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Seventeenth Series, Vol. VIII No.13

Thursday, March 05, 2020

Phalguna 15, 1941 (Saka)

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Third Session**  
**(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. VIII Contains Nos. 11 to 23 )*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

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*Seventeenth Series, Vol. VIII, Third Session, 2020/1941*  
(Saka)

**No. 13, Thursday, March 5, 2020/ Phalguna 15,  
1941 (Saka)**

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**THE SPEAKER**

Shri Om Birla

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Shri N.K. Premachandran

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**LOK SABHA DEBATES**

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LOK SABHA

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Thursday, March 5, 2020/Phalguna 15, 1941 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab *in the Chair*]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****(Q. 201)***(English)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Question No. 201, Shri Rajesh Naranbhai Chudasama.

**(Q.201)***(Translations)*

**SHRI RAJESH NARANBHAI CHUDASAMA:** Hon. Chairperson sir, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that the work under National Highways project in my Parliamentary Constituency, Junagarh at Junagarh bypass and from Somnath to Bhavnagar ....*(Interruptions)* is running behind schedule .So I would like to know from the Hon.Minister by when the National Highways project in Gujarat is likely to be completed and why this work is running behind the schedule...*(Interruptions)*

**11.01 hrs**

*(At this stage, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri Hibi Eden and some*

*other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

**GEN. (RETD.)DR. V.K. SINGH:** Hon. Chairperson sir , work on 36 national highways in Gujarat is going on.... *(Interruptions)*. The work was held up due to the issue of land....*(Interruptions)*. The DPR has been prepared for work and the work is likely to be will be started soon....*(Interruptions)*.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please listen to me.

.....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Let me tell you, the manner the House is getting disrupted for the last three days; it does not bring any credit to us. [*English*]We do not bring credit to ourselves by disrupting the proceedings of the House. The hon. Speaker was very sad about the things that happened day before yesterday. You are very much aware of this and some of you must have met him and you must be very much aware that the manner in which the House is getting disrupted does not give any credit to anyone. The hon. Speaker has been very sad.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** All of us are sad. We get elected to put forth our point of view in the house. [*English*] We get elected to put forth our point of view and the concerns of the people before the country. The Government also has a point of view. As has been stated repeatedly, you do not

have to challenge; and you are one amongst us and I am also one amongst you. So, if the hon. Speaker is feeling sad because of the activities that are happening inside the House, then he has every right to express his anguish. If he is expressing his anguish, then you cannot challenge him. You are not only challenging the Chair but also challenging the manner in which you are behaving yourself which brings discredit. A lot of things are happening in this country.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Corona Virus is a very particular issue which needs to be discussed. We want to understand, the House wants to understand and the country also wants to understand what is happening and what steps the Government is taking relating to controlling the Corona Virus. It has been spreading throughout the country now and the situation is alarming. That is the reason why I request you to please allow the House to function. Please go back to your seats. Whatever has been said has been said from the Chair. Repeatedly the hon. Speaker has requested you to go back to your seats and allow the House to function.

I would like to make one thing clear that the House can function with the participation of the Government and the Opposition.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Both of you should sit together. Both of you should sit together and find a way out and if the Government is willing to talk, you should also be prepared to talk.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** If the leader of the Congress wants to say something relating to the smooth functioning of this House, I would request him to speak, otherwise there is no point doing this *halla gulla* inside the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** It does not serve any purpose.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** It does not serve any purpose.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**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):** Sir, we are ready to discuss with opposition. You have rightly said that we get elected so that the House runs ... (*Interruptions*). Today, the hon. Minister is going to give statement on Corona virus... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I would like to say that issue related to riots in Delhi, Corona and all the other issues are very important issues, and we want to discuss these issues. A proper notice should be given in this regard so that discussion can be permitted in the House. I would like to repeat that the Hon. Speaker is very sad about the disrupted proceedings of the House. Even the entire country is sad as the House is being disrupted. Therefore, I would like to urge you to go back to your seats and let the Question Hour functions.

.... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, please ask second supplementary.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAJESH NARANBHAI CHUDASAMA:** Hon. Chairperson, the work related to laying of six lanes of Junagarh bypass Khedut, Porbander, Una to Kodinur and Somnath to Bhavnagar under the national highways

project in my parliamentary constituency Junagarh (Gujarat)...(Interruptions). The work is running behind the schedule. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what are the reasons behind it and by when it will be completed ?... (Interruptions)

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI):** Hon.

Chairperson sir , Hon.Member has asked the reasons for the delay.I would like to say that it is a fact that delay has occurred...(interruptions). There were issues related to land acquisition, which have been resolved...(interruptions)...Some problems are related to banks...((Interruptions). A meeting was called between contractors of banks and officers...(Interruptions). The said issue was discussed in detail in that

meeting. Consequently, the banks have released some amount too....(*Interruptions*). That would help for speedy completion of work. The efforts will be made for completion of work at the earliest. We are monitoring that...(*Interruptions*).

**SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:** Hon. Chairperson, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister that under his leadership such work on NH is being done as such works have not been done earlier...(Interruptions). I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that the Government had decided to convert State Highways into National Highways at Shahpura, Narsingpur, Hoshangabad and Khandwa in my parliamentary



constituency in Madhya Pradesh...(*Interruptions*). I would like to know from the Hon. Minister by when the work is going to start on this project and when it will be completed.....(*interruptions*).

**SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI:** Sir, its DPR has been prepared. There were some problems related to environment forest clearance at the time of land acquisition...(*Interruptions*). That is being sorted out... (*Interruptions*). We will try to complete it at the earliest.....(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I would like to submit that there are some rules regarding the functioning of the House that nobody should come to well. A ruling has been given from the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I would like to request the entire House let the House run. Disruptions in the House do not benefit anybody. Repeatedly I am saying so.*[English]* Since yesterday, hon. Speaker has been saddened. The reason is this: It has come out in the newspapers and the media that since he has been saddened by the behaviour of some Members, he is not coming to the House. But we want to continue the system, we want to continue the democratic practice, we believe in parliamentary democracy. That is the reason why I am requesting all those who are standing in the well of the House to please go back to their seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS,  
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI  
PRALHAD JOSHI):** Three-fourths of the Members of this

House want that the House should run and the Question Hour should go on. The Congress Party has been the root cause for the division of society for the last 70 years....(*Interruptions*) They should understand that for many days riots took place during their period. Now, the Government has taken the required action within 24 hours and on 11<sup>th</sup> March, the Government is ready to discuss the unfortunate incident which has taken place in Delhi. Sir, I want that the Question Hour should continue. .... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury may please tell the Members of his Party to go back to their seats. It never happened that Members of his Party are in the well of the House and he will be allowed to speak. That never happened. There are certain political parties who also want to make their points of view standing in their seats, when they are allowed to speak. It is not that by disruption or jumping into the well that one can make one's point of view. It is not done in this House and it is not done in parliamentary practices.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Q. No. 202 - Shri Vasanthakumar.

... (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 203)

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA: Sir, will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

Whether the power sector has not been able to induce and sustain the required capacity addition matching the ever growing power demand in the country and if so, there details thereof;

The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

Whether the Government has formulated any action plan in view of the fact that increasing power generation costs due to limited fuel availability, poor financial health of State Discoms and high Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses have contributed in suppressed demand projections by State Discoms;

*[Translation]*

You said that we do not have any information. The farmers of this area have to work in night due to load

shedding. I would like to demand that more power should be generated... (Interruptions) more power should be supplied so that the farmers do not work in night in Maharashtra. Melghat is a tribal dominated area and electricity has not been provided in several villages there so far...(Interruptions) 15 villages in Chikhledra Taluka do not have electricity. There are so many villages in Dharavi Taluka where electricity has not been provided so far...(Interruptions). I would like to request you to provide electricity in Sakarghadiya, Margadiya, Bichutendi Donai Chikhaldra Taluka...(Interruptions)

**\*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

(Starred Questions Nos.204 to 220

Unstarred Questions Nos.2301 to 2530)

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 noon.

**11.15 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.*

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\*Available in Master copy of original version of Debate ,placed in Library

You can also visit <https://sansad.in/lis/questions/questions-and-answers> for more information.



**12.00 hrs**

*Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock*

*(Shri Rajendra Agrawal in the Chair)*

*[Translation]*

..... *(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

## **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*[Translation]*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the Papers to be laid on the Table

Item No. 2, Shri Kiren Rijiju.

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New

Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2156/17/20]

(3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2157/17/20]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2018-2019, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, 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 2158/17/20]

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Noida Metro Rail Limited, Noida, for the year 2018-2019.

(ii) Annual Report of the Noida Metro Rail Limited, Noida, for the year 2018- 2019, alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and 2 Auditor General thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See

No. LT 2159/17/20]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli, for the year 2018-2019, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli, 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 2160/17/20]

(7) A copy of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Regulations, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.814(E) in Gazette of India dated 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2161/17/20]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (GEN. (RETD.) DR. V. K. SINGH):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :-

(i) S.O. 4456(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 7 (New NH Nos. 30 & 34)(Jabalpur-Lakhnaton Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh on EPC mode.

(ii) S.O. 4457(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 75 (Ranchi-Piska More-Bijupara Section) in the State of Jharkhand on EPC mode.

(iii) S.O. 4458(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 361 (Tuljapur-Ausa (including Tuljapur Bypass) in the State of Maharashtra under NHDP-IV on Hybrid Annuity Mode.

(iv) S.O. 4527(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1952(E) dated 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

(v) S.O. 108(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.2299 (E) dated 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

(vi) S.O.109(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 31C (Bijni to West Bengal/Assam Border Section) and National Highway No.

31 (Guwahati to Nalbri-Bijni Section) in the State of Assam as Public Funded Project.

(vii) S.O. 384(E) (in Hindi version only) published in Gazette of India dated 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 3433(E) dated 23rd September, 2019.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2162/17/20]

(2) A copy of the National Highway Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Amendment Rules, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.942(E) in Gazette of India dated 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 under sub-section (3) of Section 9 of the National Highways Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2163/17/20]

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-**

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land

Management, Tezpur, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management, Tezpur, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2164/17/20]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the U.P. Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

(ii) Annual Report of the U.P. Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, 6 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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



[Placed in Library See No. LT  
2165/17/20]

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI):** Sir, 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 Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Limited, Nani Daman, for the year 2018-2019.

(ii) Annual Report of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Limited, Nani Daman, for the year 2018-2019, alongwith

Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2166/17/20]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2018-2019.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, 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 2167/17/20]

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**12.02 ½ hrs**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES**

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Reports**

*[Translation]*

**DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASCHIM CHAMPARAN):** Sir, I beg to present the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources:-

(1) Third Report (Hindi and English versions) on 'Demands for Grants' (2020-21) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

(2) Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) on 'Demands for Grants' (2020-21) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

(3) Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) on Action Taken by Government on Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Socioeconomic impact of commercial exploitation of water by industries'.

**12.03 hrs**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT****312<sup>th</sup> and 313<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN (BALAGHAT):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:-

(1) 312<sup>th</sup> Report on the Demands for Grants 2020-21 (Demand no. 58) of the Department of School Education and Literacy

(2) 313<sup>th</sup> Report on the Demands for Grants 2020-21 (Demand no. 59) of the Department of Higher Education.



**12.03 ½ hrs****STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS****223<sup>rd</sup> and 225<sup>th</sup> Reports**

*[English]*

**SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN (CHENNAI CENTRAL):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:-

- (1) 223<sup>rd</sup> Report on 'The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2019'.
  - (2) 224<sup>th</sup> Report on 'The Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Home Affairs'.
  - (3) 225<sup>th</sup> Report on 'The Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region'.
-

**12.04 hrs**

**ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES**

**(i) Coir Board**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI):** Sir, on behalf of Shri Nitin Gadkari, I beg to move the following:-

“That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-rule (1) of the rule 4 and sub-rule(1) of rule 5 of the Coir Industry Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Coir Board, for a term to be specified by the Central Government”.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-rule (1) of the rule 4 and sub-rule(1) of rule 5 of the Coir Industry Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in

such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Coir Board, for a term to be specified by the Central Government”.

The Motion was adopted

**(ii) Advisory Council of Delhi Development Authority**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI):** Sir, I beg to move the following:-

“That in pursuance of clause (h) of sub-section (2) and sub-section(4) of section 5 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Advisory Council of the Delhi Development Authority for a term of four years, subject to the other provisions of the said Act”.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (h) of sub-section (2) and sub-section(4) of section 5 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Advisory Council of the Delhi Development Authority for a term of four years, subject to the other provisions of the said Act”.

*The Motion was adopted*

**12.05 hrs**

*[English]*

### **STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Regarding situation arising out of spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the steps taken by the Government of India.**

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):** Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in continuation of the statement made by me in Rajya



Sabha on 7<sup>th</sup> February and Lok Sabha on 10<sup>th</sup> February, I would further like to update the hon. Members on the present situation related to the outbreak of novel Corona Virus Disease and the actions taken by the Government of India.

As mentioned earlier, Coronaviruses are large group of viruses that cause illness in humans and animals. Rarely, animal corona viruses can also evolve and infect people and then spread between people as has been seen with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in 2014.

Since reporting of an outbreak of Novel Coronavirus on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 in China, a large number of cases have been reported across all provinces of China and other parts of the world including India. WHO has named the novel coronavirus disease as COVID-19.

As on 4<sup>th</sup> March, a total of 80,270 confirmed cases and 2,981 deaths have been reported in China. Though the daily confirmed cases and deaths have shown a downward trend in China, still new cases are being reported from Hubei province and Wuhan city, the epicentre of the outbreak. A total of 12,857 confirmed cases and 220 deaths have been reported outside China from 78 countries (including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan). Among these, 30 countries have reported local transmission.

World Health Organization (WHO) has declared this outbreak as a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” (PHEIC) on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 and raised the level of global risk to “very high” on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. Though WHO has not declared COVID-19 to be pandemic, it has asked the countries to remain prepared. It is worth highlighting that India initiated required preparedness and action at field level since 17<sup>th</sup> January itself, much before the advice from WHO.

Once a person is exposed to the infection, the disease may develop anytime between 1-14 days. The main symptoms of novel corona virus disease are fever, cough, and difficulty in breathing. All suspected or probable cases of COVID-19 must be treated in isolation with barrier nursing and universal precautions to prevent further spread of disease.

In our country, as on 4<sup>th</sup> March, a total of 29 positive cases have been reported so far. Of these, 3 cases were reported in Kerala earlier, who have since recovered and have been discharged already. Since last 3 days, new travel related cases have tested positive. These include one in Delhi (having travel history of Italy) and Telangana (having travel history from Dubai and contact history from person in Singapore). Both are clinically stable. Six more cases have tested positive in Agra, Uttar Pradesh having contact history with the case in Delhi. Required action as per Cluster Management plan has been initiated. Further, an Italian Tourist and his wife have tested positive in Rajasthan. 14 other accompanying tourists in this group and their Indian bus driver tested

positive on their return to Delhi. All of them are reported stable. A recent positive case has also been reported in Delhi yesterday (having travel history from Italy) and is stable.

The ever-increasing magnitude of this outbreak globally calls for a concerted effort by not only the Health Department but all sectors of the Government. The hon. Prime Minister is personally monitoring the preparedness and response on a regular basis. The Government of India has initiated a series of actions to prevent entry of the disease and to contain it. I am daily reviewing the situation. A Group of Ministers consisting of Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Civil Aviation, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Minister of State for Shipping, and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare chaired by me, has been constituted to monitor the situation. The Group of Ministers has met four times since its inception on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020. The Cabinet Secretary is taking regular reviews with all related Ministries of Health, Defence, External Affairs, Civil Aviation, Home, Textile, Pharma, Commerce and other officials including with State Chief Secretaries. My own Ministry is constantly reviewing the evolving scenario. Video Conferences are being held with States every other day.

The Government of India has also taken several measures to control the risk of novel Coronavirus infection spreading to India. Our first Travel Advisory was issued on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, and as situation

is evolving, the Travel Advisories are accordingly getting revised. Presently, it prescribes:

- . All Regular Visas/e-Visas (including Visa on Arrival for Japan and South Korea) granted to nationals of Italy, Iran, South Korea, Japan and issued on or before 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020, and who have not yet entered India, stand suspended with immediate effect;

- . Regular Visas/e-Visas granted to nationals of People Republic of China, issued on or before 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 were suspended earlier. It shall remain in force.

- . Regular Visas/e-Visas granted to all foreign nationals, who have travelled to People's Republic of China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, and Japan on or after 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, and who have not yet entered India, stand suspended with immediate effect.

- . Diplomats, officials of UN and other International Bodies, OCI cardholders and Aircrew from above countries are exempted from such restriction on entry. However, their screening at point of entry is compulsory.

- . Passengers of all international flights now entering into India from any port are required to furnish duly filled self-declaration form (including personal particulars i.e., phone No. and address in India) and travel history, to Health officials and Immigration officials at all the ports.

. Indian citizens are advised to refrain from travel to China, Iran, Republic of Korea, Italy and Japan and are also advised to avoid non-essential travel to other COVID-19 affected countries.

. Screening of passengers was initiated in the country since 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. Initially airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi were covered and subsequently, it was expanded in a total of 21 airports. As per the evolving situation, initially Universal Screening was taken up for all passengers coming *via* direct flights from China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Italy, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Singapore. Since yesterday, directions have also been issued for Universal Screening for all international passengers coming in the country. Signages have been displayed at prominent places in airports and ports. In-flight announcements are being made and self-declaration forms are being filled up by all passengers. As on 4<sup>th</sup> March, a total of 6,241 flights have been screened covering a total of 6, 11,167 passengers. Teams of Specialist doctors were sent to all the airports to ensure effective screening and arrangements for isolation in the attached hospitals.

Screening of passengers has also been initiated in 12 major seaports and 65 minor ports in the country to identify passengers & crew coming from China and to isolate them in case they are found symptomatic. As on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 16,076 persons have been screened at the ports.

Government has initiated screening in all integrated check posts with bordering countries in collaboration with States of UP, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar and Seema Shastra Bal (SSB) and Land Port Authorities. Gram Sabhas have been conducted in villages adjoining the borders to create awareness amongst people about the disease and precautions to be taken in collaboration with Panchayati Raj Ministry. Eight Central Teams visited the bordering villages in States of UP, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar to review the activities at the border crossing, the conduct of Gram Sabhas and risk communication to the community. A total number of 3,823 Gram Sabhas have been conducted and 11, 20,529 people have been screened at the border check posts till now.

In view of the continuing lock down of the Hubei Province in China, the Government of India decided to evacuate the Indian students and other professionals working in Wuhan and neighbouring cities in the Hubei Province. In a coordinated operation with Ministry of Civil Aviation, Air India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, two Special Air India flights were operated between Delhi and Wuhan on 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 that brought back a total of 654 passengers that included 647 Indian citizens (including two Indian Embassy officials who were on the ground in Wuhan to coordinate the evacuation operation) and 7 Maldivian nationals. These evacuees were kept in Army Quarantine Centre at Manesar and ITBP Camp at

Chhawla. All these evacuees were tested after 14 days and on being found negative, discharged on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Further, Indian Air Force, on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 had evacuated a total of 112 people from Wuhan, which included 76 Indians and nationals from Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, China, South Africa, USA and Madagascar. The evacuees reached Delhi on 27<sup>th</sup> February morning and are kept at ITBP camp for quarantine for a period of 14 days as per protocol. I am happy to inform that they have all tested negative so far and are stable. This flight also had carried Personal Protective Equipments, disposables and medical equipments which was given as a good-will gesture to China from Indian Government.

The Indian Embassy and Consulates are also in regular contact with the Indian Community in other parts of China and is keeping a constant track of their well-being.

Another evacuation was successfully carried out by Air India, by bringing back 124 people on 27<sup>th</sup> February morning including 5 foreign nationals who were aboard the COVID-19 infected Cruise Ship Diamond Princess from Port of Yokohama, Japan. They are kept in Army Facility at Manesar for 14 days quarantine presently. I am happy to highlight that even these evacuees have tested negative and are stable.

Regular surveillance has been initiated across the country for all cases having travel history from all major COVID-19 affected countries

and for people having contact with such persons and having fever, cough or breathlessness. Through Integrated Disease Surveillance network all such persons are tracked and as on 4<sup>th</sup> March, a total of 28,529 persons were brought under community surveillance and are being regularly monitored throughout the country.

The State Surveillance Officers, District Surveillance Officers and rapid response teams of health professionals under the leadership of State Health Secretaries are monitoring all such people on a daily basis. Sufficient isolation beds have been made available in the tertiary facilities across the country to manage any outbreak.

Ministry has also issued guidelines to support States on surveillance and contact tracing, surveillance at Points of Entry, laboratory samples collection, packaging and transport, clinical management protocol and infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities. To ensure availability of critical items like Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & N95 masks, the export of the same was also restricted. A buffer stock of personal protective equipment & N95 masks is maintained by the States as well as by the Union Government.

National Institute of Virology, Pune is the nodal laboratory. As part of ICMR's preparedness for emerging/re-emerging infectious disease, NIV, Pune has established capacity for molecular diagnosis of COVID-19. Next generation sequencing is also established. Testing of



clinical samples has also been initiated in 15 more laboratories. Another 19 laboratories are being prepared to test samples to ensure adequate geographical spread across the country. The network is being further expanded.

Risk communication material has been prepared and is widely disseminated even in regional languages through the States. Required awareness in community is ensured through technical briefings by experts in radio and television. Daily Press briefing is being held by the Ministry of Health and information is being shared through social media. A 24X7 Control Room is operational with call centre number as 011-23978046. So far, more than 9200 calls have been attended including 667 international calls.

The Government of India is in regular touch with the World Health Organisation Headquarters, regional office and country office to get updates on the evolving scenario.

Our focus is on adherence to core capacities for disease preparedness and response which include surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, hospital preparedness, logistics management, capacity building of healthcare staff and risk communication to the community. The scale and extent of our interventions have increased in alignment with the evolving situation of COVID-19 across the world and India in particular.

With the increasing global spread of the disease, we are confronted with new challenges. The contact tracing of positive cases requires tracing of hundreds of contacts in multiple locations and monitoring their health. Similarly, the cases in Agra being transmitted to family members by the confirmed case has necessitated putting up containment plan to contain the cluster of cases in Agra.

Another major area of concern is Indian pilgrims and students stranded in Tehran and Quam, Iran, epicentres of the Iran COVID-19 outbreak. The Government of India is following up with Iran authorities for their well-being and to tie up evacuation as per the need.

In addition to manage travel related cases, additional challenge is to contain clusters due to local transmission that requires highly resource intensive containment operations. We have provided the Containment Action Plan to all the States. A national level training workshop has been planned for all the States and hospitals from other Ministries on COVID-19 management on 6<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020 which will then be taken up to the district level. Senior officers of the Ministry have been deputed to States and UTs to review their preparedness and provide required guidance in the containment efforts.

We have designated the District Collector as the nodal officer at the field level for containment operations. States have been guided in terms of identifying containment zone, buffer zone and preparation of

micro plan to ensure effective active and passive surveillance and contact tracing through inter-disciplinary teams in the areas where cases are located.

I want to inform this House that the Government is taking all necessary measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 in India. I seek the cooperation of all the Members of the House in creating awareness about the disease and informing the countrymen about the various preventive steps that they need to take. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Hon. Minister has given a detailed statement.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: If you do not permit, we will not speak... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adhirji I have not completed yet.

*.... (Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Akhileshji, Balu Saheb please sit down.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. I will just allow you to speak.

*.... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adhir ji, please listen to me. You know rules better than I do.

*.... (Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Generally, discussion is not allowed after statement by the Minister. As this is an important issue, I am allowing some Hon. Members to put their suggestions. Please speak in brief and put your views in one or two minutes.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No reply or response will be given by the hon. Minister. You can only give suggestions and seek queries whatever you want.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adhir Ranjan ji.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon. Chairperson, we can participate in the discussion and I am participating. I know there is no such practice in the House. This practice is prevailing in Rajya Sabha and it is not there in Lok Sabha.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please give your suggestions.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon. Chairperson, we know about SARS-COV and MERS-CoV but COVID-19 is new virus. It is creating new problems. This is genetic by nature. Indians are not familiar with it. It caused panic among people. The Government should ensure that rumors should not be spread in this regard as rumors cause fear.

Preventive measures should be taken in this regard but masks are not available in the market. The stock of Paracetamol tablet should be sufficient. The people are not aware about respiratory hygiene. An advisory is being telecast on TV about use of sanitizer and hand wash with soap and water. The people of India are not used to it. How many people do keep sanitizer with them? The Government have to take action to provide soap, water and sanitizer in each village.

The Government is screening people at airport but people cross border through land also. What steps are being taken to provide these facilities at Panchayat level. I would like to suggest that the facility of virology test should be available in each district. A helpline should also be set up.

This is an alien disease. This is spreading in 60 countries of the world. India is having population of 130 crore. How are far-off villages going to be informed? Supervision of children is necessary and massive and intensive campaigning to diagnose symptoms among children.... (Interruptions) The vulnerable areas should be identified.

A campaign about medicines, masks, sanitizer, and respiratory hygiene should be there. Our leader, Rahul Gandhiji had warned the Government about this situation.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kanimozhi ji, please try to be brief. Conclude within a minute.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI):**

Sir, the Minister, in his Statement, has clearly told us that they have been warned of this in the month of January and that they have taken a lot of steps in this regard. I congratulate him for that. He has also mentioned that there is only one Virology Institute in the whole country, which is in Pune. I think it is not sufficient because it is a global epidemic. It is an international threat. We should have this Institute at least in different zones of the country. I think they had adequate time to establish that and they should have done that.

I would like to say one more thing. Hospital management is within the cities. Quarantining of patients is done within the city hospitals. As you are aware, this is the most transmissible disease compared to MERS and SARS. This is much more transmissible. So, taking the patients inside the city and quarantining them inside the hospitals is not a right move. I think you should have the required medical facilities closer to the airports where they can be screened and other aspects of hospital management can be carried out.

I think thermal screening is not available in most of the airports. It is not there at all. I have gone myself to the airport to receive people

who came from abroad. Thermal screening was not done there. I think that has to be done. The swab test is also not being conducted. Rather than having thermal screening, they are asking the people who are coming back from foreign countries to reveal where all they have travelled on their own. I think that will not be sufficient.

I also think that masks are not available. There is a panic among the people all over the country that masks and medication are not available in adequate quantity. Thank you.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** It is good that the House, after a four-day hiatus, has gathered in peace to discuss a serious matter affecting the health of the people. COVID-19 or the Coronavirus Disease is a new one. Earlier, we had the problem of Ebola virus. This Coronavirus originated from Wuhan in China and has now spread to Iran, Italy, South Korea, etc.

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Sougata Babu, please give suggestions and do not go in history.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** I know you since long, you were not this much impatient earlier .

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I am not impatient.



**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Why are you becoming impatient? House is running smoothly. Please do not make any comments. I will speak in brief.

*[English]*

Viruses are something which are very small. They cannot be seen with naked eye.... (*Interruptions*) Viruses cannot be seen under microscope. They can be diagnosed only under electron microscopes. So, there is no cure to any viral disease. You can do only symptomatic treatment. One can only try to contain the disease by avoiding physical contact. Do not shake hands. Keep a three- feet distance. Cover your eyes, mouth and nostrils. So, these are things which have to be communicated to the people.

I suggest to the Minister that in every TV channel and radio, there should be a 15-second clip to advise the people not to panic. There is a great panic throughout the country. But so far only 29 people out of 130 crore of population have been positively diagnosed. So, compared to other countries, in our country the situation is still under control. The Government of India has taken certain steps, especially with regard to airports and land ports. But as Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had mentioned, ours is a long and porous border and Wuhan in China is rather close to us.

*[Translation]*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I request the Hon. Members that discussion is not being held. The Hon. Minister has given a statement, you have to give suggestions.*[English]* Please be pointed and be brief. That is all.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I have expressed my views. CORONA Virus causes cough, fever and droplets comes out while coughing.*[English]* So, you have to advise the people not to shake hands, keep a three-feet distance, not to step on the droplets etc.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Hon. Minister has given detailed statement and I thank him. So far 28 persons are affected, so nothing to worry so much. I would like to request the Government to take steps to bring back Indian stranded in other countries. There are one thousand persons stranded in Iran as their families in India are worried about them. You said in your statement that the Government have contacted Iranian Government. What steps the Government are taking to bring them back. Kanimojihi said about

virology. There is only one lab in the country. Such labs should be more in the country.

*[English]*

**SHRI KANUMURU RAGHURAMA KRISHNARAJU**

**(NARSAPURAM):** Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to talk on this important subject, which is shaking the whole world.

In this regard, of course, majority of the things have already been cleared by our hon. Minister. What I would like to submit here is that all our traditional Hindu culture, for example, not to shake hands, do *namaste* etc. have to be demonstrated ...*(Interruptions)* and also *adab* ...*(Interruptions)* These are all very good habits ...*(Interruptions)* All the Indian culture has to be clearly demonstrated and let there be advertisement on this ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** Hon. Chairperson, sir, the Hon. Minister has given a statement on CORONA Virus. Today, the entire country is worried about it. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for giving detailed statement. Today, the entire country is worried about it as its fear is prevailing among the people. I would like to suggest that awareness should be created about it at district and Panchayat level and solution to the problem should be found out. Today,

even our Prime Minister is also worried about it. An action should be taken immediately after identification of such cases...(Interruptions) Today, as compared to other heads of states, our Prime Minister is more concerned about the issue.

*[English]*

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have got a very exhaustive statement from the hon. Health Minister relating to the preparedness of our country and also what is happening outside.

For the last two or three decades, virus has become more pandemic and the earlier diseases that were actually affecting the human race have subsided to a very great extent because of the exploration that has been made through medical science.

A number of viruses has affected our country. Indian scientists were also praised throughout the world when Ebola affected large parts of Africa.

Today, I would like to impress upon the Government that they should disseminate information about the exploration our medical scientists are making to mutate the virus, which has caused this terrible disease throughout the country.

We are told that by month of May adequate medicine will be tested and also brought out in the market. But the panic that has been created throughout the world and also in our country is this. Is this virus only confined to the winter season? If it is going to have similar or same effect also in summer, then there would be no end to it.

What has been also stated is that this virus effects in a major way those people who are above 60 years. The children are seldom affected.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Children are also affected. It is children and old people.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Yes, but it is very miniscule. When you have a Professor sitting next to you, then you have lot of suggestions also coming, but they should go to the Government.

Here, I would also like to mention that screening of international passengers at airports is a necessity. We have a screening facility in Delhi also, but all airports that have international flights including Bhubaneswar should have screening facilities as well as quarantine facilities. When I travelled to Africa, at that time I was quarantined before I went there. I was asked to take an injection, and I was quarantined near the Delhi airport.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** It was for Yellow Fever.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Yes, it was for Yellow Fever.

Now, again you have made a point.

But my suggestion is that quarantine system -- as has been suggested by hon. Member from DMK -- should not be done in a medical college or medical facility that is available today where large number of patients / people visit. It should be exclusive as it was done in Haryana when Indians came from Wuhan, China.

Therefore, my earnest request is that you should also take the State Governments along with you; give them advisory; and also provide certain amount of funding so that they can help in eradicating this disease.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR):** Thank you Hon. Chairperson sir. I would like to convey my thanks to the Hon. Minister for giving a statement in the Parliament about COVID -19 pandemic, which is spreading in the country.

Sir, I would like to give 2-3 suggestions. I would like to request that Government should seriously consider these suggestions. The Government have put ban on export of masks but the companies are increasing prices of masks arbitrarily. The mask is available at Rs. 500, which was available at Rs. 15 earlier. The prices of hand sanitizers and soaps should be monitored. The cost of hand sanitizers is Rs. 500 as against Rs. 50 or Rs. 150. Some companies are making undue profits in such situation. I would like to request the Government to monitor prices of these things, if it spreads among poor people that will cause serious situation.

Especially, I have a suggestion regarding Uttar Pradesh. Six persons are affected by it in Uttar Pradesh. A thermal screening facility should be set up at Lucknow Airport. A virology center should be set up there and in each medical college.

*[English]*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I would again and again request all of you to be brief.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (KHAMMAN): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson, Sir. The Hon. Minister told in detail about action being taken by the Government and how it is monitoring the situation. He told this to the entire country through the House. I would like to thank the

Hon. Minister. The External Affairs Minister has replied a question about virus which I raised today.

There is a difference between the reply and statement of the Minister. People are already affected in Japan and UAE. They have not been brought back into India. The Hon. Minister may please tell about them.

Sir, I would like to give 3-4 valuable suggestions. You told in briefing that special and critical equipments are required. I would like to request that such equipments should be provided to the states immediately. The special funds should also be released to check CORONA virus. We came to know that World Bank is releasing 12 Billion Dollars. Hon. Kanimojhi told that one person is affected in Telangana and our Chief Minister is making every effort to control it. A control room is set up for it.

I would like to suggest that a team of expert doctors should be deployed to check this disease.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude and do not repeat suggestions.  
Shri Akhilesh Yadav.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I associate myself with the views expressed by all Hon. Members. The Government makes propaganda...(*Interruptions*). Please list my views.



Sir, this disease is spreading in India after it has affected other countries. This is spreading in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The Government should create awareness among masses about this disease. Any message which can create panic among masses should not be given.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Akhileshji, please give suggestions.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Hon. Chairperson, the Department of Health in Uttar Pradesh is not in a good condition. The Government should make separate arrangements for this disease. It can't be controlled, if it is not monitored separately. Currently it has spread by Air travellers through planes, where there is not a screening facility. If it is not controlled, spread through train passengers and also spread among poor people, it could cause loss of lives if.

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI):** Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for his absolute detailed reply. I would like to put on record about my State. I am grateful to the hon. External Affairs Minister, Dr. Jaishankar who has been very cooperative whenever we reached out to him to help some people from Iran. I would like to thank him on behalf of my State.

In the budget for the Health Ministry, monies which are allocated for epidemic is very abysmal. Could you increase that? I think all the States, including my State, need support in this regard. There are gaps

with the availability of medication. Is this the time you could help the States?

In this regard, there are a lot of doctors on various channels; and there are articles written. You have taken four meetings, which is much appreciated by us. Could you do a daily briefing to the media so that there is only one story that goes out? In every channel some doctors saying something. We do not know whom to believe and whom not to believe. So, could you take one guideline and speak regularly so that we all can speak in one voice and follow what the Government gives us.

**SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI (ANANTNAG):** Sir, through you, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the plight of 350 students from Kashmir who were stranded in Iran. I have taken up the matter with the Minister of External Affairs; I have met him twice. But nothing is being done; just a passing reference is made in the statement made by the hon. Minister. There are one thousand pilgrims from Kargil and 350 students from Iran who are stranded. They are confined in hostels and they do not have access to the eatables. The Government, it appears to me, is unmindful of the plight and no urgency is being shown at all.

Why should Kashmir be at a receiving end in every sector, be it political aspirations, be it good governance, or be it the sovereign stand in Iran.

Having regard to sweeping due to the Coronavirus, Iran is next after China. I want to draw the attention of the Government that they should have taken steps during last ten days to evacuate and get back the students. In the clarification, I expect a statement from the hon. Minister that within a specific timeframe, the students would be called back.

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** Many of the hon. Members have already spoken about the health issues that are arising out of Coronavirus. My point is that the most important thing is the personal hygiene and habits for which the awareness needs to be taken across the country. Also, equally important, we are in the Budget Session, we need to understand the economic impact of this virus because people are expecting a global economic impact. Some people are saying that there could be a slowdown in the global GDP growth to 1 to 2 per cent. If that happens, India is not going to be exempt from that. When we are already looking at our GDP growth going below 5 per cent, because of this virus, it may come down to 3 per cent and if it comes down to 3 per cent, what will happen to our economy? This is the Budget Session; the focus needs to be on the economic impact of this virus on our country.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA (AMRAVATI):** Hon. Chairperson, Hon. Minister has given a detailed statement. As other Hon. Members were saying that different versions are being telecast on

TV. This is being said that CORONA Virus will be contained at 30 degree temperature and how it will be. I would like to tell that since yesterday many calls are being received that people from abroad are traveling here, we are stopping them but those who have booked their trips through Tour and Travel are getting calls that, people do not want to go abroad. I would like to request the Minister of External Affairs and Health Ministry to issue advisories in this regard so that the persons who have booked their trips do not suffer a loss. The Foreign Minister should announce that there is no reason to worry in the entire world and they can travel now. Our Health Ministry has said that two schools in Noida have been closed for the last four-five days. The reason for this should be explained.

*[English]*

**ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA):** Sir, I would like to mention the experience of Kerala. As far as Kerala is concerned, there were three persons infected with Coronavirus. They were coming from China. All the three reported cases were treated very well and they have been discharged from the hospital. It is well appreciated by the WHO and the Central Government. So, I request the Central Government to learn from the experience of Kerala and follow it everywhere in India.

**SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI):** The hon. Minister's detailed statement on the preparedness about tackling the

threat of Coronavirus is good. As correctly pointed out by the other hon. Members, I also emphasise the need for improving the testing facilities at the airports itself. Similarly, awareness creation is also very important in this case.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Sir, I have three suggestions regarding tackling Coronavirus. The first suggestion is regarding the test of Coronavirus. There are two ways to detect a virus, one is through the genetic material, DNA or RNA, and second is to detect the protein of the virus. The rapid test is to detect the protein. As Kanimozhi ji has stated, it is quite unfortunate to state that we have only one institute to check the virus, the National Institute of Virology. We have virology institute in the State of Kerala in Alleppey which has to be strengthened and empowered.

I am getting so many telephone calls from the people from Kuwait. Those who are coming from Kuwait are not able to travel because they have to submit a certificate that they are not infected with the Coronavirus. So, I seek the intervention of the Ministry of External Affairs so as to resolve that problem. That is number one point.

Secondly, as Arif Ji and Mohammad Basheer Ji have stated, in Kerala we had three confirmed cases and 2,400 suspected cases. How were they managed? I want to share our experience with the hon. Minister. All the 2,400 suspected cases were isolated in their respective

homes, not in a public place. Decentralised management with the help of the local bodies is required. There is no treatment for this. It can only be managed. Proper management at the decentralised level with the help of the local bodies is needed. So, the local bodies have to be taken into confidence so as to address this issue. Also, the Gram Panchayats and the local bodies should be provided assistance. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Hon. Chairman Sir, there is a panic in the country because of CORONA virus. People all over the world are in the grip of fear. The Government have tried to control it otherwise it could have caused loss.

Hon. Chairperson, I will conclude within a minute. 29 persons are CORONA infected. Maximum infected people have travelled from Italy. Adhir Ranjan ji said that Rahul Ji was the first to point about it\*....

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Hon. Chairperson... *\*(Interruptions)*

**12.56 ½ hrs**

*(At this stage Shri Gaurav Gogoi and some other hon.*

*Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, it will not be recorded in the proceedings.  
It is expunged from the proceedings.

*... (Interruptions)*

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Hon. Chairperson... *\*(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hanumanji, what are you doing?

*... (Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned till Fourteen of the clock.

**12.57 hrs**

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

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**14.00 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at Forteen of the Clock.*

*(Shrimati Rama Devi in the Chair)*

*...(Interruptions)*



**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\***

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Matters under Rule 377 are allowed to be laid on the Table. The Hon. Members may lay Matters under Rule 377 on the Table.

*...(interruptions)*

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\* Treated as laid on the Table.

**(i) Need to expedite construction of Railway Overbridge on level crossing no. 18-B on Nasirabad-Beawar road in Ajmer parliamentary constituency, Rajasthan**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY (AJMER):** A Railway Over Bridge was sanctioned for level crossing No. 18-B at Nasirabad station on Nasirabad-Beawar route in my parliamentary constituency Ajmer (Rajasthan) but it was not constructed and people are facing problems. 150 beds hospital, roadways stand, SDM Office, Court and Police station are located on one side of level crossing and at other side. Housing Board colonies, cement factories, 15-20 villages, military colony are located. This rail line remains closed most of the time as goods and passenger trains passed through it. The common man is facing problems and time also wasted due to it.

The Government should take an action for construction of Railway Over Bridge at the earliest.

**(ii) Regarding Faculty and facilities in AIIMS like Institutes in the country**

**SHRI RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHY (DEORIA):** The Government has set up AIIMS like hospitals in the entire country. In spite of that, treatment is not available for want of doctors. Uttar Pradesh is a big state and there are AIIMS in various cities. One has to stand in long queue for OPD care. The facilities of operations are also insufficient. Sometimes, patients died for not getting time for treatment.

I would like to demand that new Government Medical Colleges and nursing institutes be developed like AIIMS in Delhi and para medical staff should be recruited so that patients can get treatment in their states and they do not have to visit Delhi for treatment.

**(iii) Need to set up a modern Trauma Centre in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR):** There is a need to set up a Trauma Centre in my parliamentary constituency, Gorakhpur. It is a main city of Poorvanchal and near neighboring country, Nepal. It is connected with main highways of the county. Accident occurs on these highways oftenly but people died for want of on time treatment. There are several big hospitals but it takes time to reach there and people are not able to get treatment. A modern trauma centre should be set up at National Highway No. 29E and 18 from Sahajnawan to Gorakhpur to provide treatment to people who are injured in accidents.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to set up a modern Trauma centre at Gorakhpur at the earliest.

**(iv) Need to appoint skilled technicians for maintenance of water tanks under 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme**

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHAWAHA (SALEMPUR):** The Government is handing over water tanks constructed or constructing under construction water tanks to Gram Sabhas in the country under an ambitious scheme 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'. Maintenance of tanks and smooth supply of water is not being done as trained technicians are not available in Gram Sabhas. Several water tanks are lying non-functional since many years in my parliamentary constituency Salempur (Uttar Pradesh). The masses are facing difficulties due to it. Water contaminated with heavy metal with (arsenic) water is there in my area. The people are forced to consume heavy metal water in absence of proper functioning of water tanks.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to pay attention towards this issue and appoint trained young technicians in every Gram Sabha, which helps in generation of employment and boosting Skill Development Programme.

**(v) Need to provide employment to people of Narmada district in Gujarat**

**SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH):**

The Statue of Unity is the largest cultural project in the world. It is an issue of pride for us the Narmada district and Gujarat have become famous because of the State of Unity. The tourism is getting boost in that area. The local youth of the families whose land has been acquired for Sardar Sarovar Project and Statue of Unity are not getting employment.

The complaints in this regard are being made and some organizations are doing agitations also. I would like to request the Government to provide employment to local youth of Narmada district.

**(vi) Need to impart technical training to women to improve their skills**

**SHRIMATI DARSHNA VIKRAM JARDESH (SURAT):** Women Empowerment is the need of hour and priority of the Government. The Government has paid attention towards women in the current Budget. In my opinion whatever work in this sector is done, that is not sufficient. 50% of population still faces harassment or lack of opportunities. I would like to congratulate Gujarat Government and Hon. Narendrabhai Modi's Government for giving priority to women in government jobs.

A large number of women are stitching sarees and putting gems on them in Surat, which is my parliamentary constituency. Earlier stitching, embroidery. Knitting was considered as work for women but today their skills are required to be polished. I would like to suggest that technical training and market should be provided to women after conducting survey about their skills so that they can add value to their work.

**(vii) Need to review the move to privatise and disinvest Public Sector Undertakings**

*[English]*

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** I request the Government to withdraw its move to privatize and disinvest our public sector undertakings. The Government's move to sell-off PSUs is detrimental to the interests of the nation. We nationalized our banking and insurance sectors to bring their services to the common people in the country, and thereby empower our citizens. PSUs set up in the infrastructure, energy, transportation and strategic sectors were for the build-up of the nation. Today, these PSUs are providing quality services at reasonable cost or free of cost to the needy, therefore, the poorest of the poor in the country are also being served. Moreover, many PSUs are profit-making and contribute to the national exchequer and provide employment to lakhs of people. The Government's move to privatize the PSUs including LIC, Indian Railways is detrimental to the interests of the people and employees. Therefore, I request the Government to withdraw its move.



**(viii) Need to construct RCC bridge across river Jaljali in Assam**

**SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA):** River Jaljali is one of the tributaries of the mighty Brahmaputra in Assam. On one side of the river, is Nagarbera area under Kamrup district and on the other side, a vast riverine area under Barpeta district. Construction of an RCC bridge would connect Nagarbera with the vast riverine areas of Barpeta district and particularly, connecting Alopatis Zila Parishad and Kholabanda Zila Parishad areas. The entire area is largely agriculture based and the absence of a bridge has been a hindrance for the economic and overall development of the area. Economic exchange with far places is not happening as there is difficulty in commuting to and from other places. Moreover, during monsoon the need becomes more evident and communication becomes a huge problem. At the end, it's the residents of the area who suffer the most.

I put my demand to the government of India to construct an RCC bridge across the river Jaljali connecting Nagarbera with Alopatis. A bridge over the river, which has been the aspiration of the people of the area will connect both the sides and will surely develop confidence among the people and help them to do well economically too.

So, I urge upon the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of DONER to construct an RCC bridge over river Jaljali at the earliest and provide respite to the common citizens of the area.

**(ix) Need to review the decision regarding shifting of Pollachi Head Post sorting office in Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI K. SHANMUGA SUNDARAM (POLLACHI):** I wish to bring it to the Government's attention on priority basis, regarding the shifting of Pollachi Head Post Sorting Office to Coimbatore in my Parliamentary Constituency. Pollachi is the Coconut Capital of Tamil Nadu and has been awarded as Export Excellence by the Commerce Ministry recently to facilitate coir and its allied products exports to various European & Western countries bringing precious foreign exchange. In more than 50 years, hundreds of sub-post offices are functioning in various parts of Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency under the Head Post Office located in Pollachi. This post office is used by villagers, farmers, students, exports and several educational institutions including tribals of Valparai serving more than 20,000 letters per day. I request the Hon'ble Union Minister for Communication to stop the shifting of the Pollachi Post Office Headquarters sorting section in Pollachi city in the interest of general public.

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... (*interruptions*)

**14.01 hrs**

(At this stage Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table).

... *(interruptions)*

**14.02 hrs**

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF  
MINERAL  
LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2020  
AND  
MINERAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020**

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Item No. 13 and 14 - Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

Shri N. K. Premachandran.

*[English]*

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Madam, I am moving the resolution but I am not able to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, I beg to move:

“That this House disapproves of the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (Ordinance No.1 of 2020) promulgated by the President on 10 January, 2020.”

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI):** Madam, with your permission, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and to amend the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, be taken into consideration.”

*[Translation]*

Madam, this is an important Bill. It will bring change in entire mine sector. The mines which are on the verge of closure from March 2020 due to shortage of minerals, their problems will be solved through this amendment.... (*Interruptions*). There were individual restrictions in schedule 2 and 3 and provision was there in the Act that only coal mines of India should participate in coal mining... (*Interruptions*) that will also be changed. A restriction on sale of coal is also being removed. There is a need to make amendment in CMSP Act and MMDR Act. In the interest of the country as we are importing coal in spite of abundance of coal ..... (*Interruptions*).

*[English]* Since House is not in order, *[Translation]* I will request to pass it without discussion....(*Interruptions*).

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I shall now put Statutory Resolution moved by Shri N.K. Premchandran to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House disapprove of the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (Ordinance No. 1 of 2020) promulgated by the President on 10 January, 2020."

*The motion was negatived.*

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The Question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and to amend the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 be taken into consideration."

*The Motion was adopted.*

*...(interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration.

**Clause 2**

**Insertion of new section 4B**

**Hon. Chairperson:** The Question is:

"That clause 2, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*...(Interruptions)*

**Clause 3                      Amendment of section 5**

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri N.K. Premchandran, do you want to move amendment No. 1.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** I beg to move:

Page 2, line 15,--

after        “required for”

insert      “those strictly complying with the terms and conditions in the licence and not violating any provisions of law during the period for which licence was issued for”.      (1)

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The House stands adjourned till Fifteen of the clock.

**14.05 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock*

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**15.00 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen of the Clock.*

*(Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi in the Chair)*

**SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS FROM THE SERVICE OF  
THE HOUSE UNDER RULE 374**

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, today at Forteen of the clock, when discussion on item No. 13 and 14 started, some members have snatched away papers pertaining to the proceedings of the House from the Chair. Perhaps such unfortunate incident has first ever been witnessed in the history of Indian Parliament. I severely condemn this misconduct and name the following members under Rule



374 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha:

1. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
2. Shri T.N. Prathapan
3. Adv. Dean Kuriakose
4. Shri Rajmohan Unnithan
5. Shri Benny Behanan
6. Shri B. Manickam Tagore
7. Shri Rurjeet Singh Aujla

... (*Interruptions*)

**15.01 hrs**

*(At this stage, Shri B. Manickam Tagore and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

*[English]*

**SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN (CHENNAI CENTRAL):** Let us have a debate in the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD**

**JOSHI):** Madam, I beg to move the following motion under Rule 374 (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha:

“That this House having taken serious note of the gross misconduct of Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri T.N. Prathapan, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri B. Manickam Tagore, Shri Rajmohan Unnithan and Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla in utter disregard to the House and authority of the Chair and having been named by the Chair, resolve that Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri T.N. Prathapan, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri B. Manickam Tagore, Shri Rajmohan Unnithan and Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla be suspended from the service of the House for the remainder of the Session.” ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The question is:

“That this House having taken serious note of the gross misconduct of Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri T.N. Prathapan, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri B. Manickam Tagore, Shri Rajmohan Unnithan and Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla in utter disregard to the House and authority of the Chair and having been named by the Chair, resolve that Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri T.N. Prathapan, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri B. Manickam Tagore, Shri Rajmohan Unnithan and Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla be

suspended from the service of the House for the remainder of the Session.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The Hon. Members, who have been suspended, may immediately leave the the House.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock tomorrow on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

**15.04 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 06, 2020/ Phalguna 16, 1941 (Saka)*

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