil
(viii)	Lapsed	Nil
15.	NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
16.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	158
17.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	43 on 15.02.2024
18.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i)	Starred	90
(ii)	Unstarred	960
(iii)	Short-Notice Questions	Nil
19.	DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF MINISTRIES	Nil

20.	WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES		
S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sitzings	No. of Reports
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	02	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
(iii)	Committee on Government Assurances	03	Nil
(iv)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	01	Nil
(v)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	03	01
(vi)	Committee on Petitions	01	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Privileges	03	01
(viii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	02	Nil
(ix)	General Purpose Committee	Nil	Nil
(x)	House Committee	01	Nil
(xi)	Committee on Information and Communication Technology Management in Rajya Sabha	01	Nil
(xii)	Rules Committee	Nil	Nil

21.	DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES		
S.N.	Name of the Committee	No. of Sitzings	No. of Reports
(i)	Commerce	01	02
(ii)	Home Affairs	01	Nil
(iii)	Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports	01	Nil
(iv)	Industry	01	Nil
(v)	Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	01	06
(vii)	Health and Family Welfare	02	06
(viii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	02	04

22.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF	Nil
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	ABSENCE	
23.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	Nil

24.	NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES		
S.N.	Name of Members sworn	State	Date on which sworn
(i)	Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu	Nominated	31-01-2024
(ii)	Shri Narain Dass Gupta	National Capital Territory of Delhi	31-01-2024
(iii)	Ms. Swati Maliwal	National Capital Territory of Delhi	31-01-2024
(iv)	Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha	Sikkim	12-03-2024
(v)	Shrimati Sudha Murty	Nominated	14-03-2024
(vi)	Shri Sanjay Singh	National Capital Territory of Delhi	19-03-2024

25.	OBITUARY REFERENCES	
S.N.	Name	Sitting Member/ex-Member
(i)	Shri Hari Shankar Bhabhra	Ex-Member
(ii)	Shrimati Sushree Devi	Ex-Member
(iii)	Dr. Hage G. Geingob,	The President of the Republic of Namibia.
(iv)	Shrimati Veena Verma	Ex-Member

List of Bills Passed by Rajya Sabha during 263rd Session

S.No.	Name of the Bill
1.	The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024
2.	The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024
3.	The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024
4.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024
5.	The Appropriation Bill, 2024
6.	The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024
7.	The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024
8.	The Finance Bill, 2024
9.	The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
10.	The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024.
11.	The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
12.	The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2024**

Legislatures	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills [Introduced (passed)]	Private Bills [Introduced (passed)]	Starred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Unstarred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Short Notice Questions [Received (admitted)]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.	05.02.2024 to 26.02.2024	12	17(17)	1(1)	616(605)	313(309)	21(7)
Bihar L.A.	12.02.2024 to 01.03.2024	12	12(12)	-	2261(1506)	(379)	206(41)
Bihar L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh L.A.	05.02.2024 to 28.02.2024	17	5(5)	-	1337(1232)	1357(1248)	-
Goa L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat L.A.	01.02.2024 to 29.02.2024	25	7(7)	1	2551(1523)	-	-
Haryana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	24.01.2024 to 28.02.2024	12	4(2)	-	626(420)	291(199)	-
Jharkhand L.A.	05.02.2024 to 06.02.2024 & 23.02.2024 to 02.03.2024	2 & 7	7(7)	-	85(177)	(40)	379(146)
Karnataka L.A.	12.02.2024 to 29.02.2024	13	26(26)	(1)	120(120)	1653(1653)	-
Karnataka L.C.	12.02.2024 to 29.02.2024	14	27(27)	-	882(120)	262(1024)	-
Kerala L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	07.02.2024 to 14.02.2024	6	8(8)	-	1163(1136)	1140(1076)	-
Maharashtra L.A.	20.02.2024 & 26.02.2024 to 01.03.2024	1 & 5	10(11)	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

Maharashtra L.C.	20.02.2024 & 26.02.2024 to 01.03.2024	1 & 5	1(10)	-	-	7(1)	-
Manipur L.A.	28.02.2024 to 05.03.2024	5	8(8)	1(1)	39(39)	8(8)	-
Meghalaya L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram L.A.	19.02.2024 to 13.03.2024	16	10(10)	-	482(475)	37(37)	-
Nagaland L.A.	26.02.2024 to 01.03.2024	4	5(4)	-	22(18)	-	4(3)
Odisha L.A.	05.02.2024 to 09.02.2024	5	1(1)	-	291(267)	414(536)	-
Punjab L.A.	01.03.2024 to 12.03.2024	7	4(4)	-	375(248)	205(112)	16
Rajasthan L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikkim L.A.	12.02.2024	1	16(16)	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.	12.02.2024 to 22.02.2024	7	20(20)	-	(277)	(4326)	2
Telangana L.A.	08.02.2024 to 17.02.2024	9	3(3)	-	-	-	-
Telangana L.C.	08.02.2024 to 15.02.2024	5	(3)	-	-	-	-
Tripura L.A.	05.01.2024 to 11.01.2024 & 01.03.2024 to 05.03.2024	5 & 3	3(3) & 4(4)	-	495(275) & 325(111)	430(365) & 165(216)	6
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	02.02.2024 to 10.02.2024	8	5(5)	-	803(442)	1565(1474)	36(2)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	02.02.2024 to 10.02.2024	8	5(5)	-	195(178)	154(151)	6(5)
Uttarakhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal L.A.	05.02.2024 to 17.02.2024	10	9(9)	-	957(554)	16(10)	-
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.	15.02.2024 to 08.04.2024	19	2(2)	-	-	-	-
Puducherry L.A.	22.02.2024	1	4(4)	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

**COMMITTEES AT WORK/ NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2024**

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
State/Union Territory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.	4(4)	1(1)	1(1)	-	-	(2)	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	2(3)	-	-	-
Bihar L.A.	1(1)	9(7)	9	10	-	18	12(1)	9	9	-	9	10	13(4)	-	-	140(10) ^(a)
Bihar L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh L.A.	1(1)	-	-	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goa L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat L.A.	3(3)	-	-	3(3)	-	2(3)	-	(1)	2(2)	-	-	-	3(1)	-	-	2(4) ^(b)
Haryana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	2(2)	-	-	-	2	5(1)	4	9(3)	5(3)	5(5)	-	-	8(5)	-	-	11(7) ^(c)
Jharkhand L.A.	-	-	3	-	-	-	11	9	11	9	8	-	11	-	-	81(2) ^(d)
Karnataka L.A.	3	9(1)	8	-	6	7	8	7(1)	8	-	7	1	7	-	-	28 ^(e)
Karnataka L.C.	1	9	8(1)	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	1 ^(f)
Kerala L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

State/Union Territory	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees	
Maharashtra L.A.	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Maharashtra L.C.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Manipur L.A.	1(1)	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(2)	-	-	-	
Meghalaya L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mizoram L.A.	2(2)	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3(1)	-	-	-	-	2(6)	
Nagaland L.A.	1	1(3)	-	-	-	(5)	(3)	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(h)	
Odisha L.A.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	9	-	-	9(i)	
Punjab L.A.	1(1)	4(1)	9	-	12	9(2)	2(1)	17(1)	9(1)	-	5	8	11(1)	-	-	38(5)(i)	
Rajasthan L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sikkim L.A.*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tamil Nadu L.A.	1	10(8)	1(3)	-	-	3(22)	-	-	12(2)	-	1	2	6(35)	-	-	1(1)(k)	
Telangana L.A.	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Telangana L.C.	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tripura L.A.	3(3)	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	3(3)	(1)	1(4)	-	-	(5)	-	4	4(3)	-	-	-	8	-	-	5(9)(l)	
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31(3)(m)	
Uttarakhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
West Bengal L.A.	5(3)	13	6	-	7	9	7	-	12(1)	-	10	5	6(2)	-	-	274(9)(n)	
UNION TERRITORIES																	
Delhi L.A.	2(1)	-	4	-	2(1)	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1(o)

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

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

Puducherry L.A.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3(1)	-	-	-
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(a)	Question & Calling Attention Committee-10, Zila Parishad & Panchayati Raj Committee-11, Nivedan Committee-11(4), Internal Resource Committee-9, Women & Child Welfare Committee-9, Agricultural Development Industries Committee-25, Committee Regarding Tourism Industry-9, Zero Hour Committee-9(6), Ethic Committee-9, Bihar Heritage Development Committee-20, Minority Welfare Committee-9 and Environment Conservation and Pollution Control Committee-6
(b)	Panchayati Raj Committee- 2(4)
(c)	Human Development Committee- 6(4) and Rural Planning-5(3)
(d)	Internal Resources Revenue and Central Aid Committee-2, Government Undertaking Committee- 12(1), Environment and Pollution Control Committee-10, Woman Welfare & Children Development Committee-6, Nivedan Committee-9, MLA Fund Monitoring Committee-11, Youth Culture Sports and Tourism Committee-10, Zila Parishad and Panchayati Raj Committee-4, Anagat Prashn Kriyanvayan Samiti- 6(1), , Gair Sarkari Sankalp Samiti-6 and Sadachar Samiti-5
(e)	Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-5, Committee on Papers on Laid on the Table-8, Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities-8 and Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayat Raj Institutions-7
(f)	Ganga Kalyana House Committee-1
(g)	Subject Committee-I-1 and Subject Committee-III-1
(h)	Other Committee-1
(i)	Standing Committee-IV-5, Standing Committee-VIII-2, Standing Committee-IX-1 and Standing Committee-X-1
(j)	Committee on Questions & References-9(1), Committee on Local Bodies-8(1), Committee on Panchayati Raj Institutions-10(1), Committee on Co-operation and Its Allied Activities-6(1), Committee on Agriculture and Its Allied Activities for the year 2023-24-3(1), Committee on Buddha Dariya and Ghaggar Driya for the year 2023-24-1 and Sub Committee on Local Bodies Committee-1
(k)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-1(1)
(l)	Committee Relating to Examination of Audit Reports of the Local Bodies of the State-(4) and Panchayati Raj Committee-5(5)
(m)	Committee on Question & Reference-2, Committee on Financial & Administration delayed-2, Committee on Rules Revision-2, Committee on Parliamentary Study- 1, Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of U.P. Legislature-1, Parliamentary & Social Welfare Committee-9(1), Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats & Municipal Corporation-3(1), Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-1, Committee on Regulation Review-2, Divine Disaster Management Investigation Committee-3, Committee on Commercialization of Educaion-2(1), Legislative Empowerment Committee-2 and Committee on Prevention of Health Problems of Life due to the Adulteration of Food Items and the Practice of Counterfeit Drugs-1

(h)	<p>Committee on Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa-6, Committee on Local Fund Accounts-11, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-5, Committee on Reforms and Functioning of the Committee System-6, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing and Food Processing Industries & Horticulture-8(1), Standing Committee on Industry, Commerce and Enterprises-12(1), Standing Committee on Fisheries and Animal Resources Development-14(1), Standing Committee on Higher Education-9, Standing Committee on School Education-8(1), Standing Committee on Environment, Forests and Tourism-7, Standing Committee on Finance and Planning-8, Standing Committee on Food & Supplies-6, Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare-11, Standing Committee on Home, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Correctional Administration, Law and Judicial-10, Standing Committee on Housing, Fire & Emergency Services and Disaster Management-7, Standing Committee on Information & Cultural Affairs and Youth Services & Sports-11, Standing Committee on Irrigation & Waterways and Water Resources Investigation & Development-7(1), Standing Committee on Labour-9, Standing Committee on Urban Development and Municipal Affairs-7(1), Standing Committee on Panchayats and Rural Development and Sunderban Affairs-11(1), Standing Committee on Power & Non-Conventional Energy Sources-6, Standing Committee on Public Works and Public Health Engineering-13, Standing Committee on Information Technology and Technical Education-11, Standing Committee on Self Help Group & Self Employment-11, Standing Committee on Women & Child Development and Social Welfare-8, Standing Committee on Transport-11(1), Standing Committee on Backward Classes Welfare-13, Standing Committee on Minority Affairs-6(1), Standing Committee on Land & Land Reforms-11 and Standing Committee on Co-Operation and Consumer Affairs-11</p>
(o)	<p>Department Related Standing Committee on Development-1</p>

APPENDIX – IV

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO
BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2024**

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1.	The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024	12.02.2024
2.	The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024	12.02.2024
3.	The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024	12.02.2024
4.	The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024	12.02.2024
5.	The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2024	15.02.2024
6.	The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024	15.02.2024
7.	The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024	15.02.2024
8.	The Finance Bill, 2024	15.02.2024
9.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024	15.02.2024
10.	The Appropriation Bill, 2024	15.02.2024
11.	The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024	15.02.2024
12.	The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024	15.02.2024

APPENDIX-V

**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE
UNION TERRITORIES
DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2024**

ASSAM	
1.	The Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2024
2.	The Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 2024
3.	The Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024
4.	Assam Tourism (Development & Registration) Bill, 2024
5.	The Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University Bill, 2024
6.	The Kokrajhar University Bill, 2024
7.	Assam State School Education Board Bill, 2024
8.	The Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024
9.	The Tiwa Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024
10.	The Deori Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024
11.	The Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024
12.	The Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024
13.	The Missing Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024
14.	The Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024
15.	The Assam Village Defence Organisation (Amendment) Bill, 2024
16.	The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2024
17.	Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2024

BIHAR	
1.	<i>Bihar Viniyog Vidheyak, 2024</i>
2.	<i>Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
3.	<i>Bihar Rajya Alpsankhyak Aayoog (Sanshodhan), 2024</i>
4.	<i>Bihar Kradhaan Vivaadon ka Samadhan Vidheyak, 2024</i>
5.	<i>Bihar Rajya Mahila Aayoog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>

6.	<i>Bihar Sanskrit Shiksha Board (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
7.	<i>Bihar Rajya Madarsa Shiksha Board (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
8.	<i>Bihar Mulyavardhit Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
9.	<i>Bihar Rajya Baal Shramik Aayoog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
10.	<i>Bihar Lok Surksha (Upaay) Pravartan Vidheyak, 2024</i>
11.	<i>Bihar Apraadh Niyantaran Vidheyak, 2024</i>
12.	<i>Bihar Takniki Sewa Aayoog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>

CHHATTISGARH

1.	<i>Chhattisgarh Viniyog (No.-1) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
2.	<i>Chhattisgarh Civil Nyayalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
3.	<i>Chhattisgarh Mal aur Seva Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
4.	<i>Chhattisgarh Viniyog (No.-2) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
5.	<i>Chhattisgarh Rajim Maghi Punni Mela (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>

DELHI

1.	The Delhi Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2024
2.	The Delhi Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2024

GUJARAT

1.	The Gujarat Tenancy and Agriculture Lands Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024
2.	The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2024
3.	The Gujarat Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control (Revival of Operation and Amendment) Bill, 2024
4.	The Gujarat University of Transplantation Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2024
5.	The Gujarat Co-Operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2024
6.	The Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2024
7.	The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2024

HIMACHAL PRADESH	
1.	The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2024
2.	The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.-2) Bill, 2024

JHARKHAND	
1.	<i>Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankhya -01) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
2.	<i>Jharkhand Jamakartaon ke Hiton ka Sanrakshshan (Vittiya Isthapnaon Mein) (Nirasan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
3.	<i>International Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2024</i>
4.	<i>Maal Evam Sewa kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
5.	<i>Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankhya-02) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
6.	<i>Jharkhand Lok Karya Sanvida Vivaad Madhyastham Nayayadhikaran Vidheyak, 2024</i>
7.	<i>Jharkhand Raj Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2024</i>

KARNATAKA	
1.	The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024
2.	The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2024
3.	The Karnataka Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2024
4.	The Karnataka Souharda Sahakari (Amendment) Bill, 2024
5.	The Karnataka Motor Transport and other Allied Workers Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2024
6.	The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Amendment) Bill, 2024
7.	The Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2024
8.	The Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Bill, 2024
9.	The Karnataka Repealing of Certain Enactments and Regional Laws Bill, 2024
10.	Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority Bill, 2024
11.	The Karnataka Hindu religious Institutions and charitable Endowments (Amendments) Bill, 2024
12.	Shree Ghatisubramanya Kshetra Development Authority Bill, 2024
13.	Shree Huligemma Devi Kshetra Development Authority Bill, 2024
14.	The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2024

15.	The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, (Amendment) Bill, 2024
16.	The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution), (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2024
17.	The Karnataka Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulations and Development) (Amendment Bill), 2024
18.	The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2024
19.	The Gadag-Betagari Business, Culture and Exhibition Authority Bill, 2024
20.	The Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2024
21.	The Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2024
22.	The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2024
23.	The Karnataka Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024
24.	The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2024
25.	The Karnataka Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024
26.	The Karnataka Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) (Amendment) Bill, 2024

MADHYA PRADESH

1.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Ayurvigyaan Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
2.	<i>Prantiya Laghuvaad Nayaylaya (Nirasan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
3.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Maal Aur Sewa Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
4.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2024</i>
5.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank 2) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
6.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank 3) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
7.	<i>Madhya Pradesh (Lekhanudaan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>
8.	<i>Madhya Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2024</i>

MAHARASHTRA

1.	The Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Bill, 2024
2.	The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2024
3.	The Maharashtra Police (Amendment) Bill, 2024
4.	The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024
5.	The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2024

6.	The Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University (Amendment) Bill, 2024
7.	The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024
8.	The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024
9.	The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024
10.	The Maharashtra Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2024
11.	The Maharashtra Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2024

MANIPUR

1.	The Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2024
2.	The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024
3.	The Manipur Labour Laws (Exemption from Renewal of Registration and License by Establishments) Bill, 2024
4.	The Manipur Names of Places Bill, 2024
5.	The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024
6.	The Manipur Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2024
7.	The Manipur Prevention of Malpractices in High School Leaving Certificate and Higher Secondary Examinations Bill, 2024
8.	The Manipur Municipalities (Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2024

MIZORAM

1.	The Mizoram Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2024
2.	The Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024
3.	The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants 2023-2024) Bill, 2024
4.	The Mizoram Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2024
5.	The Indian Stamp (Mizoram Amendment) Bill, 2024
6.	The Mizoram Salaries and Allowance of Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Amendment) Bill, 2024
7.	The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances of Minister (Amendment) Bill, 2024
8.	The Mizoram Salaries and Allowance of Government Chief Whip & Deputy Government Chief Whip (Amendment) Bill, 2024
9.	The Mizoram Salaries and Allowances and Pension of Member of the Legislative

	Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2024
10.	The Mizoram Appropriation (Demand for Grants 2024-2025) Bill, 2024

NAGALAND	
1.	The Nagaland Salaries, Allowances & Other Facilities of the Chief Minister, Speaker, Deputy Chief Minister/Ministers, Leader of Opposition, Deputy Speaker and Other Members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly and Pension for Ex-Members (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024
2.	The Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Eight Amendment) Bill, 2023
3.	The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2024
4.	The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024

ODISHA	
1.	The Odisha Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024

PUDUCHERRY	
1.	The Appropriation Bill, 2024
2.	The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024
3.	The Puducherry Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Exemption from Approvals to Commence Business) Bill, 2024
4.	The Puducherry Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2024

PUNJAB	
1.	The Punjab Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2024
2.	The Punjab Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024
3.	The Punjab Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024
4.	The Punjab State Election Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2024

SIKKIM	
1.	The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2024
2.	The Sikkim Medical Science University Bill, 2024
3.	The Gurukul Vidyapeeth University Bill, 2024

4.	The Sikkim Enlistment of Constructional Machineries and Equipments Bill, 2024
5.	The Duke International University Bill, 2024
6.	Orchid University Bill, 2024
7.	Matrix SkillTech University Bill, 2024
8.	The Sikkim Legislative Members (Payment of Pension and Medical Allowances) Amendment Bill, 2024
9.	The Sikkim Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2024
10.	The Sikkim Town and Country Planning Bill, 2024
11.	The Management and Information Technology University, Sikkim, Bill, 2024
12.	Shri Rukmani Dwarkadhish University of Science and Technology Bill, 2024
13.	The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2024 (2 nd Supplementary Demands for Grants 2023-24)
14.	The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2024 (Vote on Accounts 2024-25)
15.	The Sikkim Pannadhay University Bill, 2024
16.	Nirmala Devi University Bill, 2024

TAMIL NADU

TAMIL NADU	
1.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2024
2.	The Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Memorial Foundation (Repeal) Bill, 2024
3.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024
4.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Third Amendment) Bill, 2024
5.	The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024
6.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2024
7.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2024
8.	The Tamil Nadu Highways (Amendment) Bill, 2024
9.	The Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority Bill, 2024
10.	The Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders (Amendment) Bill, 2024
11.	The Tamil Nadu Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2024
12.	The Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2024
13.	The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2024
14.	The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024
15.	The Tamil Nadu State Medical Council Bill, 2024
16.	The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2024
17.	The Tamil Nadu Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled

	Tribes Bill, 2024
18.	The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 2024
19.	The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024
20.	The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2024

TELANGANA

1.	The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Telangana Amendment) Bill, 2024
2.	The Telangana Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024
3.	The Telanagana Appropriation Bill, 2024

TRIPURA

1.	The Tripura State Rifles (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2023
2.	The Tripura State Goods and Services Tax (Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2023
3.	The Mata Tripura Sundari Open University, Tripura Bill, 2024
4.	The Tripura Appropriation Bill, 2024
5.	The Tripura Public Demand Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 2024
6.	The Salaries, Allowances, Pension and Other Benefits of the Ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Leader of Opposition, Government Chief Whip and the Members of the Legislative Assembly (Tripura) (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2024
7.	The Tripura Appropriation Bill, 2024

UTTAR PRADESH

1.	Indian Stamp (Uttar Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024
2.	The Uttar Pradesh Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2024
3.	The Uttar Pradesh Lokayukta and UP-Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2024
4.	The Uttar Pradesh Lifts and Escalators Bill, 2024
5.	The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2024

WEST BENGAL

1.	The Howrah Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024
2.	The West Bengal Non-Trading Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024

3.	The West Bengal Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2024
4.	The West Bengal Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024
5.	The West Bengal Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024
6.	The West Bengal Finance Bill, 2024
7.	The West Bengal Thika Tenancy (Acquisition and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2024
8.	The West Bengal Additional Tax and One-Time Tax on Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2024
9.	The West Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024

APPENDIX-VI

**ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND
STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2024**

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

1.	The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	15.01.2024	20.02.2024	02.04.2023	--
2.	The Mumbai Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	15.02.2024	20.02.2024	02.04.2023	--

MANIPUR

1.	The Manipur Labour Laws (Exemption from Renewal of Registration and License by Establishments) Ordinance, 2023	22.12.2023	29.02.2024	--	--
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TRIPURA

1.	The Tripura State Goods and Services Tax (Seventh Amendment) Ordinance, 2023	30.09.2023	08.01.2024	10.01.2024	Replaced by Bill
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UTTAR PRADESH

1.	Indian Stamp (Uttar Pradesh Amendment) Ordinance, 2023	28.12.2023	02.02.2024	--	--
2.	Uttar Pradesh Private Universities (Seventh	31.12.2023	02.02.2024	--	--

	Amendment) Ordinance, 2023				
3.	The Uttar Pradesh Private Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	06.03.2024	--	--	--
4.	The Uttar Pradesh Private Universities (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	06.03.2024	--	--	--
5.	The Uttar Pradesh Private Universities (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2024	06.03.2024	--	--	--
6.	The Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region and Other Regions Development Authority Ordinance, 2024	07.03.2024	--	--	--
7.	The Uttar Pradesh Nazul Properties (Management and Utilization for Public Purposes) Ordinance, 2024	07.03.2024	--	--	--

VII. A. PARTY POSITION IN 17TH LOK SABHA (STATE/UT-WISE) (AS ON 31.03.2024)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Seats	BJP	INC	DMK	AITC	YSRCP	SS	JD(U)	BJD	BSP	BRS	LJSP	NCP	SP	CPI(M)	IUML	JKNC	TDP	AD(S)	AIMIM
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	14	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	40	17	1	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Goa	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	26	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Haryana	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir ¹	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	14	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Karnataka	28	25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Kerala	20	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29	23	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Maharashtra	48	22	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
16.	Manipur	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Mizoram	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Nagaland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Odisha	21	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Punjab	13	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	25	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	39	-	8	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
25.	Telangana	17	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Tripura	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	80	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
28.	Uttarakhand	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29.	West Bengal	42	17	2	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	A & N Islands	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Chandigarh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli ²	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Daman & Diu ²	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.	NCT of Delhi	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36.	Puducherry	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	543	288*	46	23	22	22	19	16	12	10	8	6	5	2	3	3	3	3	2	2

¹ Bifurcated into Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh

² Merged into one Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

* including Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Sl. No.	States/UTs	(23)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)
		CPI	SAD	AAP	AIADMK	SAD (A) (SSM)	AIUDF	AJSU	NPF	MNF	JD (S)	JMM	VCK	SKM	KC (M)	NDPP	NPP	RSP	RLP	Ind.	Nom.	Total	Vacancies		
(1)	(2)	(23)	(24)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)	(43)		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
3.	Assam	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	14	-	
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	3	
6.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
7.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	
8.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	
12.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	28	-	
13.	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	5	
15.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	46	2	
16.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
17.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
18.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
19.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
20.	Odisha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	
21.	Punjab	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	
22.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	5	
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
24.	Tamil Nadu	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	1	
25.	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	4	
26.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
27.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	2	
28.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	
29.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	1	
30.	A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
31.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
33.	Daman & Diu ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
34.	NCT of Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	
35.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
36.	Puducherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	TOTAL	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	-	517	26	

¹ Bifurcated into Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh

Abbreviations Used for Parties:

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

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (As on 31st March 2024)

SL. NO.	STATE/ UNION TERRITORIES	SEATS	BJP	INC	AITC	DMK	AAP	BJD	YSRCP	BRS	RJD	CPI(M)	JD(U)	OTHERS	IND.	TOTAL	VACANCIES
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	1 ^(a)	-	11	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
3.	Assam	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ^(b)	1	7	-
4.	Bihar	16	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	5	-	-	16	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
6.	Goa	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
7.	Gujarat	11	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
8.	Haryana	5	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
10.	Jharkhand	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 ^(c)	-	6	-
11.	Karnataka	12	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(d)	-	12	-
12.	Kerala	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4 ^(e)	-	9	-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	11	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
14.	Maharashtra	19	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 ^(f)	-	18	1
15.	Manipur	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
16.	Meghalaya	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(g)	-	1	-
17.	Mizoram	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(h)	-	1	-
18.	Nagaland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
19.	Odisha	10	1	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
20.	Punjab	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
21.	Rajasthan	10	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1
22.	Sikkim	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
23.	Tamil Nadu	18	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 ⁽ⁱ⁾	-	18	-
24.	Telangana	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
25.	Tripura	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 ^(j)	1	31	-
27.	Uttarakhand	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
28.	West Bengal	16	1	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(k)	-	16	-
UNION TERRITORIES																	
29.	J&K	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NIL	4
30.	NCT of Delhi	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
31.	Puducherry	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
32.	Nominated	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
	TOTAL	245	93	30	13	10	10	9	9	7	6	4	5	32	3	238	7

Others:

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

- (a) TDP-1
- (b) AGP-1, UPP (L)-1
- (c) JMM-2
- (d) JD(S)-1
- (e) CPI-2, IUML-1, KC(M)-1
- (f) NCP-3, SS-3, RPI (ATWL)-1
- (g) NPP-1
- (h) MNF-1
- (i) AIDMK-4, MDMK-1, PMK-1, TMC(M)-1
- (j) BSP-1, SP-3, RLD-1
- (k) CPI(M)-1

C. PARTY POSITION IN THE STATE/ UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.	126	27	63	1	-	-	-	-	-	34 ^(a)	1	126	-
Bihar L.A.	243	19	78	2	2	-	-	44	-	95 ^(b)	1	241	2
Bihar L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh L.A.	90	35	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^(c)	-	90	-
Goa L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat L.A.	182	13	156	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 ^(d)	2	176	6
Haryana L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	68	34	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 ^(e)	-	62	6
Jharkhand L.A.	82	16	25	-	1	1	-	-	-	36 ^(f)	2	81	1

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Karnataka L.A.	224	133	66	-	-	-	-	-	19	3 ^(e)	2	223	1
Karnataka L.C.	75	29	33	-	-	-	-	-	7	1 ^(h)	1	71	4
Kerala L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	230	65	163	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 ⁽ⁱ⁾	-	229	1
Maharashtra L.A.	288	42	103	1	-	53	-	-	-	70 ^(j)	13	282	6
Maharashtra L.C.	78	8	22	-	-	9	-	1	-	13 ^(k)	4	57	21
Manipur L.A.	60	5	37	-	-	-	-	1	-	14 ^(l)	3	60	-
Meghalaya L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram L.A.	40	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	37 ^(m)	-	40	-
Nagaland L.A.	60	-	12	-	-	7	-	1	-	36 ⁽ⁿ⁾	4	60	-
Odisha L.A.	147	9	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	113 ^(o)	1	146	1
Punjab L.A.	117	18	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	95 ^(p)	1	117	-
Rajasthan L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sikkim L.A.	32	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 ^(q)	-	32	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.	234	17	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	208 ^(r)	-	233	1
Telangana L.A.	119	64	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	45 ^(s)	-	118	1
Telangana L.C.	40	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	31 ^(t)	1	36	4
Tripura L.A.	59	3	32	10	-	-	-	-	-	14 ^(u)	-	58	1
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	403	2	252	-	-	-	1	-	-	144 ^(v)	-	399	4
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	100	-	82	-	-	-	1	-	-	14 ^(w)	2	99	1
Uttarakhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal L.A.	294	1	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	215 ^(x)	1	290	4
UNION TERRITORIES													
Delhi L.A.	70	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	62 ^(y)	-	70	-
Puducherry L.A.	33	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	16 ^(z)	6	33	-

(a)	AGP-9, UPPL-7, AIUDF-15 and BPF-3
(b)	Rashtriya Janta Dal (RID)-79, Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) (Liberation)-11, Hindustani Awaam Morcha (Secular)-4 and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen-1
(c)	Gondawana Gantantr Party-1
(d)	Aam Aadami Party-4 and Samajwadi Party-1
(e)	IND- 3
(f)	Adhyaksh-1, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-28, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha-2, Aajsu Party-3, Rashtriya Janta Dal-1 and Nominated-1
(g)	Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha-1, Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha-1 and Speaker-1
(h)	Chairman-1
(i)	Bharat Aadiwaasi Party-1
(j)	Shivsena Party-55, Peasant's and Workers Party-1, Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi-3, All India Majlis-A-Ittehadul Muslimin-2, Prahar Janshkti Party-2, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena-1, Samajwadi Party-2, Rashtriya Samaj Party-1, Swabhimana Party-1, Jansurajya Shakti Party-1 and Krantikari Shetkari Party-1
(k)	Shivsena-11, Peasants and Workers Party of India-1 and Rashriya Samaj Paksh-1
(l)	National People's Party (NPP)- 7, Naga People's Front (NPF)-5 and Kuki People's Alliance (KPA)-2
(m)	Zoram People Movement (ZPM)-27 and Mizo National Front (MNF)-10
(n)	Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)-25, Naga Peoples Front (NPF)-2, Lok Janshakti Party (RV)-2, National People's Party-5 and Republican Party of India(A)-2
(o)	B.J.D.- 113
(p)	Aam Aadmi Party-92 and Shiromani Akali Dal-3
(q)	Sikkim Karnatikari Morcha-19 and Sikkim Democrtic Front-1
(r)	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-132, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-66, Pattali Makkal Katchi-5, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi-4 and Hon'ble Speaker-1
(s)	Bharat Rashtra Samithi-38 and All India Majlis Ittehad-UI-Muslimeen-7
(t)	Bharat Rashtra Samithi-24, All India Majlis Ittehad-UI-Muslimeen-2, Independent (PRTU)-1 and Nominated-4
(u)	I.P.F.T-1 and T.M.P-13
(v)	Samajwadi Party-108, Apna Dal (Soneylal)-13, Rashtriya Lok Dal-9, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Humara Aam Dal-6, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party-6 and Jansatta Dal Loktantrik-2
(w)	Samajwadi Party-8, Apna Dal (Soneylal) Party-1, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal-1, Jansatta Dal Loktantrik-1 Shikshak Dal (Non-Political)-1 and Independent Group-2
(x)	All India Trinamool Congress-214 and Rashtriya Secular Majlis Party-1
(y)	Aam Aadmi Party-62
(z)	All India N.R, Congress-10 and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-6