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Magha 16, 1942 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session

(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. X Contains Nos.1 to 10)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 05, 2021/Magha 16, 1942 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Sixteen of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 61, Shri Ajay Misra Teni.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

16.01 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Shri N. K. Premachandran, Dr. T. Sumathy
(A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer and some other
Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

...(Interruptions)

16.02 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 61, Shri Ajay Misra Teni.

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Hon. Speaker Sir, I express my thanks to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Health Minister for launching the biggest vaccination programme of the world to check corona pandemic. *(Interruptions)*

I, through you, want to know from the hon. Minister whether an amount of Rs. 35 thousand crore was proposed for corona vaccination in the Budget 2021-22 and whether more than 82 per cent cost of the vaccination programme is borne by the PM Cares Fund in the present vaccination programme in the present financial year from January 2021 to March 2021. *(Interruptions)*

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I want to inform the hon. Member that the maximum financial support for the vaccination of three crore Health workers and frontline workers has been provided from PM Cares Fund*(Interruptions)*

Along with this Health Ministry is also contributing in it.*(Interruptions)*. In the coming days, 27 crore people who are above and below 50 years of age and have comorbidities across the country, will be vaccinated.*(Interruptions)*

Our Minister of Finance has now presented the Budget and an amount of Rs. 35 thousand crore has been provided for the protection of the lives of people from COVID through vaccination.*(Interruptions)*. Hon. Minister of Finance has also stated in the Budget speech that the allocation may be increased, if it is needed*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there is an important question regarding corona vaccine which all of you want to know also. The Government wants to reply on this issue. I request the hon. Members to co-operate during the Question Hour. Question

hour is very important; it is your right. The Government has to make a statement, the Executive is accountable in this regard, and therefore, I request all of you to take your seat so that Question Hour may be run in a proper way.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, do you want to ask the second supplementary?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Hon. Speaker Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated that a budgetary allocation of 35 thousand crore has been made for corona vaccine in the Budget of 2021-22 and the hon. Minister of Finance has also assured to make arrangement for more fund, if it is required. ...(Interruptions)

I, through you, would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is likely to consider or already considering providing affordable corona vaccine at subsidized rate in the market along with free vaccination?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, hon. Prime Minister had set up a National Expert Group for vaccine administration in the first week of August and Dr. V.K. Kaul and our health secretary is the Chairman of this group. ...(Interruptions) Several states are representatives in it and the Expert Group takes advice from Prime Minister also, regarding vaccine administration and procurement of vaccine and takes necessary decisions from time to time. ...(Interruptions) Whatever decision is taken is put in the public domain as per the decisions of this expert group the entire process of vaccination has been started in the country. ...(Interruptions) About 5 million people have already been vaccinated throughout the country and for this 95801 sessions have been organized across the country. ...(Interruptions) Vaccination of front line workers along with health workers has

been started in this week itself. I want to inform the hon. Members that two vaccines have been authorized for emergency use in India. Apart from this, work on 7 more vaccines is going on. Out of these 3 vaccines are in the third phase of clinical trial. Two vaccines are in first and second phase and two vaccines are in advanced pre-clinical phase. As and when the requirement arises, whatever the Expert Group decides regarding making the vaccine available in the market, it will be communicated to the nation at the right time. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Manish Tiwari ji.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You have given in writing, so I am requesting you.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jagdambika Pal Ji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to you. This pandemic is a global challenge not only for this country but for the whole world and the manner in which the scientists of India have developed two vaccines for COVID-19 today in the wake of the global challenge and the hon. Minister has said that seven more vaccines are in the stage of progress and will come very soon, it is definitely a matter of pride for 130 crore citizens of India. I would like to congratulate the Government for the same.

Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as he has said that first of all the corona vaccine will be given to the frontline workers. The policy of the Government of India is 'Neighbour first'. Whether there is any policy of providing vaccines manufactured by us to our neighbouring countries, Nepal, Srilanka and Bangladesh under the policy adopted by the Prime Minister after the formation of our Government? Whether any demand for both of our vaccines has come from other countries of the world on the lines of supplying of hydroxychloroquine to 150 countries and if so, the names of the countries which have sent demand in this regard?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that at present India has received demand from 22 countries across the world for vaccine. These countries include Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Kuwait, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pacific Islands, Saudi Arabia, Sicily, South Africa, Srilanka and UAE. Vaccine has already been given to more than 15 of these countries. These have been supplied in the form of both grant assistance and contracted doses. As per data

available on 2nd February, 56 lakh doses have been given to these countries as grant and 105 lakh doses have been given in the form of contracted doses.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Vinod Kumar Ji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, at the outset I would like to congratulate the hon. Health Minister for showing concern towards the villages, poor and farmers of this country under the leadership the hon. Prime Minister during the Covid pandemic. Besides, through this House, I would also like to congratulate the scientists of the country under whose leadership we have manufactured two vaccines during the Covid pandemic ...(Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that some leaders of Uttar Pradesh are opposing this vaccine for the sake of cheap popularity and moreover, at the time when the scientists who should be felicitated, these persons are demoralizing the scientists of the country. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister by when the vaccination drive started in the first phase is going to be completed and the time by which the second phase is likely to be started for the persons above 50 years? ...(Interruptions)

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that our fight against Covid in the country has continued for one year under the leadership of the Prime Minister and we have successfully set all kinds of records in the world in this fight. ...(Interruptions) vaccination against Covid commenced on 16th January, 2021 under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister and there was a target of vaccinating almost one crore Public and private

health workers in the first phase which is progressing rapidly. ...(*Interruptions*)
Afterwards the vaccination of frontline workers estimated to be around 2 crore in number, has started at several places in the country from 2nd February, 2021 this week. After the completion of first or second phase of vaccination, the third phase of vaccination is expected to be started any time in the coming weeks of the next month in which all the citizens of the country above 50 years of age will get vaccination facility. ...(*Interruptions*) it is not possible to give an exact date for the same but as I have said, this process may start anytime in second, third or fourth week in the month of March ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, question no. 71 and 78 are clubbed together.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Vincent H. Pala.

Shrimati Sajda Ahmed.

Shri Rajan Baburao Vichare.

Shri Deepak Baij.

...(*Interruptions*)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

(Starred Question nos. 62 to 70, 72 to 77, 79 and 80

Unstarred Question Nos. 691 to 880 and 882 to 920)

*Available in Master copy of Original Version of Debate, placed in Library. You can also visit <https://sansad.in/ls/questions/questions-and-answers> for more information.

16.13 hrs

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, on behalf of the House I would like to thank the scientists of our country for preparing high quality vaccine within a short span of time and making the country feel proud in the world. I expect that they will continue to contribute to the country in the future also. Once again, I urge the hon. Members that if anyone wants to ask some important question, then, please be seated in your respective seats so that the House may run smoothly.

.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till eighteen of the clock.

.... *(Interruptions)*

16.15 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eighteen of the Clock.

18.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at eighteen of the Clock.

...(Interruptions)

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Shrimati Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Shri Bhagwant Mann, Dr. Amar Singh and some other hon.

Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motions over different issues. I have not allowed any of the notices of adjournment motion.

.... (Interruptions)

18.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the papers will be laid on the Table. From item no.2 to 7, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal ji.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani, I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2018-2019.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2018-2019, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2979/17/21]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2018-2019.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2018-2019, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2980/17/21]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2019-2020, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2981/17/21]

(4)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2982/17/21]

(6)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2019- 2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2983/17/21]

(8)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2019-2020, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2984/17/21]

(10) A copy of the National Institute of Fashion Technology Statutes, 2020 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. NIFT/HO/Act-Statutes/2007-Vol-IV in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2020 under sub-section (6) of Section 25 of the National Institute of Fashion Technology Act, 2006.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2985/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker, on behalf of Dr. Harsh Vardhan Ji, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English Versions):-
- (i) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2021-2022.
 - (ii) Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2986/17/21]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English Versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2987/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker, on behalf of Shri Shripad Yesso Naik Ji, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy, Ghaziabad, for the year 2018-2019, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy, Ghaziabad, for the year 2018-2019.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2988/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker, on behalf of Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey Ji, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalagiri, for the year 2018-2019.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English Versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalagiri, for the year 2018-2019, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalagiri, for the year 2018-2019.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2989/17/21]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), New Delhi for the year 2019-2020.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2990/17/21]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Science, Bhopal, for the year 2018-2019.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English Versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, for the year 2018-2019, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, for the year 2018-2019.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2991/17/21]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the National Institute of Biologicals, Noida for the year 2019-2020, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, Noida for the year 2019-2020.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2992/17/21]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2019-2020.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2993/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker, on behalf of Shri Babul Supriyo Ji, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2018-2019 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2018-2019.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2994/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker, on behalf of Shri Anurag Singh Thakur Ji, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English Versions) of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2995/17/21]

18.02 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILAGES

1st Report

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item no. 8, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay first report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Privileges (17th Lok Sabha).

—————

18.02 ½ hrs**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT****10th to 13th Reports***[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to present the following reports* (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:-

- (1) Tenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the First Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).
- (2) Eleventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).
- (3) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (4) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

*10th to 13th Reports were presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 10th September, 2020 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and the same were seen by the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 14th September, 2020. The Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of the Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

18.03 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): With your permission Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 8th of February, 2021 will consist of: -

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper: - [it contains discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address]
2. General Discussion on Union Budget 2021-22.
3. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 14 of 2020) and Consideration and passing of the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they are passed by Rajya Sabha: -
 - i. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (No. 01 of 2021) and Consideration and passing of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
 - ii. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second

(Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 15 of 2020) and consideration and passing of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

- iii. The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019.
- iv. The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2020.

...(Interruptions)

18.04 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 may be laid on the Table. Hon. Members may lay their matters on the Table.

(i) Need to provide stoppage of all the trains at Wadsa railway station in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GADCHIROLI-CHIMUR): My Parliamentary Constituency Gadchiroli-Chimur is the biggest tribal Constituency of the country which has spread over several hundreds of kilometers of area. This Constituency is extremely backward, dense, tribal dominated, naxal- affected, inaccessible and undeveloped. There is only one railway station in this district which is in Wadsa.

The people of my Constituency travel by train only from Wadsa Railway Station. But, they have to face many difficulties as all the trains have not been provided halts at this railway station. There has been a long pending demand of the people of the said Constituency for providing a halt of all the trains at this railway station, but their demand has not been accepted.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to issue directions to provide a halt of all the trains at Wadsa Railway Station of Gadchiroli district which is a naxal-affected area.

* Treated as Laid on the Table

**(ii) Need to streamline the auction process for confiscated goods entering
India from Nepal in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): A huge area of border of my Lok Sabha Constituency, Lakhimpur-Kheri in Uttar Pradesh is connected to Nepal due to which the offices of Custom Department, offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, SSB and police etc. always monitor the people going to and coming from Nepal and to run the legal trade between both the countries.

Many times, people involved in smuggling of prohibited goods or trading of goods in an illegal manner are caught with smuggled goods. In that case, the confiscated goods and the smugglers caught by other agencies other than Custom are handed over to the Custom Department.

But now information is being received regarding criminal misconduct being done by some effective smugglers in collusion with the Custom Department. They get the said goods auctioned by the Custom Department at cheap rates and purchase them again to use those papers and goods for smuggling.

I would like to request the Government to formulate a scheme to streamline the auction process for confiscated goods so as to check such illegal works including smuggling of goods on the border.

(iii) Regarding National Status for Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN): My state Rajasthan covers about 10.4 per cent of geographical area, 5.5 per cent population, 19 per cent livestock and 14 per cent cultivable land, whereas it holds only 1.16 per cent of country's surface water and 1.72 per cent of ground water.

Regarding ground water status, there are 295 blocks out of which only 50 blocks are safe while 38 are semi-critical, 10 critical and 194 over-exploited. Hence, development of multi-purpose irrigation and drinking water project is crucial for the development of the region.

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) is planned to harvest surplus yield available in the Southern Rajasthan rivers and transfer it to the deficit basins in South-Eastern Rajasthan. This scheme is planned to meet the drinking, irrigation and industrial water needs of 13 districts of Southern and South-Eastern Rajasthan. Diversion of 5,068 MCM water available from Rajasthan's own catchment area is proposed in this project. The project covers 23.67 per cent area and 41.13 per cent population of Rajasthan.

I request the hon. Minister to please evaluate ERCP according to "Guidelines for Implementation of National Project" and accord national status to the project.

**(iv) Need to establish a National Institute of Technology in Jalaun district,
Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): There is no Engineering College in Jalaun, which is economically and educationally backward district in my Parliamentary Constituency Jalaun. All the students of Jalaun who want to pursue B.Tech and M. Tech have to go Jhansi or Kanpur for this. Jhansi and Kanpur are located at a distance of 150 km from Jalaun. There is a section of students in this district who want to pursue engineering but do not have financial resources to go to Kanpur and Jhansi, are unable to pursue these courses and talent of this Parliamentary Constituency remain unused. It is my demand from the Government to open a National Technical Institute at district Jalaun for the bright future of students, so that they can immensely contribute for the country after getting education in engineering.

(v) Regarding Financial Package for Bundelkhand Region

[English]

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA (JHANSI): It is well known that the population of Bundelkhand is deprived and backward with limited access to even basic resources. They have been hit by the COVID situation worse than other regions as its majority population is of migrant labour who have come back to the region with no access to work and livelihood.

The basic package for Bundelkhand development is not enough leading to their pain and suffering.

Understanding fully that creating employment is not a process that can be implemented overnight. Hunger, thirst and shelter is not something that can wait till the completion of mammoth rehabilitation process. The government is therefore urged to release an additional grant to this region in order to meet the basic needs of the people. Many ministries could pitch in to bring this region back on track.

(vi) Regarding Passport Seva Kendra in Kolar district, Karnataka

SHRI S. MUNISWAMY (KOLAR): Kolar is a very progressive district in Karnataka which housed Asia's first goldmine and has been progressing rapidly for the past several decades. Many MNCs have their establishments here on account of a positively encouraging environment. Therefore, the demand for passport will increase in the days to come. It is also important that many young talents from Kolar district should have accessible means to get their passports in time to make use of opportunities available globally. So, I request the Government to establish a Passport Seva Kendra in Kolar District, Karnataka.

(vii) Need to frame stringent laws to curb content in films and Social Media Platforms

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL (PHULPUR): Regarding cherishing the cultural, religious and social harmony in the country, I would like to submit that important religious and spiritual personalities, holy characters are being deliberately insulted through abuse, pictures and sketch etc in all the forms of freedom of speech and expression, be it, film, media, social media or web series by some ideologically bankrupt people and Indian culture is being maligned under some propaganda and conspiracy by the so called intellectuals in the country. Being a public representative, I feel it my moral duty to demand immediate ban on all these activities.

I think there is a need of new legal provisions to check such activities through strict laws in this regard. It appears that there are no sufficient laws in this regard so far to check such activities effectively. I demand from hon. Minister to take the required action by enacting strict laws in this regard.

(viii) Regarding Kalaburagi Railway Division

[English]

DR. UMESH G. JADAV (GULBARGA): The Union Government had announced the Railway Divisional headquarters in Kalaburagi in 2014 and a detailed report was given approval and the required land was allocated to Indian Railways. The Railway Division still remains a distant dream. At present, the region is served by three railway zones - central railway, south central railway, and south western railways; and five Divisions – Solapur, Guntakal, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Hubballi. As the region is divided into various zones and divisions, it is difficult to get train facilities or any other work on priority basis as we have to get approval from various divisions and zone offices. A committee has been setup to give feasibility report on this Division, but still the report has not been submitted to the Government. Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister for Railways to direct the concerned Division to submit the feasibility report and take necessary action to start the Kalaburagi Railway Division.

(ix) Regarding widening of NH 68 in Tharad city, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL (BANASKANTHA): NH 68 passes through Tharad city, Gujarat and there is always traffic problem in this area. I have sent application to the concerned Ministry to convert this road into four lanes in order to solve this traffic problem and the same request is received by the Ministry from the department and it is pending for approval. I have also received written assurance from the Minister in the form a reply to my application that budgetary allocation will be made in the year 2020-21 for the completion of the project. But, no action has been taken in this regard so far. Therefore, it is my request to the Minister to take immediate action for the widening of NH 68, so that the people in my Parliamentary Constituency can be benefited from it.

(x) Need to augment railway services in Araria Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH (ARARIA): My Parliamentary Constituency connects Araria district located in the remote area of Bihar with the rest of the country and West Bengal but there are only two Express trains for passengers being run in this area namely Simanchal Express and J.B.N Express which do not have pantry cars and there are no catering arrangements in these trains. It is very important to connect my Parliamentary Constituency with more rail service and facilities in view of the needs of my Parliamentary Constituency and taking social, economical, religious and tourism aspect into consideration. A train runs from Katihar to Kolkata three days a week. This train should be operated from Jogbani of Araria to Kolkata every day. The Amrapali Express run from Katihar to Amritsar should be operated from Jogbani to Amritsar. The Intercity Express run from Katihar to Patna should be operated from Jogbani to Patna and one new train should be operated from Jogbani to Varanasi. Please complete all the pending projects in my Parliamentary Constituency. Please complete the doubling and electrification of rail line from Katihar to Jogbani and the conversion of narrow rail line to broad gauge lines from Araria to Galgalia and Araria to Supaul and Farbisganj to Saharsa at the earliest.

**(xi) Need to establish an Eklavya Model Residential School in Rohtas District,
Bihar**

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM): There is an urgent need to open an “Eklavya Model Residential School” for the bright future of the underprivileged children of tribal society in Rehal in Rohtas block of Rohtas district under my Parliamentary Constituency, where Rohtasgarh Fort, the ancient heritage of Scheduled Tribes/Tribals, is located. In consultation with the district Officer, it has been cleared that the number of tribals there is more than 20 thousand which fulfils the required criteria for setting up of the said school in this area. To improve the lives of the Scheduled Tribes/Tribal families in this hilly region, there is an urgent need to ensure such quality education for their children that is accessible, regular, uninterrupted with residential facilities.

Therefore, through this House, I specially request that, in public interest and for the welfare of the tribal society, an “Ekalavya Model Residential School” should be opened in Rehal village in Rohtas block under Rohtas district of Bihar at the earliest.

(xii) Need to ensure adequate discharge of water in Jawai dam in Rajasthan

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Most of the areas in the western Rajasthan have saline ground water. After the construction of the Jawai dam in 1957, the dam is an important source of water for the entire region, including the city of Jodhpur. The dam has been filled only seven times in the last 5 decades. The demand for Pali district cannot be met with the current levels. The average influx of water in the dam is 3,800 MCFT and the district's demand for drinking and irrigation purpose is 3,500 and 4,500 MCFT respectively. Due to lack of water, water trains have to be run and farmers' union is protesting against it for so many years. In November 2016, WAPCO prepared a detailed report on project. In the report, it is proposed that the Jawai dam should be filled with diversion of surplus water from Sabarmati basin.

**(xiii) Need to develop State Highway 7E in Ajmer Parliamentary
Constituency, Rajasthan, as a National Highway**

SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY (AJMER): The road from Kishangarh (Ajmer) to Malpura (Tonk) State Highway 7E located in my Parliamentary Constituency is presently 5.50 meters wide and State Highway 101 from Arai to Kishanpura district border is about 3 meters wide and from Kishanpura to Malpura, 5.5 meter wide new road has been constructed. Hundreds of trolleys, trucks, containers, cars, jeeps and buses are facing great difficulties due to the road being less wide in the 22 km stretch from Arai to Kishanpura on this route. Therefore, I request for approval of widening, including the two lane paved tracks and construction of 70 km stretch from Kishangarh (Ajmer) to Malpura (Tonk) by developing it as a national highway under EPC system and National Highway Development Project while including it under the departmental action plans for the next budget year 2021-22. It is known that out of the said 70 km route, only about 22 km is 3 meters wide, the remaining 48 km is about 5.5 meters wide and has already been constructed, and for this sufficient land has also been acquired.

(xiv) Regarding fixing MSP of Kinnu and Carrot

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (GANGANAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the record production of Kinnu and carrot in my Parliamentary Constituency district, Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh. Sri Ganganagar is the largest producer of Kinnu in India. 3 lakh 70 thousand metric tons of Kinnu is produced there in around 11 thousand hectares of land while 27 thousand 450 metric tons of carrot is produced in about 915 hectare of land.

Kinnu and carrot are exported to various parts of the country and the world in a large quantity, but in spite of such a large scale production and export, the farmers of this area do not get remunerative prices for their crops. There has been a record production of Kinnu in that Constituency this season. The crops of the Kinnu producer farmers have been destroyed in a huge quantity as Kinnu has not been exported due to Corona period and farmers protest which has adversely affected the local farmers. Most of the Kinnus are exported by trucks which takes a lot of time and therefore affects the quality of the Kinnus.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to fix MSP of Kinnu and carrot to provide relief to the farmers of my Parliamentary Constituency and set up a Kinnu processing plant there. Along with it, I would also like to request the Department of Railways to make arrangements for timely transportation of Kinnu to various parts of the country and the world.

**(xv) Regarding dedicated research institute for fisheries in Andaman and
Nicobar Islands**

[English]

SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS):

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have vast potential for fisheries development in view of its Coastal length of about 1,962 km and Continental shelf area of 35,000 sq. km. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around these islands is about 6,00,000 sq. km. with an estimated Fishery potential of 1.48 lakh MT which is 3.8 per cent of our Country's total Fishery Potential. I request the Government to provide incentives and investment for developing processing infrastructure. Cold chain system complying with international standards and deep sea fishing vessels for exploitation of tuna and high value fishes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands will generate employment and boost the economy. In addition to this, I demand that the Department of Fisheries should establish a dedicated research institute for fisheries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for further research and capacity augmentation in the area of fisheries which would aid development of the islands and realize its potential.

(xvi) Regarding implementation of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor Project

SHRI S. R. PARTHIBAN (SALEM): Salem is one of the fastest growing Districts in the country. Establishment of new factories is essential to create employment for educated young generation.

The Central Government has already announced “Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor” project. The cities of Salem, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur and Trichy will benefit from this project.

Tamil Nadu is a major defence manufacturing State in the country. It is famous for automobile components. It is a much stronger manufacturing State and has a strong IT presence. There is also a large base of engineering colleges in the private sector. So, there is a huge talent pool.

Salem and Coimbatore are the major areas for development of precision machinery, and is a base of about 4,000 companies, including MSMEs. A huge unused land is available in Salem Steel Plant to establish new industries.

So, I would urge upon the Central Government to implement the “Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor” project immediately to create new employment in my Salem Constituency. Thank you.

(xvii) Regarding completion status of NH 67

SHRI TALARI RANGAIAH (ANANTAPUR): In the year 2015, various new National Highway ventures were initiated as part of GoI's step on expanding NH networks and transforming the transport sector. As part of this initiative, over 23 Highway projects were initiated in AP. We were extremely elated over this step taken by the GoI, specifically, regarding the status of the NH 67, which is primarily concerned with my constituency. Its work was started in the year 2015 and was initially expected to be completed within two years but in reality, even after a lapse of four years, the works have not been completed as yet. As a result, the commute on route connecting the destinations of Bellary–Guntakal–Gooty has become a horrible experience. The main reason for delay in the completion of works is because of negligence of the concerned construction company.

**(xviii) Need to construct bridge on Punpun river in Aurangabad district,
Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABALI SINGH (KARAKAT): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards construction of bridge on Punpun river. Thousands of people of two Panchayats of Nabinagar block of Aurangabad district under my Parliamentary Constituency have to face a lot of problems during the four months of rainy season due to non -construction of bridge on Punpun river near Ajniyan village and some people also die by drowning in the river in the rainy season every year. Therefore, I would like to demand from the Government to construct bridge on Punpun river near Ajniyan village at the earliest.

(xix) Regarding alleged irregularities in PDS system in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Andhra Pradesh Police have busted a racket and arrested 32 people from Prakasam involved in exporting PDS rice meant for poor to Malaysia, Africa, Bangladesh, etc. The alleged gang involved illegally exported 450 metric tonnes of rice worth Rs.38 crore. Police say that this is just the tip of iceberg and the racket could be worth Rs. 150 crore.

The modus operandi is that the smugglers procure PDS rice at Rs. 10 per kg from millers which otherwise is to be procured only by Civil Supplies Department. But, in connivance with the millers and CSD, the smugglers are able to procure the PDS rice. The rice is then polished, packed, labelled and taken to Kakinada, Chennai and Krishnapatnam ports for export. This rice was sold for Rs. 123 per kg in Malaysia. The Vigilance and Enforcement Directorate officials are on record saying that the same rice is also sold in the domestic open market for Rs. 40-50 per kg.

Hence, I request the GOI to immediately take steps to punish the culprits and plug the loopholes in the PDS.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if you want that the House should run, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock on Monday, February 8, 2021.

...(Interruptions)

18.05 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock on Monday, February, 8, 2021 /Magha 19, 1942 (Saka)

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