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Friday, March 25, 2022
Chaitra 04, 1944 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XVII contains Nos.11 to 20)

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NEW DELHI

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C O N T E N T S

Seventeenth Series, Vol. XVII, Eighth Session, 2022/1944 (Saka)

No. 18, Friday, March 25, 2022/Chaitra 04, 1944 (Saka)

S U B J E C T

P A G E S

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Starred Question Nos. 321 to 327 10-40

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 41

Starred Question Nos. 328 to 340

Unstarred Question Nos. 3681 to 3910

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	42-64
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	
Statement	65
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS	
11 th and 12 th Reports	66
STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 657 DATED 4TH FEBRUARY, 2022 REGARDING AYUSH COLLEGES/INSTITUTES	67
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	68-69
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board	69-70
DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022	71-79

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	81-87
(i) Regarding opening of Balurghat Airport and resumption of flight services	
Dr. Sukanta Majumdar	81-82
(ii) Regarding special financial package for fishing communities	
Shri T. N. Prathapan	82-83
(iii) Regarding condition of undertrials	
Shri Gaurav Gogoi	83
(iv) Regarding repayment of debts	
Adv. Dean Kuriakose	84
(v) Regarding construction of a railway overbridge on Kulithalai-Manaparai road in Perambalur Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu	
Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar	85
(vi) Regarding grant of special category status to Andhra Pradesh	
Shrimati Vanga Geetha Viswanath	86
(vii) Regarding remedial measures to control rise in prices of fertilizers	
Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane	86-87

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Alleged misbehaviour with the Member by

Maharashtra Police 91

FINANCE BILL, 2022

Motion to Consider	94
Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman	94, 198-210
Shri Gaurav Gogoi	96-106
Dr. Nishikant Dubey	106-120
Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram	121-123
Shrimati Satabdi Roy(Banerjee)	124-127
Shri Jayadev Galla	127
Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule	133-142
Shri K. Muraleedharan	142-146
Sushri Sunita Duggal	146-151
Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy	151-157
Shri Pinaki Misra	158-163
Shri Kaushlendra Kumar	163-166

Shrimati Aparupa Poddar	167-169
Shri Kodikunnil Suresh	169-174
Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan	174-176
Dr. D. Ravikumar	177-179
Shri N.K. Premachandran	179-185
Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria	185-187
Kunwar Danish Ali	187-190
Shri Saumitra Khan	191-193
Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde	193-195
Shri Ritesh Pandey	195-197
Clauses 2 to 125 and 1	213-242
Motion to Pass	242

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Establishment of WHO Global Centre
for traditional medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

271-272

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA**THE SPEAKER**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 25, 2022/Chaitra 04,1944 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 321.

Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker sir, whatever is happening in the country today, the entire county is in trouble because of that. ...*(Interruptions)* We have given the notice of adjournment motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I would allow you to speak after question hour, so please have your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please speak after Question Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. T. Sumathy.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN: Sir, the ischemic heart disease was the leading cause of years of life lost due to premature mortality in Tamil Nadu in 2016. Have any steps been taken by the Union Government to mitigate such diseases?

11.02 hrs

At this stage, Shri Nama Nageswara Rao and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

Dr. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR: Hon. Speaker sir, the Hon Member has raised a very important matter.

Sir, through you, I would like to say that be it screening or PHC, CHC or be it the testing in district hospitals, we have made the ANC checkup mandatory for mothers. Almost four ANCs have been done through Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Yojana too, so that heart diseases can be detect in advance. Private Doctors also participate in this.

I would like to inform Hon. Member that NCD clinics are also being run, *[English]* through which we are diagnosing patients and treating them.

SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI : Sir, I want to know whether crusher dust is responsible for diseases like silicosis and tuberculosis. Has the Government

initiated any study on it? What are the findings and what steps have been taken to remedy the malady? What steps have been taken to stop illegal crushers and other illegal operations of industries which are responsible for this? How to maintain the general immunity of common masses and how to control air pollution which is very much responsible for heart diseases? Today, sound pollution is also creating an alarming situation. What steps have been taken by the Government to stop all this?

[Translation]

DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Member has expressed concern as to what is being done by the Department regarding silicosis. Whether it is silicosis or heart disease due to other reasons or tuberculosis, a screening is also done for it. Under the companies, our health teams also conduct screening and the Separate National TB Elimination Program for tuberculosis is also being run.

Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, this is an incredible step. This screening has also been expanded to other tests. Under this, we are working on *[English]* rapid molecular diagnosis for TB and early detection of drug-resistant TB. Decentralized screening and treatment services closer to the community *[Translation]* facility has also been provided. Our ASHA sisters are providing their services to supply drugs and other services from village to village.

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN : Sir, the Minister's reply is very good and I congratulate the Minister for that. The Government of India is supporting free of cost dialysis service. In many countries kidney patients are in the disability list. Will

the Government of India include kidney patients in the disability list so that they can get many other benefits for themselves and also their family members?

[Translation]

DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, this question is regarding dialysis centers.

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN: I asked whether the Government can include them in the disability list so that they can get financial and other types of assistance for themselves and for their family members also.

[Translation]

DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR: Dialysis facility of kidney patients is being provided under the Prime Minister's National Dialysis Program. We have opened around 1,000 centres which have 7,000 machines. Dialysis facility has been provided to 13 Lakh patients till date. Around 137 lakh sessions of Hemodialysis have been conducted. In particular, our priority is BPL patients.

As the Hon. Member said, *[English]* I request the hon. Member to kindly send the proposals through PIP to the Central Government.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Hon. Speaker sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on an important matter.

Hon. Minister has admitted in his reply that similar to the WHO report of the year 2021 on TB, the World Health Organization has conducted a survey that arsenic-contaminated water is causing a lot of kidney and lung diseases. Skin cancer is also happening. According to WHO report and survey, there is arsenic-contaminated water in the entire country including Siddharth Nagar, Bahraich, Shravasti and foothills of Nepal, due to which diseases are increasing.

Whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard or proposes to conduct it? If so, what measures or future course of action is being decided by the Government so that people get safe water and waterborne diseases may be prevented.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA):

Hon. Speaker Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important matter. Tuberculosis and water borne diseases both are different kind of diseases.

Hon. Speaker Sir, let me first mention about tuberculosis that every year 21 to 25 lakh tuberculosis cases are reported across the country and four lakh people out of the said cases are died. A campaign is being run for eradicating the tuberculosis from the country. Hon. Speaker Sir, you have also attended the programme many times of the said campaign. By conversating with all the State Governments of the country, by connecting the State Government Public Partnership, today people suffering from tuberculosis are being adopted, they are being given medicines by the Government regularly. These people are being provided nutrient food as well, which will help to eradicate TB from the country.

Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Prime Minister has given us the mantra that by the year 2025, we have to make the country TB free. A campaign is being run in this direction and we are being successful in it. Hon. Member has raised another question regarding water borne diseases. He is right, every citizen of the country should get the pure water. 'Har Ghar Nal' Yojana is being run in this regard, so that every citizen gets pure tap water. Many diseases can also be cured by getting pure water, this is true. We are working at a fast pace in this regard.

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 322,

Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar.

[English]

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, harassment, chasing, killing, and capturing of Indian fishermen do not occur once in a way. At least, two-three times in a month the Sri Lankan authorities are repeatedly harassing and committing a lot of atrocities against our Tamil fishermen.

In the last three years alone - in 2020, 74 fishermen were arrested and jailed; 143 fishermen were arrested in 2021; and in 2022, so far 88 people have been arrested – a number of fishermen have been arrested. Even two days back, 16 fishermen were arrested from Rameswaram. Similarly, fishermen from Nagapattinam, Kothapatnam, Jegathapattinam, Pamban, Rameswaram, in fact from the entire coastal area, have been repeatedly arrested and jailed.

HON. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, their boats have been damaged. Earlier, if fishermen had crossed the boundary, they were warned. If some people cross a maritime boundary, they should be warned and sent back. They should not be fired at, and killed. Their boats and nets are being damaged, and thus the fish so collected are being swept away.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please ask question.

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: This should not happen. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken by the Central Government to stop these atrocities against Tamil fishermen.

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, the Government, under the leadership of Modi ji, has always been making efforts for the safety and security of Indians, wherever they are. Indians abroad, whether they are fishermen, students or labourers, their safety and security has been of utmost importance. Very recently we have brought back 22,500 students from Ukraine, the war-torn area.... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: You may answer the specific question.

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: So, our Government has been engaging with the Sri Lankan Government with regard to the Tamil Nadu fishermen, who have been taken into custody by them. The number of fishermen who were taken into custody has been given. In 2020, 74 fishermen were taken into custody, and 96 fishermen were taken into custody in 2022.

Barring the 16 fishermen, who are still in custody, we have been able to bring back every Indian fisherman who has been taken into custody by the Sri Lankan

authorities. The Government of India continues to engage with the Sri Lankan authorities to bring back every Indian fisherman, including the 16 who are at present in custody of the Sri Lankan authorities.

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, every time our fishermen were arrested and jailed, Members from Tamil Nadu have raised this issue, and the Minister has been giving the same reply every time. Sympathy alone will not resolve the problem. I would like to know the concrete steps that the Government has taken in this regard. The matter should be taken up at the ministerial level, either at the level of the Prime Minister or at the level of the Cabinet Minister. Mere sympathy of words will not address the problem. I would like to know about two things.

The fishermen, who have been arrested and jailed, should be released immediately. The Government has to take steps in this regard. Secondly, more than 100 boats have been seized and they are lying on the sea shore of Sri Lanka. They have been damaged by them. So, fishermen from Tamil Nadu should get compensation from the Sri Lankan Government.

This should be done immediately. Every boat costs Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: I appreciate the concerns of the hon. Member and through you, ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Let me complete my question. The boat costs Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore. The poor fishermen pledge their houses, jewelleryes, and everything to buy a boat. But they are not getting anything back. So, the damage

should be claimed. I would like to know the steps that have been taken by the Government in this regard. I would like to request the Government to insist on the Sri Lankan Government to give compensation to our fishermen.

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as I have mentioned earlier in the first part of my reply, the Government has been taking it up at the highest level. A mechanism of 2+2, that is, the Foreign Minister and the Fisheries Minister, has been set up to deal with such issues.

There is a Joint Working Group at the level of the Fisheries Ministry. I would like to inform the House that the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group is meeting today to discuss all such issues. I would also like to mention that our Mission has been interacting with them. Our Mission is providing Consular access and legal assistance and is also looking after their day-to-day needs. So, the Government of India gives utmost importance to each and every Indian across the world, wherever they are.

SHRI VIJAYKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH : Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir.

Sir, I come from Kanyakumari, which has a long coastline. A lot of people go for deep sea fishing there. I am speaking on behalf of all the hon. Members who represent coastal areas.

Sir, people are get caught every time and it takes a long time to get them bailed out. The Ministry of External Affairs should have diplomatic agreements with the coastal countries so that the people do not suffer like this. Hefty fines are imposed on poor fishermen and they are not in a position to pay them. Therefore,

I would like to request the Government to have diplomatic agreements with all the coastal countries which would be helpful for the fishermen so that they do not suffer. Our livelihood is dependent on fishing. They go for deep sea fishing and unknowingly, they cross the borders, and they suffer a lot. I would like the Government to take a call on it and have diplomatic agreements with all the coastal countries.

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: I would like to inform the hon. Member that this is an issue on which the Government is very much concerned. It is not only about Sri Lanka. Three days ago, there was an incident where sixty-one fishermen were detained in Seychelles -- 56 from Tamil Nadu, and the remaining fishermen from Assam and Kerala.

The Government and our Mission in Seychelles acted very fast. On 7th, the case came up in Seychelles court. On 22nd, they were let off and on the same day, they were repatriated to India by the Indian Air Force flight. So, this shows the concern and the seriousness with which the Government of India, under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, approaches such issues.

So, I would also like to mention that the Government is having consultations and discussions to enter into agreements or understandings with various countries on issues related to Indian labourers -- whether they are fishermen or they are in some other jobs. Definitely, I would say that for the Government this issue will continue to be of serious concern and of utmost importance.

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, we used to have a Rapid Response Diplomatic Channel with regard to issues concerning our fishermen. Now, most of

the time, the Ministry of External Affairs is not considering these issues. Our poor fishermen are fighting court cases in foreign countries on their own.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Ministry of External Affairs will initiate a permanent diplomatic channel to deal with this issue.

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: I would like to inform the hon. Member through you about his doubt that the Indian Missions are not paying serious attention. I would like to clarify on that aspect.

Sir, everytime such an issue comes up and Indian fishermen with their fishing boats are apprehended, immediate steps are taken by the Indian Missions. First, they make the confirmation of the detention, then comes provision of consular access, and then their early release and repatriation along with fishing boats. And during the consular access, Missions provides articles of daily use to the prisoners and enquire about their health.

So, about the diplomatic mechanism, our missions are empowered to take up those diplomatic efforts to see that the Indian fishermen, who are apprehended by various other countries, wherever they cross over the maritime borders by mistake, are brought back and for that, all diplomatic efforts are undertaken.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 323, Sushri Diya Kumari.

SUSHRI DIYA KUMARI: Sir, you have allowed me to ask a question, thank you for that.

Sir, first I would like to thank our Hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India that they have paid special attention to the importance of Ayurveda and Yoga in the country in the last 7 years and have created a huge infrastructure of AYUSH in the entire country. I have a question to the Hon. Minister who has recently attended a programme in my Lok Sabha constituency, Rajsamand. In that programme, I requested him through a letter that there is a huge demand of AYUSH wellness Centers in my Parliamentary constituency and keeping that in mind, AYUSH wellness centers should be opened there. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether any action has been taken in this regard?

DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA: Sir, our colleague Hon. Member of Parliament has asked a question regarding the health of the people of her constituency. First of all, I thank her for that. Anyway, when a person falls sick and becomes a patient, the number of their relatives gets heavily reduced. Therefore, as soon as Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi ji took over the charge as Prime Minister in the year 2014, he immediately announced the National AYUSH Mission. In the National AYUSH Mission, it is that first of all, the person should not fall ill, i.e. prevention of disease, promotion of the health.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, could you please explain the functioning of it? Whether the State Government send proposal? What is the process of approving the wellness centres? Please tell the Hon. Member about it.

DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA : The State Government sends a proposal under the programme to us. After that, we receive a proposal from their

State Annual Action Plan in our Ministry. After consideration, we examine it and provide them AYUSH and Health and Wellness center. When I went to Nathdwara, the people there demanded a few Health and Wellness Centres but under the leadership of the Prime Minister, we are providing a total of 12,500 Health and Wellness Centres and out of them, we are providing one thousand health and wellness centers to Rajasthan alone. It will be a very good step for the health of the people of Rajasthan. In Rajsamand district, an approval under the National AYUSH Mission has been given by the Ministry of AYUSH for setting up total of 26 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers in Rajsamand district on the basis of the proposal sent by the Government through the State Annual Action Plan. As per the information sent by the State Government, 14 Ayush Health and Wellness Centers are working under the progressive category in Rajsamand district.

SUSHRI DIYA KUMARI: Sir, I express my sincere gratitude to the Minister through you that he has given more Ayush Wellness Centres to my Parliamentary constituency than I had asked for. For that, I express my gratitude to the Prime Minister and to you.

Speaker Sir, I have two more demands. There is Butati Dham in my Parliamentary constituency where many patients of paralysis also come. I request you to open one AYUSH wellness center in Butati Dham, and also one in Jaitaran, both of which find no place in this list. Apart from this, Rajsamand is a religious and tourist place. There has been a need for an Ayush hospital here for a long time. The major demand of my area is that a 100 bed Ayush hospital should be opened in Rajsamand district under any scheme of the Ministry. Thank you very much.

DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA: Hon. Speaker sir, the state Government can send a suitable proposal for approval as per the guidelines to establish Ayush Health and Wellness Center in Butati Dham and Jaitaran under the National Ayush Mission through the State Annual Action Plan to the Ministry of AYUSH and it will be examined. In addition to this, the Member of Parliament has demanded a 100-bed Ayush hospital. Under the National Ayush Mission, there is a provision of financial assistance by the Ministry to the State Governments for the establishment of 50, 30 and 10 bedded Integrated Ayush Hospitals. For this, the State Government, as per the guidelines, can send the suitable proposal through the State Annual Action Plan to the Ministry of AYUSH for approval. Anyway, we have already allotted a total of 6 hospitals in Rajasthan, including 50 bedded hospitals in Bhilwara, Ajmer, Churu, Bikaner, Sikar and Jaipur.

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. In connection with providing Health and Wellness Centres, there is a huge demand for ayurvedic treatment in the field of sports, especially in the State of Kerala. In my constituency, we are preparing to start a Sports Ayurvedic Centre.

My question is this. I would like to know whether the Ministry of AYUSH will take the initiative to start Sports Ayurvedic Centre.

THE MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS AND MINISTER OF AYUSH (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): Respected hon. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question raised by the hon. Member, I would like to say that if the Government of Kerala sent a proposal through their Annual Action Plan, then definitely this Ministry will look into the matter.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 324,

Shri Chandan Singh

SHRI CHANDAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, undertrial prisoners have the right to contest elections, but these prisoners, who have not been awarded any punishments, are still denied to cast vote. My question is, whether the Government proposes to give right to vote for such undertrial prisoners? If not, is it not against the law of natural justice?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, the process of voting is crystal clear in this country and the Election Commission, from time to time, runs its awareness programme for the people. Under that programme, whether someone, be in jail or anywhere else, is encouraged to vote. But, if someone, due to any compulsions, fails to vote, then there is no provision to force him to vote; and also there is no compulsory voting. Therefore, it is everyone's right to vote, but the Constitution does not have any provision making voting compulsory, nor this Parliament has passed any such law.

HON. SPEAKER: He is asking whether the undertrial prisoners have the permission or not?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, I mentioned the same point and I will say the same about any prisoner, because we cannot do discrimination against anyone in the matter of right to vote. All the citizens of the country have equal right to vote, so we cannot talk about the prisoners separately.

SHRI AJAY NISHAD: Hon. Speaker Sir, the answer given by the Hon. Minister is satisfactory. Sir, there should be 100% voting for a healthy democracy, but it does not happen so often. Presently, linking voter ID cards with Aadhaar is being mulled over in our country. If this happens, at least the problem of bogus voting will be overcome.

Sir, it has been observed that a large number of people live far away from their constituencies, in other states, for earning livelihood or getting employment. These people may not come back to their constituency at the time of election and can not cast their vote, which affects the percentage of voting. My question to the Hon. Minister is the Government considering to implement the scheme of 'One Nation-One Voter' on the line of 'One Nation-One Ration Card' ?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, the question asked by our Member poses a very serious matter; and the Government is also considering some steps in this regard. We have also started the process in this regard. At my level also, there has been a lot of discussion with the Election Commission to prevent bogus voting in the entire country. For this, an idea to have a single electoral roll to be followed by all the states and union territories across the country came up and we also are considering this. We want more and more people to vote, but at the same time bogus voting should be stopped. Therefore, when we brought the last electoral reforms, we also had a provision to link the electoral roll with Aadhaar.

At present, voting is not compulsory, it is voluntary. But with this linking, there are possibilities of achieving great success in checking the dual names, fake voting and bogus voting. We will take whatever steps are necessary for further electoral reforms. Our Government has a vision that there should be a 'One Nation-

One Voter' list. Along with this, we also have a vision of having a clean electoral voting system.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Hon. Speaker Sir, the answer of the Original Question given by the Hon. Minister to the Hon. Member is that whether someone is in jail or not, one should has the right to vote which is not substantiate by any facts in my opinion, because when a person goes into judicial custody, his fundamental rights are seized. Voting is a fundamental right. That's why I want to request the Hon. Minister that whenever such a sensitive question is raised, sensitive answers should be given. This is my request.

HON. SPEAKER: This is your suggestion.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, as per judicial provisions, how can we comment here if permission is obtained from the court? We can only say that all citizens are equal to us. But if someone is in jail or in judicial custody, then either he or even I, despite being the law Minister, cannot say that someone's voting right has ceased. We cannot comment on a case which is in the court and under the judiciary process. People contest elections and win elections too, so what would you call that?

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Sir, the issue of giving voting right to Pravasi Indians is long pending before the Central Government. In the State of Kerala, most of the people are working in Gulf countries. During election time, they are not in a position to come back and cast their vote. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to give voting right to Pravasi Indians or not.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, this is a very positive suggestion. I have already told the Election Commission also that we will make provisions and requested them to give proper suggestions on how our people, who are staying outside India and working, can be given an opportunity to vote. We are also thinking on how online voting system can be encouraged and how it can be done. But before making any declaration, we have to ensure safety, transparency and also protect it from any kind of malpractice or misuse.

[Translation]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Hon. Speaker sir, regarding the original question on compulsory voting, my concern with the Hon. Minister is that it is not correct to force someone to vote. On the other hand, you can see that throughout the country, the voting percentage is lower in the so called richer localities. The voting percentage is very high in areas belonging to the working classes and the rural areas. I would like to urge you that since it is very important for maximum people to take part in this democratic process for a good democracy, a discussion may be held in this House on the measures to increase the voting percentage so as to strengthen our democracy.

Hon. Speaker Sir, my question through you to the Hon. Minister is that *[English]* does the source code of the Electronic Voting Machines vest in the Election Commission of India or does it vest in the companies which are manufacturing the EVMs? I want a specific reply to my question. If you do not have the answer readily available, you can send it in writing.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, just as the Government appoints the judges but they become independent post appointment. We do not control them after that though we only issue the notification for it. Similarly, when the company hands over the machine to the Election Commission, how can it control that machine? That EVM gets under the control of the Election Commission. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MANISH TEWARI: Does the source code of EVMs lie with the Election Commission or does it lie with the company which manufactures it? That is my specific question.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, no question should be raised on the Electoral Voting Machines and I do not want to draw any inference also. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down and Hon. Minister, you also please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have been to several countries of the world and our's is the largest democracy in the world. The democracy of India should atleast be specially congratulated for the way the 17 General Elections have been conducted with crores

of voters. I have not seen of developing such a big system in democratic systems anywhere in the world.

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE: Sir, let this question be replied. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, it is a collective effort. Not only the Election Commission, but all of us endeavour so that more and more people take part in the voting process. Increased voting percentage is a sign of healthy democracy.

Hon. Speaker sir, as mentioned by you, people from all over the world come to India and invite us also to learn about elections and election process. The team of our Election Commission visits other countries. We also get invitation from the United Nations. *[English]* Indian election system has been recognised in the world as one of the best systems in terms of conducting the elections.

MANISH TEWARI: I have asked a specific question. If you do not have the answer, tell the House that you do not have the answer and get back to us. But please do not dodge and evade the question. It is a very serious question. It is very close to the heart of our parliamentary democracy and I would like to place my concern on the floor of the House.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 325,

Shri T.R. Baalu.

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, the issue of security at our borders has become more vulnerable. This is very much evident by our experience in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

In this context, the Defence expenditure has to be increased manifold. The Defence expenditure, as of now, I may not be correct, is about 2.33 per cent of our GDP.

Moreover, the expenditure has to be enhanced in the area of modernisation and in purchasing of sophisticated equipment which have to be used in the operational area for successful combat operations. When is our Government going to increase defence expenditure to the target of three per cent of GDP?

[Translation]

ADV. AJAY BHATT: Hon. Speaker Sir, it is not at all proper to say that the trend of defence expenditure is not encouraging.

Sir, through you, I would like to say that the Hon. Member is a very senior Member and we learn also from him. The expenditure budget of Ministry of Defence is the most among all the Ministries keeping in view the seriousness of the security situation. This is the maximum. The Defence budget was Rs. 2.53 lakh crores during the year 2013-14. Now it is again Rs. 5.25 lakh crores. It has been doubled now and therefore there is no shortage in it anywhere.

Sir, through you, I would like to say one thing. All Hon. Members are aware of SIPRI. It has mentioned three very good things. I would like to inform the House that SIPRI is giving us certificate. SIPRI is Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. According to it, India is at number three in the world. In terms of defence

budget spending, it is the U.S.A. at number one, at the second place is China and the third place is occupied by India. We are at number three today. Another fact mentioned by SIPRI is that India has increased its defence budget by 76% between 2011 and 2020.

Sir, I would also like to inform the House through you that between 2011 and 2020, the budget has increased by only nine percent all over the world. With 76 percent increase we are way ahead of the rest of the world which is at nine percent. So, I want to point out that there is no shortage of it anywhere. Sipri has said one more thing, that in the year 2020, India stands at 25th place among the countries exporting and this has happened for the first time. We have reached this position for the first time since Hon. Modi ji took over as Prime Minister. So, there is no shortage of budget anywhere. Though we have come much ahead in totality, still if you think that there is shortfall in budget in terms of percentage, I would like to tell that we bring revised budget also. You also know that there is a provision of Supplementary Budget.

Hon. Sir, about the recent budget allocation, I would like to quote the data for the last three years only. It is Rs. 17,080,0931 for the year 2019-20 and Rs. 13,000,0358.06 for the year 2020-21 and it is Rs. 24,000,6887.92 for the year 2021-22. If at all there is any shortfall, the Ministry of Finance sanctions with immediate effect. There is no impediment at all regarding the Defence Budget. We get as much money as required for whatever item. Therefore, there is no shortage anywhere.

HON. SPEAKER: Baalu ji, do you have any Supplementary Question also?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Defence will give complete reply.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH): Hon. Speaker Sir, my colleague Shri Ajay Bhatt ji has provided very good reply. Our reply should be absolutely comprehensive and he has replied just like that. But, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that a Kargil Review Committee was constituted regarding defence expenditure in the year 2000. It had submitted a very comprehensive and detailed report. The serving officials of the forces, ex-servicemen, political leaders and diplomats were its members. The committee seriously deliberated on the way budget should be allocated to defence. There was a demand from some people at that time also that it should be a certain ratio of the G.D.P.

I would like to convey the recommendations given by the Kargil Review Committee to the Hon. Member. The Committee mentioned that there is no need for allocation of fixed percentage of GDP for defence, that is, the allocation of any fixed percentage of GDP was not recommended even by the Kargil Review Committee at that time. At the same time, the Kargil Review Committee had also recommended that we should ensure that we get the maximum value for every rupee spent on defence. This was mentioned by the Kargil Review Committee. For this, we have to prioritize our expenditure, restructure the forces and bring efficiency in defence production. This was a recommendation of the Kargil Review Committee. At present, our Ministry and the Government is implementing whatever has been said in the recommendations regarding restructuring the Forces and bringing efficiency in defence production.

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, USA is spending about 3.4 per cent of their GDP on defence and Russia is spending about 3.9 per cent of their GDP on defence whereas India is spending only 2.33 per cent of their GDP on defence.

While comparing it with the size of all the three countries, is it not necessary to enhance the combatting capability of our country to that level, at least, which is on par with USA and Russia? All the defence experts and analysts have definitely recommended that the defence capability of India should be enhanced. That is why modernisation, new equipment and technologies are necessary. So, our defence expenditure has to be increased. That is my contention

[Translation]

ADV. AJAY BHATT: Sir, there is no vulnerability anywhere. The boundaries of the country are well-protected. Just as it was said that Leh, Ladakh is our weak point, it is not like that. Today, the morale of our soldiers has gone up very high. Nothing like that the country is not completely safe under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi ji. We are also modernizing the army. There has been an increase of 76 percent in the expenditure being incurred from the year 2013-14 to the year 2022-23. An increase of 76 percent is not a nominal increase. I have already said that the world is spending nine per cent and we have spent seventy six per cent of that. This record is before the world. Somewhere or the other I share your concern. Hon. Prime Minister has said, whatever they are, wherever they are, they should take their own decision. We have seen it in Galvan. We have seen many incidents. We have seen all our strikes, be it surgical strikes or anything else. Today the world considers us seriously. You are seeing that today whenever something happens at any place, the eyes of the

world turn towards our hon. Prime Minister. So there is no weakness anywhere, I assure you and the entire House.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Sir, in the reply, there is a mention about expenditure. The MoD and all our scientists have done wonderful work in the defence, especially our PSUs and scientists. BrahMos is one of the finest examples, which makes the whole of India proud. During this tenure, there is a lot of discussion about strategic partnerships, and Atmanirbhar Bharat is a wonderful scheme. I do not think anybody would object to it. A lot of Indian companies have shown a lot of interest in these strategic partnerships. To give a small example, there is a Baba Kalyani's company having a big presence in my Constituency. They want to do strategic partnership. But somehow we still are depending on foreign partners and not on indigenous production. So, what more will the Government do to help such good strategic partners, who are Atmanirbhar in India, and are waiting for the orders from the Government and the Ministry?

HON. SPEAKER: Raj Nath ji, please explain.

SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Hon. Speaker, I want to tell the hon. Members that, we have decided that 68% of our capital budget will be spent only on domestic production. This decision has been taken by our Government. The remaining amount will be used for export if required. There are about 309 such items, about which we have taken the decision that in any case, we have fixed the time limit, some after the year 2024, some after the year 2025 and some after the year 2026, after that in any case we will not export it, rather all those items will be manufactured in India itself in a completely indigenous way.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 326,

Er. Guman Singh Damor.

ER. GUMAN SINGH DAMOR: Hon. Speaker, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister of our country Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of AYUSH is scaling new heights day by day and we reaped its benefits even during the Corona period.

I thank the Ministry of AYUSH through you that they have given a very good answer. Ayurveda is our most ancient knowledge. Ever since the Government was formed under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, we have started practicing this knowledge more.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister through you that many people in our areas and especially in the tribal areas have been working as Vaidyas for generations. They have saved the lives of many people during the Corona period. They are skilled, but their skill is yet to be recognised. I want to know whether the Ministry will identify and register such Vaidyas across the country and give them permission for proper practice.

THE MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF AYUSH (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important question. I want to specially thank him for this. Hon. Member of Parliament is a reputed doctor. ... (*Interruptions*) Being a doctor, he has experiences. He has asked the right question. Our country has an ancient system of medicine, we had not realized the power of this system of medicine for so many years.

In the year 2014, the Hon. Prime Minister started to promote AYUSH and since then he has been working on it sincerely. It is not as such one day a scheme

may be announced and then be stopped on another day abruptly. It is not being done so, now. Continuous efforts are being taken for this. Because of this, today AYUSH has achieved success in carving its mark not only within the country but also in the world. For this we all and the House should feel proud and specially thank our Hon. Prime Minister.

The Hon. Member of Parliament is correct that our healers have been serving people in the rural areas through traditional methods for centuries. Those practitioners should be given proper recognition.

I agree with him and the work has started. Likewise every State has been told that the Vaidyas living in rural areas who have not been approved till date. They should definitely be listed, because when there is a health crisis in a family, they come up to heal the family with ancient knowledge. I agree with you. Thank you.

ER. GUMAN SINGH DAMOR: Hon. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Minister. My second question is that there are many medicinal plants in our forests. We are not able to export those medicinal plants effectively. The main reason for this is that we do not have a National Policy. Even now the medicines we make are made according to the rules of the year 1940-45 which are of the British era. A lot of change has taken place since then.

Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether we will prepare a National Policy so that we can take maximum benefit from the medicinal plants available in the forests.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Hon. Speaker, on the basis of the 'Van Dhan' scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the medicinal plants available in the forests are collected. You also know this. It is true that we should promote these things in conversion mode. So, we the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry

of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Tribal Affairs together, will definitely take steps to take these things forward in future.

DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN: Hon. Speaker, the way the Hon. Minister answered and hon. Damor ji asked the question, it was a combined question. I would thank the Hon. Minister for the answer he has given to explain the importance of Ayurveda through this question. The basic reason behind this is that the Ayurvedic medicines that we have today are almost getting extinct and they are available in the forests. Right now it is being informed that 85 percent of its collection is being done completely from the forest. The way Hon. Modi ji envisioned that we should promote agriculture and double the farm income, then we should conserve all the extinct medicines and ensure the availability of those medicines. Right now, we are dependent on the Forest Department for the cultivation of herbs.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in order to double the income of the farmers, without relying too much on the forests for the supply of herbs, we should make a policy to ensure sufficient supply. The Forest Department, Environment Department, Farmers and Ayush Department should come together and make a policy and on the basis of production and demand, make farmers aware and give demand to the farmers. At present, the Government does not even have the data of number of medicinal herbs being used in the country. Today it seems that after Corona, their demand has increased in foreign countries as well. Therefore, a figure related to this should come before the country. This department should assess the quantum of demand and how much we are able to meet. So that the farmers can also grow these plants and the medicines available in the forest can be conserved. He has told that the department gives assistance to protect the endangered species, but he has not given the data of assistance provided after 2021.

I would like to urge the hon. Minister to continue the implementation of this scheme even further. That will increase the farm production and agriculture income also. The farmer will earn more money than doing farming in normal way. At present only the Forest Department does this. Would the Government do this work by taking lead? That's all I want to know from the hon. Minister. Thank you very much.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Hon.Speaker Sir, we are encouraging these subjects in collaboration with the National Medicinal Plant Board and Department of Horticulture, the Ministry of Agriculture. As you are also aware that like the National Medicinal Plant Board, medicinal herbal cultivation is done and people are encouraged to undertake this farming. Be it nursery or herbal garden, special attention is being given to these things. I think the doubt in your mind, you have rightly said that a list of all the species of medicinal plants in the country should be prepared, so that we can realize our own power. I think that all the steps taken by our Department so far, we have promoted 242 medicinal species in total, whose present market value is more than 100 metric tonnes. I think over the next few days, if there's anything else, as you suggest, is required to be done, then we will certainly recognize those things.

[English]

KUMARI RAMYA HARIDAS: Sir, I would like to ask whether the Government has any plan to set up an exclusive specialised Ayurvedic Hospital and Research Centre under the Ministry of AYUSH just like the AIIMS.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, as you know, we have the Centre of Excellence under the AYUSH sector. There are many important institutions like All India Institute of Ayurveda Sciences right from Delhi to different parts of the

country. But in the near future, according to the growing demand, definitely, we will put a thought to it. In consultation with the respective State Governments, we will definitely examine your proposal in the near future.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 327,

Shri. T.R. V.S. Ramesh.

12.00 hrs

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gaurav Gogoi ji.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon.Speaker Sir, I would like to ask a question in brief. Sir, with your permission, there was a discussion on Covid in the Parliament in the month of December. I also participated in that discussion. At that time, I had asked the Minister as to why the time gap between the first and second dose of the Covishield vaccine is not being reduced. No reply was given at that time. Today it has come to light from the sources that the Government is thinking about it.

Sir, I again demand and the hon. Minister should clarify this, because when the discussion was held in the month of December, at that time I was asked about the booster dose, asked about the vaccination of children below 18 years of age. But at that time, the Minister did not give any answer. After two weeks the Government decided the policy. I would like the Minister to clarify the Government's policy regarding reducing the time gap between the first and second dose of Covishield vaccine?

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Hon. Speaker Sir, we have given the reply according to the status update of question whenever it has been asked by the hon. Member. The decision of when to give the vaccine, to whom to give it, to what age group of people, that decision is scientific. We don't make that decision. Its decision is taken by the Scientific Expert Committee.

Whenever our expert committee has made a recommendation, we have approved people above 18 years of age to get vaccinated accordingly. After that, when the committee recommended us, we approved to vaccinate children above 15 years of age and today children above 12 years of age are getting vaccinated in the country. In the coming days, we will work according to the suggestions of the expert committee.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**(Starred Question Nos. 328 to 340
Unstarred Question Nos. 3681 to 3910)**

* Available in Master copy of the Original Version of Debate, placed in Library.

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

12.02 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the papers will be laid on the table.

Shri Shripad Yesso Naik Ji.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6689/17/22]

- (2)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.
 - (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6690/17/22]

- (4)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Pension Fund Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust, Pension Fund Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6691/17/22]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6692/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6693/17/22]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6694/17/22]

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

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6695/17/22]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): On behalf Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel ji, I lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Legal Services Authority U.T. Chandigarh, Chandigarh, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the District Legal Services Authority U.T. Chandigarh, Chandigarh, for the year 2020-2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6696/17/22]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the State Legal Services Authority Union Territory Chandigarh, Chandigarh, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the State Legal Services Authority Union Territory Chandigarh, Chandigarh, for the year 2020-2021.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6697/17/22]

- (5) A copy of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.

S.O.72(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th January, 2022 under sub-section (3) of Section 77 read with Section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6698/17/22]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6699/17/22]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE; AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI AJAY
BHATT):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6700/17/22]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6701/17/22]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6702/17/22]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6703/17/22]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Dynamics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6704/17/22]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6705/17/22]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Electronics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6706-6707/17/22]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6708/17/22]

- (viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Electronics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2020-2021.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (viii) of (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6709/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (1) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6710/17/22]

(2) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2020-2021.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6711/17/22]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DR. R.K. RANJAN SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Nalanda University (Academic) Ordinances, 2021 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. S/321/8/2018 in Gazette of India dated 8th December, 2021 under sub-section (2) of Section 42 of the Nalanda University Act, 2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6712/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006:-

- (i) The Food Safety and Standards (Import) First Amendment Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No. F. No. 1605/FSSAI/Import/2016(pt-2) in Gazette of India dated 14th February, 2022.
- (ii) The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 2021 published in Notification No. F. No. M&MP/Notification (05)/FSSAI-2019 in Gazette of India dated 27th December, 2021.
- (iii) The Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) First Amendment Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No. F. No. Std/SP-08/A-1.2019/N-01 in Gazette of India dated 25th January, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6713/17/22]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.292(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 21st January, 2022 appointing the 25th day of January, 2022 as the date on which the provisions of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 shall come into force issued under sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6714/17/22]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.291(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 21st January, 2022 appointing the 25th day of January, 2022 as the date on which the provisions of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 shall come into force issued under sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6715/17/22]

(4) A copy of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions 2nd (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.4842(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th November, 2021 under sub-section (2) of Section 69 of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6716/17/22]

(6) A copy of the “Diploma in Pharmacy Exit Examination Regulations, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 14-285/2021-PCI in Gazette of India dated 24th February, 2022 under sub-section (4) of Section 18 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6717/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur, for the year 2020-2021.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6718/17/22]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, Ghaziabad, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, Ghaziabad, for the year 2020-2021.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6719/17/22]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6720/17/22]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2020-2021.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6721/17/22]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2020-2021, 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 2020-2021.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6722/17/22]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith 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 2020-2021.

- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6723/17/22]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalagiri, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) 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 2020-2021.

- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6724/17/22]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur, for the year 2020-2021.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6725/17/22]

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2020-2021.
- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6726/17/22]

- (25) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the HLL Biotech Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2020-2021.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the HLL Biotech Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6727/17/22]

- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, for the year 2020-2021.

- (28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6728/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH (DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6729/17/22]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6730/17/22]

- (5)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6731/17/22]

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

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Almora, for the year 2020-2021.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Almora, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6732/17/22]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bengaluru, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bengaluru, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6733/17/22]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6734/17/22]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6735/17/22]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2020-2021.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6736/17/22]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Childline India Foundation, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Childline India Foundation, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6737/17/22]

- (19) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 14 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990:-
- (i) Annual Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6738/17/22]

(21) A copy of the National Commission for Homoeopathy (Manner of Appointment and Nomination of Members, their Salary, Allowances and Terms and Conditions of Service, and Declaration of Assets, Professional and Commercial Engagements) Amendment Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.115(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th February, 2022 under Section 56 of the National Commission for Homoeopathy Act, 2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6739/17/22]

(22) A copy of National Commission for Homoeopathy (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.650(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th February, 2022 under sub-section (2) of Section 57 of the National Commission for Homoeopathy Act, 2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6740/17/22]

(23) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 56 of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020:-

(i) The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Manner of Appointment and Nomination of Members, their Salary, Allowances and Terms and Conditions of Service, and Declaration of Assets, Professional and Commercial Engagements) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.116(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th February, 2022.

(ii) The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Minimum Standards of Undergraduate Ayurveda Education)

Regulations, 2022 published in Notification No. F. No. BOA/Regulation/UG/7-10/2021 in Gazette of India dated 16th February, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6741/17/22]

(24) A copy of National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.652(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th February, 2022 under sub-section (2) of Section 57 of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6742/17/22]

12.04 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Statement

[English]

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Further Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Committee on External Affairs on the replies to the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Second Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2020-21.

12.04 ¼ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

11th and 12th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Respected Sir, I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas:-

- (1) Eleventh Report on the subject 'National Gas Grid including PNG and CNG'.
 - (2) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2020- 21) on the subject 'Allotment of Retail Outlets and LPG Distributorships'.
-

12.04 ½ hrs

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO.657 DATED 4TH FEBRUARY, 2022 REGARDING AYUSH
COLLEGES/INSTITUTES***

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS AND
MINISTER OF AYUSH (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL):** Sir, I beg to lay
a Statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting the reply given on 4 February,
2022 to Unstarred Question No. 657 by Dr. Vishnu Prasad M.K., MP regarding
'AYUSH Colleges/Institutes'.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 6688/17/22

12.05 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 28th of March, 2022 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper: - *[it contains:- Consideration and passing of the Finance Bill, 2022]*
2. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (with respect to State of Tripura)
3. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (with respect of State of Jharkhand) after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and Passing of the following Bills after their introduction:
 - (i) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022. (with respect to State of Uttar Pradesh)
 - (ii) The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022.

- (iii) The Indian Antarctica Bill, 2022.
 - (iv) The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.
-

12.05 ½ hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

**NATIONAL ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND
SURROGACY BOARD**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER
OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA):**

Sir, I beg to move the following:-

“That in pursuance of Section 17(2)(c) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two women members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is that -

“That in pursuance of Section 17(2)(c) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two women Members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

12.07 hrs

DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item Number 14.

Shri Nityanand Rai ji.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): Hon. Speaker, on behalf of Shri Amit Shah ji, I beg to introduce the Bill further to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That leave be granted to introduce the Bill further to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.”

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Speaker, Sir. I rise to oppose the introduction of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 under Rule 72 (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha on the following grounds.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 25.3.2022.

First, the proposed amendment Bill encroaches into the legislative powers of the Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. This is against the federal principle of our Constitution. That is the basic feature of our Constitution. The hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji always talks about cooperative federalism. Is this cooperative federalism?

The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Delhi in the year 2011. That Act trifurcated the Municipal Corporation of Delhi into three separate corporations. Now, the Union Government is coming up with a legislation so as to unify the three municipal corporations that come under the domain of the Legislative Assembly of Union Territory of Delhi. Sir, I do accept the fact that constitutionally the Union Government has ample authority and power to legislate on any matter which is in respect of the Union Territories. But this is disrupting the Legislative Assembly, and the will of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. They have passed an Act that enforced the trifurcation of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Now, the Union Government is coming up with a legislation so as to unite them. Then, what about the will of the Members of the Delhi Legislative Assembly? That is why I am saying that it is totally against the basic feature of the Constitution, that is, cooperative federalism.

My second objection is regarding clause 7(2) of the Bill that empowers the Government to make rules with regard to the employees of the Corporation but the Bill lacks the Memorandum delegating the legislation. Today morning, I have received the copy of that Memorandum but it was not circulated along with the Bill. That was the second objection that is over rule.

The third objection is regarding the provisions of the amendment Bill which are complex and not specific. In legislative drafting, each and every provision should be specific. For example, if you see clause 2 of the Bill, it is being generalized because wherever grammatical sense of the definition is required, there the Corporation will be named as Delhi. It is not specific; it is complex. These are the three objections for which I oppose the introduction of this Bill. Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Hon. Speaker, I am briefly making my points. I oppose the introduction of this Bill because it is an attack on the federal structure of India. The Central Government did not hold any kind of consultation talks, did not consult with political parties, nor has it consulted the State Government, nor consulted anyone else before the introduction of the Bill. It's an attempt to cover up their own failures. ...*(Interruptions)* My second objection is this. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Could you please speak on legal provisions whether they have the right to introduce this Bill or not?

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker, they have restricted this to 250 seats or wards.

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, these things should be raised at the discussion stage.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Government can't restrict the wards limit to 250 in this legislation, because seats and wards should be according to population. We can't have such rule for that. And, third thing is that they have kept an special officer in this, which is absolutely against the federal structure. In 2012, this municipal was trifurcated. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Could you please quote the relevant rule.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker Sir, It was trifurcated so that it could be more democratic, more decentralized, and today this Bill is being introduced against this spirit. For these reasons, I oppose this Bill.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I stand up to speak against the introduction of this Bill under Rule 272 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the House. I stand here to oppose the Introduction of the Bill on the basis of two Articles of the Constitution – 243U, which is regarding the terms of municipal corporations and Article 246, which is regarding the Legislative competence of the House.

Sir, Article 243U says that any municipality should be elected six months before it completes its current work. In this case, if elections are not held within six months and till the election is held, as long as it remains in its known work, no amendment can be brought in the law and that amendment does not make any difference to that municipality. You did not even conduct elections and now you are bringing this Bill by stopping the election. ...*(Interruptions)* Second, point is ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker, please have your seat.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Hon. Speaker, I request the hon. Member not to tell me about that. ...*(Interruptions)* Speaker Sir, I am concluding. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Please have your seats. Neither your speech is going on record nor yours

... *(Interruptions)*...*

HON. SPEAKER: Yesterday also, I urged you to keep in mind the limitations of the House. It is the Supreme House of the country. We should not talk to each other like this, rather we should have a healthy discussion among ourselves. You should also read Rule 72 under which I allow you to speak. These are few things when you introduce any Bill in between of a debate, you can have a discussion, this is your right, but right now all you can say on this subject is, you can consider the legislative competency whether this right belongs to the Parliament and the Government or not, whether you can Introduce this Bill or not. You please share the legal aspects on this subject.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Hon. Speaker Sir, I have said the same thing. I have explained about Article 243U and I also associate myself with what respected Prem Chandran ji who was just speaking. In 2011, NCT ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now, you have associated yourself.

Shri Manish Tewari Ji.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Hon. Speaker, I would conclude myself in one line.

* Not recorded

Sir, In 2011, three separate parts were made. It is the right of the Delhi Legislative Assembly to decide whether or not to combine these three into one. When this House violates that right, it is also the attack on the federal structure of the country to some extent.

Sir, you gave me the opportunity to speak on this subject, for which I thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are a Supreme Court lawyer, you will probably speak on legal aspects.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Hon. Speaker Sir, definitely, I would follow your order here.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Bill on the ground that this House does not have the legislative competence to enact this Bill, and also on the following grounds:

If you read the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill, it says:

“In 2011, the said Act was amended by the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi by the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2011 leading to the trifurcation of the said Corporation into three separate Corporations.”

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reason why this was done was because after Part 9A was inserted into the Constitution of India with effect from 1st June, 1993, the power to

constitute municipalities lies with the State Governments in terms of articles 243P and 243R of the Constitution of India.

Secondly, as per article 246 read with Seventh Schedule, entry 5 of the State List, powers to constitute municipal corporations is with the States.

Thirdly, under the transaction of business rules of the National Capital Territory of Delhi notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Rule 8 read with entry 1 of Schedule attached, local self-Government institutions and their functioning falls to the remit of the Government of Delhi.

Fourthly, under the allocation of business rules of the National Capital Territory of Delhi notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 1st December, 1993, entry 26 of those rules states that local self-Government falls to the remit of the Department of Urban Development of the National Capital Territory, Government of Delhi.

In essence, what I am trying to say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that if any House has the legislative competence in order to unify these three municipalities, it is the Delhi Assembly, and it is not this House. And this House cannot, after Part 9 was inserted into the Constitution of India, substitute itself for the Assembly of Delhi and pass this particular legislation in an illegal manner. This is a very serious constitutional issue. It is a transgression on the basic structure. It is a transgression on the constitutional provisions, and therefore, I oppose the introduction of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI NITYANAND RAI: Hon. Speaker, Just now, hon. Prem Chandran ji, Shri Gaurav Gogoi ji, hon. Ritesh Pandey Ji, hon. Manish Tiwari Ji were speaking. I want to make it clear that from nowhere is it a violation of the basic spirit of the Constitution of India nor is it an encroachment on the authority of any Federal State.

Sir, as per Article 239(a)(a), this House is competent to amend, change or repeal any law made by the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Delhi. At the time when the Municipal Corporation of Delhi was decentralized, thinking behind this step was that the Delhi would get developed, the arrangements would be strengthened by the Municipal Corporation, the welfare of their employees would be done, but nothing of that sort happened. On the basis of the experience of ten years, this Amendment Bill of Municipal Corporation, Delhi has been Introduced. It could not fulfill the basic purpose of it and the people of Delhi have suffered a lot from it. There will be uniformity in the policy of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, solid financial management, speeding up the development of Delhi and the pace of development of Delhi as well as problems like salary payment and service status of employees will be solved and uniformity in the administration of the Municipal Corporation will come.

Therefore, I would like to say to the hon. Member that it is in the interest of the people of Delhi, so kindly support this Bill. ... (*Interruptions*) I have already pointed out that it has been brought under Article 239A, which is the right of the House.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce the Bill further to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957”

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI NITYANAND RAI: I Introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, today, the Finance Bill is listed which is a very important Bill, therefore, we want the Private Member Business to be taken up on some other day in the coming week. Today, we request you to allow us to pass the Financial Bill... *(Interruptions)* This is a request to you.

HON. SPEAKER: Is the House agree on this?

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, the Finance Bill is the most important business as far as the Budget is concerned. ... *(Interruptions)*.. Friday afternoon is allocated for Private Members' business. ... *(Interruptions)*. By doing this, you are taking away the Private Members' business ... *(Interruptions)*. This is number one.

Passing of the Finance Bill, having serious ramifications, on Friday within a limited time, is not fair because there is ample time. 31st March is there. Four days are there. So, kindly let the discussion be taken up today, but let the voting be done on Monday. This is our humble submission because it is a very serious fiscal matter which is to be taken up.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): It was decided in BAC that we will discuss it today and we will complete it today. If the Members wish, then we take the Private Members' business in the next week any time. Apart from next Friday, we can take it up on any day any time, even on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. We have already given this assurance from the Government side. That is number one.

Secondly, on 1st April, we want to notify the Finance Act, and we want to implement and execute the Budget. That is why, we have requested it in the BAC and your kindself had agreed to it. Today, we are requesting to dispose it off today itself. We are requesting to postpone the Private Members' business and not requesting to cancel it. Kindly cooperate.

12.21 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are permitted to lay the Matters on the Table of the House under Rule 377. Hon. Members can lay all the Matters under Rule 377 on the Table of the House.

[English]

(i) Regarding opening of Balurghat Airport and resumption of flight services

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): West Bengal is located on the eastern border of India stretching from Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal, presenting some marvellous landscape features and natural scenic beauty. Kolkata enjoyed the privilege of being the capital of British India and witnessed overall development while other parts couldn't be developed so much.

Balurghat Parliamentary Constituency is a backward constituency lacking in all sectors including employment, business and trade. Previously, there was a Kolkata-Malda-Balurghat helicopter service for some years. In the past, a Kolkata-Malda-Balurghat-Coochbehar flight service had been planned but it couldn't start.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

The Modi Government has opened the new doors by launching the regional connectivity in the country and in this series, the Balurghat Airport may be reopened/restarted and flight services may be started on Coochbehar-Balurghat-Kolkata route and Guwahati-Coochbehar-Balurghat- Kolkata route from Balurghat Airport, Mahinagar.

I request the Government to sanction the opening of Balurghat Airport and resume flights.

(ii) Regarding special financial package for fishing communities

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): Fishermen community is one of the most vulnerable communities in our country as they face serious threats towards their lives and livelihoods. Due to the environmental issues, the fishing banks and shore are either shrinking or disappearing. The possibilities of fishing are getting reduced day by day. Many fishermen communities are thrown out of the seashores in the name of industrial development and tourism projects. Both inland and marine fishers are suffering due to the far-reaching consequences of central and state legislations regarding fisheries, sea and coastal regions. After Adivasi communities, fishermen communities are having worst social indicators. The new generation of fishers are also not ensured proper and quality education. Constant natural calamities like coastal erosion and cyclones are wiping their shelters. The increasing presence of corporate companies in fisheries sector is also posing a huge threat towards the livelihood of traditional fishers.

The Government of India should initiate a special package to ensure financial support to the Fishing communities in the country. Fishing in sea and other water bodies and living in the shores should be considered their fundamental right.

(iii) Regarding condition of undertrials

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): The number of undertrials lodged in prisons across the country have increased since 2020. In contrast, the number of convicts has seen considerable decline during the same period. As the pandemic ravaged the country, several undertrials contracted COVID19, resulting in their deaths in prison. The reasons for this are several. Access to judicial services has been severely limited in the context of the pandemic. Undertrials have been languishing in prisons due to lack of adequate legal representation and delay in court proceedings. In many cases, those undertrials are not aware of their legal rights and have no knowledge about bail rules. The provision of section 436A of the CrPC that allows undertrials who have completed half the term for the offence becoming eligible for bail is also not widely known.

In the past two years of the pandemic, the Government has not taken any steps to expedite judicial processes pertaining to the undertrials. The Government should take necessary steps to provide adequate legal assistance and ensure speedy trials to ensure justice for all.

(iv) Regarding repayment of debts

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Covid-19 has made it impossible for majority of the farmers to repay their debts. Hence, I urge upon the Government to instruct Government of Kerala to do the following:

1. During the previous moratorium period, interest and penal interest was added to the loans that came under it. This must be waived off completely.
2. Repayment of educational loans are now difficult due to unemployment crisis globally and domestically. Interests must be waived completely and repayment frozen till the crisis is over.
3. All the loans must have an option to reschedule it by increasing the loan period for repayment.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate action so as to help the farmers, small traders and students tide over this crisis.

(v) Regarding construction of a railway over bridge on Kulithalai-Manaparai road in Perambalur Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR (PERAMBALUR): Kulithalai and Manaparai towns are very popular in my constituency. Kulithalai town is a part of the fertile Cauvery delta region and agriculture is the major occupation. Manaparai is the headquarters of the Manaparai Taluk and famous for cattle market. Roadways are the major mode of transportation to Kulithalai and Manaparai towns.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that due to lack of Railway overbridge, public is facing a huge traffic problem when trains cross the particular area. Even though I have requested many a time to construct a Railway overbridge on Kulithatai - Manaparai road, it has not been acceded to.

Hence, I request the HON. Ministry of Railways through you sir, for the construction of a Railway overbridge on Kulithalai - Manaparai road.

(vi) Regarding grant of special category status to Andhra Pradesh

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH (KAKINADA): Post bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the newly formed State of Telangana and the Successor State of Andhra Pradesh have several bifurcation related issues that are yet to be resolved. The long pendency of these issues would not only force the States to endure a huge economic loss but would also have the potential to strain the relationship between the States. The bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh has caused immense hardship to the successor State of Andhra Pradesh. In recognition of the necessity to provide support to the State of Andhra Pradesh, commitments were made on the floor of the house at the time of passing of the AP Reorganization Bill, 2014. Further, important measures were contemplated under the Act to assist the successor State in strengthening its economy and State Finances. Even after seven years of bifurcation, the majority of the commitments remain unfulfilled and Andhra Pradesh continues to face immense economic hardships and deprivation. In this regard, grant of Special Category Status is a must for Andhra Pradesh.

(vii) Regarding remedial measures to control rise in prices of fertilizers

[Translation]

SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE (RAMTEK): Due to the Russia-Ukraine war, the prices of all fertilizers like - Muriate of Potash (MOP), Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Urea and their raw materials are rising sharply. In the case of fertilizers, and especially that of MOP, India's dependence on Russia and Belarus is

very high. India meets about 46 per cent of its MOP requirement by import from these two countries. As per international prices, the price of MOP for farmers is Rs 45,000 to 48,000 per ton. In such a situation, a huge increase in the subsidy is required to make fertilizers available to the farmers at a reasonable prices, otherwise, the prices will increase significantly. It is being speculated that farmers will have to bear heavy loss due to this problem.

The Government has cut the provisions of fertilizer subsidy in the budget for the financial year (2022-23) which is completely antagonistic to the current situation. The apprehension of price-rise of some deregulated fertilizers including DAP has increased. Therefore, the Government should take notice of this issue and address the problems well in time, otherwise, the farmers are likely to face problem.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motions on various issues by the following Members - Shri T.N. Prathapan, Shri B. Manickam Tagore, Mr. Benny Behanan, Kumari Ramya Haridas, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Shri Nama Nageswara Rao, I have not allowed any notice of adjournment motion.

[English]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Sir, the prices of petrol and diesel were hiked for the third time in a week yesterday. We do not know how many more hikes await the people of India, and the people of India have just returned from Omicron induced lockdown. They want an environment where they can do their business, but

all these price hikes increase the cost of business, especially of transportation, and this will lead to inflation. Inflation is already at seven per cent. The prices of all commodities will be increasing. So, we want this Government to give a reply why for 137 days they managed to keep the prices stable, and now after the elections are over, they are increasing the prices. ... (*Interruptions*) So, we want the status quo to be maintained ... (*Interruptions*). If for 137 days they could keep the price stable, why can they not do it now when the country is reeling under inflation ... (*Interruptions*). They are just coming under COVID. ... (*Interruptions*). We want the Government to give us a specific reply on this issue. ... (*Interruptions*).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Nishikant Dubey.

....(*Interruptions*)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Speaker Sir, today, a very unfortunate incident happened in my constituency at 2 o'clock in the night. In our Sahibganj, Santhal Pargana, where a ship having, 18 trucks onboard sank in the river Ganges while passing through it...(*Interruptions*) The reason for raising this issue in the House is that not only about 100 people died there, but those trucks were also being ferried illegally. That ship was also being operated illegally....(*Interruptions*)

12.24 hrs

At this stage, Shri Manish Tewari, Shri T.R. Baalu and some other hon. Members left the House.

There is a rule for operation which says that such trucks and ships will not be run between sunset and sunrise. The Chief Minister of the State is a partner in that company, his PA is doing ...* and due to which this illegal activity keep going. Sand and gravels are being mined illegally and people are being killed there. As the carrying out business by the Chief Minister himself is against the constitution...(Interruptions) His Government should be dismissed and a CBI inquiry should be ordered to ascertain the reasons why these 100 people died? They were poor people, and protecting the poor is the constitutional right and the right of this Parliament. ... (Interruptions) This is what I want to tell this country through you.

[English]

SHRIMATI LOCKET CHATTERJEE (HOOGHLY): Thank you respected Speaker Sir, few days back a ghastly, barbaric incident took place in Birbhum's Rampurhat. About 10-15 women and children were locked inside their homes and the houses were set on fire. Women were charred to death. Chief Minister of the state visited the place yesterday and she is trying to gag people's mouth by paying money so that they do not speak out, so that the truth is never revealed. People of

* Not recorded.

the state had demanded CBI probe, and I thank Honourable High Court because the order of CBI inquiry has been passed by High Court today. I would request Chief Minister of Bengal that she should not challenge this verdict in the Supreme Court. People's money should not be wasted in challenging the CBI probe in Supreme Court. Thank you Sir.

12.28 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Alleged misbehaviour with the Member by Maharashtra Police

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA (AMRAVATI): Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to make a request to you.... *(Interruptions)* As a member of this House, I can beg for justice only from you. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please put up your points in brief.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA: Sir, being a Member of this House, I want to tell you how we were treated in Maharashtra during a protest held in the interest of farmers. We did not commit any crime, but we were taken to the commissioner's office by forcing us to sit in a police vehicle like a criminal, we were insulted by forcing us sit outside on the stairs, I was insulted and spoken rudely. I was treated badly. This is happening in Maharashtra..... *(Interruptions)*

A sculpture of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was set up on January 16 and the same was removed in the midnight of that day. About 100 to 150 policemen forcibly entered in my house. My old parents live in my house. In front of my young children, the policemen said that they got orders from their seniors. They said that if I don't follow their order, then I would be dragged out of there and put behind the bars.....
... *(Interruptions)* Those who are associated with us, were booked under Section 307 after being subjected to atrocities. Although, Ravi Rana, MLA was in Delhi, yet a

case under section 307 was registered against him. Two days ago, I heard a senior colleague taking the side of Aarti Singh. She was praised, it was said that one of her case had been transferred to Delhi. If they can take the side of a woman, I can also seek support being a woman and a Member of this House. I request you to take action against them. *(Interruptions)* This pen drive contains all the evidences, all the photos which you can examine. The way I was taken in a vehicle to the commissioner's office, action should be taken against that Commissioner of Police. The matter should be taken up by the CBI.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Education Minister, through you, about the new Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Constituency Kottarakkara, Kollam District. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government of Kerala has already transferred five acres of land to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and the temporary accommodation has also been handed over to the Kendriya Vidyalaya. ... *(Interruptions)* The Regional Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya has also inspected it along with the Central PWD officials. Every process is completed, but the Government of India has not sanctioned the project. ... *(Interruptions)*

12.29 hrs

At this stage, Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana came and sat on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: The people of my Constituency are waiting for this Kendriya Vidyalaya for the last ten years. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, that this Kendriya Vidyalaya must be made operational immediately. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Whatever issue the hon. Member has raised, we will bring it to the notice of the Ministry concerned. ... *(Interruptions)* Kindly let her take her seat. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: What about other issues? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : I am talking about her now. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Shri Gaurav Gogoi had also raised the issue of price rise. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : I would request her to kindly cooperate. ...
(Interruptions) I will bring it to the notice of the Ministry concerned. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: He has also raised a very important issue. ...
(Interruptions) Why are you not responding to it? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item 16, Finance Bill, 2022

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, would you like to say something?

[English]

12.30 hrs

FINANCE BILL, 2022

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I beg to move* :

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

“That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2022-23 be taken into consideration.”

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2022-23 be taken into consideration.”

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA): Sir, the Honorable Member is sitting. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Well, you have not been asked to advocate for the Hon. Member. This is wrong, you are a senior Minister, please does not talk like this.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.30 ½ hrs

At this stage, Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana went back to her seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gaurav Gogoi Ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Finance Bill 2022, which is a Money Bill, in which there are sections which are related to direct tax, indirect tax, customs duties. But before I speak on these, we must understand the context in which we are today.

12.31 hrs

(Shri N. K. Premachandran *in the Chair*)

Today, after repeated COVID-induced lockdowns, the country is recovering but the recovery is unequal. The gap between the poor and the rich has only increased. The gap between the haves and have-nots has increased. The Government promised a V-shape recovery but instead we are seeing a K-shaped recovery.

This is extremely disappointing and is of extreme concern because already we had seen that the inequality in this country is increasing. Today, the top ten per cent earn 20 times more than the bottom 50 per cent. While the top ten per cent and the top one per cent hold respectively 57 per cent and 22 per cent of the total national income, the bottom 50 per cent's share has gone down to 13 per cent. ...

(*Interruptions*)

There are enough examples in world history where countries are experiencing inflation, witnessing record unemployment and are seeing record inequality. It creates a lot of frustration and anxiety among the people, especially among the young people. Therefore, we must have that concern foremost on our mind. In terms of our

economic outlook, in terms of social justice, are we on a strong bearing or whether our foundation is crumbling slowly and slowly? Crumbling under what? Crumbling under the weight of jingoism because jingoism is the only answer and the antidote that this Government is giving to the people of India. There is record unemployment, but don't worry, our supreme leader is there. Prices are rising, jingoism is the only antidote that this Government is offering to the poor. Whether there is record unemployment, whether there is high inequality, whether there is inflation, people are expected to put all their faith in their leader despite the fact that their backs are crumbling under this economic pressure. We just mentioned earlier that the fuel prices are being increased for the third time in one week.

This is the country which has just emerged out of the third lockdown; they need the chance to breathe, they need the chance to conduct their businesses in a free and fair atmosphere, not always under the burden of high inflation and high fuel prices. It is a bit ironic as to the answer that this Government or its ecosystem or its spokespersons are giving on fuel prices. They are saying that the rise in fuel prices have to or bound to happen. Why? It is because there is a conflict in Ukraine.

Sir, I remember, when the hon. Prime Minister, Modi ji, spoke during the last speech that he made, he referred to Pandit Nehru saying, "can you imagine that Pandit Nehru once blamed the international conflict happening in a different part of the world for the economic problems of India" and he smirked when he made that remark. Now, what is happening today? Is the hon. Prime Minister Modi not making the same argument today that because of Ukraine, we have no choice but to increase the fuel prices?

There are two counters. The Ukraine conflict did not happen last week or three days ago. The conflict between Ukraine, U.S., European Union and Russia has been going on since December. Russian troops were on the border of Ukraine since December. It has been more than a month since military escalation has happened. For a month, the Government could keep the prices stable. What has changed now? What has changed! For one last month, since the beginning of the conflict, since the beginning of Russian troops coming to the Ukraine's border, since the beginning of the bombardment, since the beginning of Ukrainian refugees fleeing to different parts of Europe, you had not increased the prices. Why now? Is it just because elections are over? That is how you repay the people who put their faith in you. I congratulate you on this stupendous victory but that does not mean that you take people's vote for granted. That does not mean that you get a remit to continuously put more and more burden on the poor, middle class and unemployed people. Sir, therefore, I feel that while we talk about the Finance Bill and the taxes, they are extremely important. We must talk about it.

Now, I do not want to be only critical of this Government. There are certain measures in the Finance Bill which we welcome. They have given tax exemption for amounts related to COVID-19 and medical treatment.

We welcome that. They have said that they have identified under Section 37 that the IT Act allows for certain expenditure which is incurred for the purposes of business except where the expenditure is incurred for purposes that qualifies as an offence or is prohibited by law. Now, in this Finance Bill, they have ensured that the expenditure incurred on travel, hospitality and conferences will no longer be exempted. They will also be taxed. That is a welcome step. There might be resistance from the pharmaceutical industry but I hope that the Government in its sagacity will

manage to tackle the pharmaceutical industry because we all know there are a lot of examples in the world that how big pharma companies push certain procedures and certain medicines through doctors and in the end, the financial burden comes on the poor. So, there is enough evidence and I welcome this step.

At the same time, there are certain steps which need more clarity. On, virtual digital assets, they have introduced a tax of 30 per cent. At the same time, while this measure is intended to disincentivise and discourage people from trading, occupying or holding cryptocurrencies or NFTs, the Government still is sending out mixed signals. The Government should send out a very clear signal. How are you going to define crypto? Is it an asset? Is it a currency? Is it something that can be speculative? We are waiting for the legislation and for the clarity to come. Why it is important for the clarity to come sooner rather than later because so many people in India are trading in cryptocurrencies. So many exchanges have been set up and, normally, when there is an IT technology-based change that takes place, we welcome it and Indians are the first to welcome it, adopt and innovate it and they put an Indian context to it. Therefore, already, there are record volumes of crypto-based transactions. Already, a lot of young IT engineers are involved in this.

While the Government is inputting a 30 per cent tax, while they are coming out with further and further clarifications that the losses cannot be offset, I appeal to the Government to have two approaches in mind. One approach should be that if they want to treat crypto as a sin, if they want to have a high tax on it, and if they want to eventually ban it, then they should be specific and have that. However, they should bear in mind that a lot of people would indulge in crypto and indulge in these operations in the darkness and all of these operations will go underground.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Gaurav ji, are you supporting crypto currency?

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: No, I am asking the Government to be clear, to have a clear approach, to have clarity. And I am asking them to come out with a policy sooner than later. At the same time, I hope the Government does not change its stand. I am just outlining the complexity of the issue.

There are parts of the world, there are even countries which have adopted crypto officially. Different countries have come out with regulations. Japan has one set of regulations; America has another set of regulations. So, the Government needs to have two approaches: (a) if there is a ban, what is going to be the approach so that crypto does not become the route for money laundering, illicit activities, drugs, or crime, and (b) if they do want to regulate it, then what are the lessons that we can learn from America, Japan and elsewhere? I rest it over here. Nonetheless, the point is that crypto is a risk at this moment.

Sir, crypto is not the only risk that is there in today's market. If you would see over the last two years, especially during the pandemic days, there have been a lot of new investors in the stock market. Many say that while people were sitting in their homes for two years, as a way to occupy themselves, as a way to counter the low interest rates from banks, a lot of middleclass people, a lot of women, a lot of young people, elderly people have rushed into the stock market. The stock market is not simple; it is complicated. It has its own rules; it has its own laws and principles. The Government must be concerned over this. Right now, there are so many commercials on YouTube of people selling their advice and encouraging people to invest in the stock market. There are a lot of new investors. That could be another bubble that is waiting to burst. Therefore, I would request the Government to take this matter also

into account. I have already mentioned inequality; I have already mentioned crypto; I have already mentioned the stock market.

Sir, one of the aims of this Government, or of any government, is to widen the tax base. We want more and more people to pay their taxes. There are certain clarifications which have come on direct tax, on AOPs and other things. But what we are seeing is an exodus of high-net-worth individuals. We know that most of the income under the income tax comes from the high-net-worth individuals. But we have seen that since 2019, 7000 high-net-worth individuals have left the country.

A report says that 23,000 dollar-millionaires have left India between 2014 and 2018. We should be worried. What is the ecosystem in India that is pushing some of our highest earners, most productive people who are heads of big enterprises and heads of big businesses out of the country? Why are they leaving the country? What is there in the ecosystem? Some have voiced their view that it is because of the fear that they feel. Some said that it is because of the unfair pressure that comes from various arms of this Government. I hope that this Government seriously introspects on this. That is not the reputation we want. A message should go to these people that whoever they are – they might be high net worth individuals, they might be salaried people – they will not be unduly harassed by the Government, they will not be unduly pressured by any extension of the Government.

I hope that the Government will take this into account. It will also take into account the fact that now, due to Ukraine, the inflation is assumed to rise to seven per cent. Various rating agencies have brought down the growth outlook. So, what is the plan of the Government now? The Government should come up with a clear White Paper as to how it will manage to ensure that our fiscal fundamentals or

financial fundamentals remain stable. That clarity must come out. It seems that every month, because of certain external factors, our growth outlook keeps changing, and the Government sometimes, I can say, is caught on its backfoot.

The Government, in this Finance Bill, has also brought some sector-specific amendments. It has brought amendments on handicrafts, apparels, leather and electronics. It has reduced the import duty on mobile phones. The import duty is also being reduced on certain chemicals, such as Sodium Cyanide, Methyl Alcohol, and Acetic Acid. The Government has also raised the customs duty on umbrellas to 21 per cent. Considering the high cost of steel, the anti-dumping duty on steel is also being revised.

Just on steel, because it is such an important sector, I do hope that the hon. Finance Minister in her reply would specifically state whether the anti-dumping duty, which is being revoked, is a temporary or a permanent measure. The prices of commodities, especially that of steel, are nonetheless high but, at some point, they are likely to come down as well. But if you keep having an unpredictable flip-flop policy on commodity by commodity, that sends out a very wrong signal.

The Customs Duty on gems and jewellery has also been reduced to five per cent. With regard to fuel, the Government wants to encourage blended fuel and, therefore, it is imposing an excise duty of Rs. 2 per litre on blended fuel. This is an important matter. I understand that by introducing blended fuel, the Government wants to reduce the overall expenditure. But this is not the way to do it. The kind of instrument that you are bringing in, that if you want to encourage blended fuel you will make unblended fuel, does not work. You have to create the ecosystem,

talk to the OMCs, petrochemicals, retail outlets, and pump outlets. There is a lot of resistance, because the supply chain has to be set up.

You may remember what happened with GST. There was a hasty implementation. Not taking into account the ecosystem, not orienting them, did more damage than benefit. Similarly, I advise this Government, as it is pushing the blended fuel, to take back the excise duty of Rs.2 per litre on unblended fuel.

This Government has brought out something on the SEZs, and I hope it would give us more details on that.

On GST, the position of our States is extremely doubtful, and extremely vulnerable. They rely a lot on the GST compensation. The timing of GST compensation has been extremely poor. It is completely at the hands of the Central Government. They release it when it suits them but that does not suit the State Governments. The State Governments have to pay salaries. They have to fund their social welfare schemes. They have to also put in money for development. The Government may say that there is a GST Council. There have been enough, both within and outside, views raised by the State Governments that the GST compensation has not been released adequately. It has not been released on time. Also, under the Act, the tenure for GST compensation is coming to an end.

The Government has extended exemptions, under this Bill, to start ups. You have extended exemptions to manufacturing companies by one more year. I would request the Government, taking into account the GST Council, to again extend the tenure for GST compensation by a year or two.

With regard to the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), there are some exemptions, that is, the income of a non-resident from off-shore derivative instruments, and the income from over-the-counter derivatives. Frankly speaking, Sir, the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) seems to be like a white elephant. This Government is trying to revive it and trying to push various things in order to make it alive. It is like giving those electric shocks to a patient that is already on its last breath or on its last leg. Since 2014, you have come up with so many initiatives to push IFSC. But what has happened? Nothing has happened. So, why do you not take the right lessons from it and instead of pushing more initiatives, understand that there could be other locations in India that are much more suitable for International Financial Services Centre? I am not asking you to shut it down. But I am asking you to think broadly and have an open mind. Think about the Western India, Southern India, and Eastern India -- whether it is Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru. If you want, you can have it in the North East, which has such a long international boundary. Be broader in your outlook.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I do not want to criticise this Government always. We must also put on record the things that the Government has done well and we appreciate the Government for the same. I have already talked about the COVID-related payments that have been exempted. Again, the Government has come up with insurance scheme payments for persons with disabilities. We welcome that also.

Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to give details on these two specific things. I come to GST. Time has also come to evaluate the GST. What was the volume of income that was collected as part of the Indirect Taxes pre-GST and comparing that with the post-GST era, what is the volume of revenue collected from the Indirect

Taxes? Does this Government have any data? Is it same? Has it decreased or has it increased? The Government should talk about it.

Secondly, corporate tax was reduced from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. No doubt, it had a hit on our revenue. But the Government's argument was that this will lead to more investments by corporates, which will, therefore, lead to more jobs. Has this Government done any study on this?

While the middle-class people of India -- who continuously vote and support this Government -- have got no relief, the corporates, on the other hand, have got relief of five per cent. Has the argument that corporates would invest more; would put in more factories; and would employ more, worked out? Has this Government done any study to show that more investment and jobs have been created?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Yes, Gogoi Ji, please conclude.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: I do not want to take too much of your time. I have talked about direct tax, indirect tax, corporate tax, GST, and SEZ, and I have also talked about customs. There are certain suggestions which have also come from chartered accountants, and various other agencies. I hope the Government will take those suggestions into account. At the same time, let me go back to where I started from. Fiscally, we are not in a good position. Our States are in debt. Our nation is in debt. Our borrowings have increased. Most of the payments are going into borrowings. Through its policies, this Government is pushing us further into debt. This is not a good sign. Already, there are a lot of other vulnerabilities also that I have talked about like crypto, and new and less-informed investors in the stock market. The debt and the fiscal position of our States are very important. I am sorry to say that the States have no other option than playing with excise-based income.

They are either extending the timings of wine and liquor shops or they are trying to increase the taxes. All the sovereign power of the States to raise revenue, has gone into the GST. So, fiscally, we are in a very bad position. Our hands are constrained. Time has come that this Government instead of using external factors to justify its moderate and conservative stance, uses the same risks to come up with a progressive and strong policy. That is what the UPA Government had done on various occasions. When the 2008-Global Financial Crisis hit, our growth did not take a hit like other countries. Our employment was not as bad as it is now. Similarly, in 1991, at the moment of crisis, the then Government under the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, our Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and all others, came together to give a new economic outlook and vision for our country, which had given us new middleclass and the economic muscle to call ourselves as an Asian power.

Therefore, I request this Government to emulate the UPA and use this moment of difficulty and crisis to have a bold vision and stop being cautious.

Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson sir, I would like to greet and thank the eminent Prime Minister of the country hon. Narendra Modi ji, hon. Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman ji, and hon. Minister Bhagwat Karad sahab for the manner in which they have shown their praiseworthy concern towards the villages, the poor, the peasants, the backwards, the labourers, the women and divyangjan even during this COVID crisis as mentioned by hon. Gaurav Gogoi sahab. This is because economies of all the countries, right from the U.S., the U.K.,

Europe to Srilanka and Singapore and our neighbouring country Bangladesh, are invariably in distress.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, it is a democratic country. A difficult situation is prevailing in this country. On the one hand, there was a serious problem of delivering food because employment opportunities for the people were naturally reducing. The spending power of the people was getting reduced. On the other hand, the middle class was worried about these things. To provide relief to the middle class due to the increasing prices of petroleum all over the world, was a big challenge in view of unfolding of Ukraine crisis and the problems emerging due to it. To set up new industries and provide facilities to the industrialists is very complicated in these days. This is such a large country where there are some people who do not have anything to eat, while there are others who have to protect their households and dignity. There are some other people who generate employments. Hon. Prime Minister certainly deserves praise for bringing this Finance Bill by making balance between these three.

Sir, there is a saying - "*Bura jo dekhana main chala, bura naa miliyaa koi Jo dil khojaa aapnaa, Mujhse bura naa koi.*" I anticipate that our friends from Congress Party and all people from opposition who are going to speak, will certainly speak on the price rise of petrol. They will speak about inflation, about prices of petrol and then ask what this BJP Government or our Government which is in office since seven years is doing? What can you do even if you are in office for seven years? But sir, what can we do? We will have to point out about the legacies left by you. You left office leaving behind debt. What can we do if you want to improve your position by taking debt. Sir, today I have brought the papers along. These are the papers related to the reply given by the hon. Minister of Petroleum on the floor of the House. The

Government led by Atal ji fell in the year 2004. They ran a very good Government consisting only of economists from the year 2004 to 2014. People say that educated people run the Government, economists run the Government. On our side, it happens that there is less of a talent pool, there is talent crunch. Sir, all the talented people happened to be in UPA and we respect them much. Hon. Manmohan Singh ji is a great economist.

That Government included Rangarajan sahab, Kaushik sahab, Montek Singh Ahluwalia sahab, all the economists of the world you can think of and all the teachers of the world including those of Clinton and Trump were in India only. Sir, when the prices of Petroleum started rising, they devised a very good way out i.e. deferring the price rise for the moment as they knew that Congress Party was going to be routed and they were not going to return to power again. And the people coming to power should be forced to face such circumstances where they do not get any way out, and thus become unpopular. They did not know that such a strong Prime Minister would come in power who will earn the faith of all the 130 crore people of the country and Bhartiya Janata Party will again win the elections by retaining their faith.

13.00 hrs

Sir, they issued Oil Bonds for approximately Rs. 1,44,000 crore for which the interest rates were from 6.35 percent to 8.4 percent. The poor today do not get more than four or five percent of interest rates on their deposits in banks. As a labour leader, you can see for yourself that the Government is forced to lower the interest rates for the EPFO employees from 8.5 percent because our banking system is not able to sustain in the global market. Without any thought, the UPA people with all

economists included issued oil bonds for Rs. 1,44,000 crores. You have to understand that under these circumstances, the liability to return became due in 2014 because returning it is a commitment of the Government of India, a sovereign guarantee. We took Rs. 1,44,000 crores and we have to return Rs. 3,22,000 crores. There have been constant talks that this is Adani's Government and Ambani's Government. All this always goes on. When Congress was in power, we also used to shout from the other side that this is Tata's Government, Birla's Government. We do not have any problem; I have listened to the debate discussions since the year 1952 but to whom are you going to pay this amount of Rs. 3,22,000 crores for the Oil Bonds of Rs. 1,44,000 crore? Have you ever taken note of it? All big businessmen with networth more than Rs. 5,000 crores, have invested in this Oil Bond. This is my straightforward question, let it be Adani's Government during Congress' rule or Bhartiya Janata Party's rule. All of us are making efforts towards that.

Sir, the crude oil prices in global markets have surged from 130 dollar to 139 dollar per barrel after Ukraine crisis. What should we do? Should we also pretend like you? Should we also leave the coming generation to beg on roads? Our Prime Minister does not want this. Our Prime Minister would like to inform the country about the situation and tell that in this situation, the inflation and prices of petrol and LPG are going to rise. The politics for votes is different from the politics for the country.

Father of Gaurav Gogoi, who was speaking today, was the Chief Minister of Assam for fifteen years. Why is the State in such a situation? When you start distributing someone free electricity, free houses, free investments and monthly cash allowance, are you going to run a Government of freebies? Then you expect the

Union Government to help you out. This is the state of affairs. What is our Prime Minister saying? You are talking about lending of Oil Bonds. Hon. Prime Minister is suggesting blending twenty percent ethanol in petroleum products. The UPA Government wanted to blend five percent. When we came to power, we spoke about ten percent and today, when we are talking about twenty percent we want to end our dependence on oil import. The other day, hon. Nitin Gadkari sahab was mentioning that we will promote Electric Vehicles, E.V. Charged Vehicles or Hydrogen driven vehicles which is going to happen in the country.

Sir, I would like to mention that Yashwantrao Chavan was a very great leader. Hon. Supriya ji is present in the House. Yashwantrao Chavan Centre is where their party office is situated. Whenever he spoke in the House, the only thing he used to mention was that he was such a Minister of Finance who needed foodgrains to feed the people of the country and he needed to import the foodgrains. At present, our Government has exported foodgrains to the tune of 50 Billion as mentioned the other day by hon. Piyush Goyal sahab. Our country which was importing earlier is exporting now. I do not say that no Government performed but this export has reached to the level of 50 Billion. Our dependence on food grains subsidy which used to be a part of the Budget has ended now and we are feeding the world now.

In the same way, we plan to end our dependence on petrol and diesel by switching to hydrogen, switching to electricity as the entire train traction is going towards electrification today. Now, all the trains will run on electricity. If this situation is achieved, then the question of petrol price rise, diesel price rise, inflation will never arise. What are you doing? Gaurav ji, what are you doing? I have come with the full report of your Government, the Government of the Opposition. You talk a lot about VAT and excise duty, you show concern about the public, why don't

you bring petroleum products under GST? We say, the Government of India is constantly saying that you bring it under GST, so that there is parity. Your Government also wants to provide benefits to the poor and so does our Government. But, you are not concerned for the poor and the farmers, you only want to do politics.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, there is 30% VAT in your home State Kerala. In Karnataka it was 30%, which our Government reduced to 18%. There is Government of the opposition party in Andhra Pradesh, where it is 36 percent. Maharashtra, where oil is produced, performs a very well.

There it is 39.12 percent. If the prices of petrol and diesel are the highest anywhere, then it is in Maharashtra. You have a Government in Rajasthan, there is 31 percent VAT. Delhi, where we are, here VAT is 27 percent. Then, how can they say that inflation is increasing.

Sir, I would like to say that, today, a nation wise perception is made that we are increasing the prices of petrol and diesel, this notion should be put to an end.

13.07 hrs

(Shri Kodikunnil Suresh in the Chair)

Secondly, now let me go ahead, so far we have given Rs 40,000 crore for interest in oil bonds. Everything has been given to Ambani-Adani ji only, what to do? One day you will reply in RTI and say that we have given it to Ambani-Adani. You will not agree that you had ruined this country and we all have to bear the brunt of it.

Sir, there is a second big question in this Budget, incidentally Mr. Udasi is sitting here. We have done a lot of modification in Charitable Trust rules. C & AG report was released in the year 2014. Yesterday I was talking with my son on the matter of Charitable Trust. He told me that he thinks that it is better to form a

charitable trust or to build a temple-math somewhere or to become a Maulvi or to become a pandit than to study and write. You cannot imagine the corruption that is going on in this field. In the year 2014, C&AG report came. The report raised a big question mark that about running a hospital, running an educational institute, most of the things that were going on, because here we take a lot of pride that we have so many medical seats, engineering seats and so many medical facilities. Karad sir, the state you come from, there is no such big shot, businessman or politician in Maharashtra, who does not own an educational institute there. The C&AG report said that there are so many flaws. Even there is a big company, which I do not want to name. In the name of education, the one who progressed from my State, because of my State they are giving money to Mumbai today. They did not built a single institute there. There is not a single institute there. They did not build a single good hospital there. But, they gave about 3000 crore rupees to Harward, Oxford and Brown from this country. Sir, Tata Trust has given the amount. Why didn't these people question them? I demand from the Government of India that from the year 2004 to 2014, how many politicians are there in that Tata Trust, including the politicians of Bharatiya Janata Party, how many such politicians are there, whose children Tata Trust taught by giving scholarship? How many such bureaucrats are there, whose children they taught by giving scholarship? How many such journalists are there, whose children they taught by giving scholarship? Without the permission of RBI, despite the CAG report, they allowed the charitable trust to grow. Today the education of the children is not proper. You talk about the State. The State provides them land at a concessional rate. The State gives them space to build a hospital. They didn't take any action on it. Where I was staying, Udasi ji and I were Members of that committee, and we said that nothing would happen and prepared a proper report of PAC. If anyone has to be controlled, if the NGOs that have mushroomed, have to

be controlled then first, all the Charitable Trusts have to be controlled. I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister that if they have plugged any loopholes in this Budget, then they have plugged the loopholes of charitable trusts. They have done all the amendments.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, there is a lot of noise about black money. This is my favorite subject. In the year 2011, my seat number was 545, which is the last seat. 545 is the strength of this Lok Sabha and my seat number was 545. Arjun Meghwal ji, Udasi sir and I all used to sit together. While giving a speech from there, I said that there are three MPs of the UPA Government, whose accounts were in the Liechtenstein Bank. I had disclosed it on this floor of the House. At that time the Finance Minister here was hon. Pranab Mukherjee, who later became the President of India, he did not respond to that. There was also a Congress Minister in it. Harsh Raghuvanshi ji filed a PIL in the Supreme Court on my speech. That case of PIL was fought by Shanti Bhushan ji and Ram Jethmalani ji. Ram Jethmalani ji is now no more. Shanti Bhushan ji's contribution was so much only that he fought the PIL case on my speech. When there is no answer in the Lok Sabha, then the Supreme Court will see. That case continued in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said in the year 2012 to form an SIT on black money. From the year 2012 to the year 2014, the UPA Government did nothing because it had to save the corrupt people. This is the reason behind the plight of the Congress party today. They have no work to do for the country. They sat on the report for two years. When Hon. Modi ji took oath on 27th May, first of all he constituted the SIT in the cabinet, as per the order of the Supreme Court. Today, let me tell you that this Government has brought a major amendment in Section 68 for cash transactions. Why has they brought this? Be it Hasan Ali's case or Kashinath Taporias case, lakhs and lakhs of crores of rupees kept going through cash transaction hawala only. There is no one to take care

of this all. Hasan Ali's money is gone, Kashinath Taporla's case is gone. Even today, the complete account of how much money went through hawala is not available. In the work that we have been doing for the last seven-eight years, we have said that you cannot do more than Rs. two lakh of cash transactions. There was a huge uproar on this. The entire gems and jewelery industry came on the road. Everyone said that the Bharatiya Janata Party had made its voters angry.

Many of our MPs also kept urging the hon. Prime Minister that the Baniya class, which is our voter, may get angry. Our Prime Minister said that whoever wants to be angry let them be, we do not do politics of votes, we do politics of this country. We have to do clean politics, and today we have become successful.

Sir, we have brought this amendment in Section 68 that if you give cash to someone and take equity in a company, then you will have to tell the source of the money? Are we not working on black money? ...*(Interruptions)* I wanted Revanth Reddy ji to speak. I know that adhjal gagri chalkat jaye. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, there is a couplet by Kabir,

"Aisi vaani boliye, maan ka aapa khoye,
Auran ko sheetal kare, aaphun sheetal hoye."

I used to think that I would be able to say nice things easily. In this very Parliament, I had said that black money is a big problem. What is the reason behind it? How much money came back from Switzerland? By the year 2012-13, they had come to know that now this Government is not going to come back at any cost, so what did they do? They made double agreement taxation avoidance agreement with Switzerland and said in it that they will disclose you. They signed FATCA with America. They signed an agreement with Switzerland in the year 2021, saying that it would come into effect from the year 2016 because they knew that they would not

be in the Government. Then you would tell us that which of our people have accounts there.

Sir, you tell us that the money that has been stolen from your country in four years, will that person wait for you? A hunter will come and set a trap, don't get trapped in it. Sir, will a person who fled away with the money, wait for an action? Will he wait for an enforcement agency, a trap to be laid by agencies? No, nobody wants to get arrested. All the people who have ran away with the money in the last four years have converted their accounts into trust. The businessmen, who took away the money from here, looted the money of the Government of India and the banks, formed trusts, and the trustees of these trusts are the local men. If I start taking names of the people of India, then they will show the deposit are of the local people of that country. All the money has been diverted to trust by those people. After this, they claim that the money has not come from Switzerland. Someone else pays for other's deeds, this is the condition.

Sir, the third point is about crypto currency. Shiv Kumar Udasi was the first to raise this issue in the Standing Committee. We have been talking about this issue since the year 2012-13. Today discussion is going on about crypto currency, today we are talking about digital currency. How visionless these people were? We have been continuously talking about crypto-currency since 2012-2013. No Governor, be it Subbarao Sahab, Raghuram Sahab, Urjit Patel or the present Governor Shakti Kant Das who was the Secretary at that time, came and openly said that it is being operated from the dark net. The money from drug or from another form of hawala is coming in the form of crypto-currency, efforts should be made to curb it. The Standing Committee gave its report on this subject in year 2013.

We mentioned in that report that crypto currency or digital currency is an upcoming danger in the country and the world. The UPA Government was in power for one and a half year from the year 2013 to 2014. They did not pay any attention to it. Today they talk about a Bill. When will the Bill be introduced? The legality or illegality of crypto-currency is another question.

But, a peculiar situation has arisen in the whole world. Today if you want to do corruption, if you want to pay bribery to someone, then pay in crypto, if someone wants to buy drugs, then pay in crypto. The whole world is in trouble, the whole world is in trouble because of this. With respect to our present popular currency, we know how much currency has been printed, how much currency is there in this country, and the way in which the amount of that currency will be used for. The amount of import bill, and the amount of its export bill are also known. It is regulated by the Central Bank all over the world. But who is the owner of this crypto, it is not known till date. Different exchanges have been formed and the Government of India, RBI, Income Tax, all are concerned about the flow of money through such means. If I don't have 10-20 thousand rupees in my pocket, I don't sit in my car, I don't even go for a walk. But if my son has five thousand rupees, today's world has changed; he feels that that cash has become a burden.

People are moving towards cards and digital currency. The best thing the Government of India has done in this budget is that it has pushed RBI towards digital currency. As far as crypto currency is concerned, the loopholes that existed in crypto, which is about imposing 30% tax, whether it is loss, profit or 1% TDS, is a big step. If you see, in today's newspaper, the Economic Times has written on the front page that the entire crypto industry has been shaken by the Government of India. The way in which the Government of India is moving in this direction, crypto is likely to be

banned sooner or later. Digital currency is the future currency of the world and the Government of India is moving in that direction with its clear vision. So, I think we don't need to worry too much about digital currency. That way is going to be correct one.

Apart from this, the Government of India has given a big relief. This Government has given a very good relief to the poor, common people, women and children, who do not have their own CAs and have missed their accounting for some reason. Now, one can revise income tax return even after two years. This means one can correct it again. One will have to tell the truth about everything in order to get it corrected. If one doesn't tell the truth then one may fall in problems. A great work has been done to overcome these problems.

Another issue is very important and is to be understood by this Parliament. We always discuss in this Parliament that there is one for the poor; and another law for the rich.

It is a fact that the persons, who voted us for power, are the poor. Big businessmen have lobbyists. They run their own Ministry of Corporate Affairs and have lobbyists ready for them. But, when the Parliament passes the law, it is a matter of concern, because we discuss that the IBC Act has enacted just two years ago and fifty amendments have been added to it. We had drafted the Corporate Bill. The Company Act brought by the UPA Government was passed in the year 2013, had to be amended at least 20-25 times. Now, I have seen that many changes have been made in the Income Tax Act and the Custom Excise Act. For this, I want to thank the Government of India. Let me give an example of transfer pricing. In transfer pricing, a company sets up a subsidiary company to save its tax or for any other

reason and it receives money from the former. When it comes to commuting their taxes, then the decision varies. It gave a rise to a serious big problem and many litigation transfer pricing, I will finish my speech in just four or five minutes, such a big problem started happening that the judgment of Delhi High Court is different for some company, the judgment of Supreme Court is different for another company and The judgment of Mumbai High Court is different for any other company. I have come up with such ten cases. The problem became so serious that the officers in the Revenue Department Authority were baffled that which judgment should be taken as final? That is why we have brought a huge amendment in five or seven other things like transfer pricing.

Secondly, this Government has done another great thing. Suppose a court has settled an issue; and if a similar case is going on in the Revenue Department, then on the basis of the issue which has been settled by the High Court or the Supreme Court, that litigation has to be ended. You know we are moving from problem to solution. We are doing a great job. We are moving towards faceless procedure. The Government of India has done a great job in this direction.

In the same way, to promote industry, as our learned friend Gaurav Gogoi has talked about electronics, yesterday the hon. Minister had said that in the year 1995, I am telling you about the vision, about the leadership and its traits as well as shortcomings. WTO agreement was signed in the year 1995 and in the year 1996, Chidambaram saheb who was the competent Finance Minister then, I forgot to quote his name as the Finance Minister, he is more than efficient. I respect him very much. I used to read his article every week. I find myself happy after reading his article. The way he forced the country into this when he brought PMLA legislation, at that time I said that they had brought such a legislation as if even the quarrel takes place

between husband and wife, then they had to face imprisonment. I don't know whether the Goddess Saraswati heard me or not but my words became reality. I said that if someday you became the prey of same incident, you will be treated under the same law and the history proved that he and his family had to undergo imprisonment under that PMLA law. So, such type of law should be made which may be acceptable to all. Sir, what about electronics? In the year 1996 itself even that leadership didn't know that this country was going to have such a large market of mobile, computer, i-pad, electronic gadgets etc.

They finally fixed pricing. I have told you that women in this country care about gold and diamonds to the most and try to buy them but the imported electronic goods are nothing before them. Such an agreement has been signed that even the Prime Minister can do nothing to decrease import. What are they doing? They are trying to convince the telecom and IT departments by saying to do manufacturing here and facilities will provided to them. Similarly, as they have brought the PLI scheme and they are talking about providing facilities. This kind of work is being done by the Government of India. In this Budget also, whether it is the question of electronics, whether it is of gems or whether it is the question of jewellery, we have done it.

Finally, I would like to talk about GST. He said about GST that what is happening with that. You have taken all the power of the States. How is this cooperative federalism? Gather thistles and expect pickles? We didn't want to bring GST. It was your policy of GST in 2010-11. You had introduced GST Bill. There were many shortcomings in that. You had formed the Kelkar Committee, and Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee. You took all the power of the State through that. You have taken power, but we have to run this country, we have to take the

country forward. How can you expect us to withdraw the laws framed by you. Income tax was passed in 1961, can it be repeal? Sir, in this Budget, we have done this work by amending the GST that many people form separate companies to take input and output credit and those companies become a vanishing company after three, four or six months, and these companies closes down. And you keep groping in the dark as to what is happening in real. Because of this reason, we tried to amend these loopholes of the GST.

Today our revenue collection is of more than Rs. 1,30,000 crores which earlier used to be not more than of Rs. 1,00,000 crores. Hence, our Government has brought a big amendment in the GST. In the end, I would like to quote –

Shanai Pantha Shanai Kantha Shanai Parvatlangnam,

Dheere-dheere re mana, dheere sab kuch hoy.

I want to congratulate and thank the hon. Prime Minister of this country. I want to thank the Finance Minister for being concerned about the village, the poor, the farmers as well as the industry, the employment and his concern for the progress of this country. Also, she has shown a way to take our economy from 5 trillion to 10 Trillion. With this, I conclude. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nishikant ji, you have replied all the queries. I do not think, there is anything left for the Finance Minister to reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. SHANMUGA SUNDARAM (POLLACHI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I rise to oppose the Finance Bill 2022. At the outset, I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to our party leader, the ever-dynamic Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri M.K. Stalin for giving me this opportunity to put forth the representation of the people of Tamil Nadu in this august House.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, a state of widespread chaos already exists among the taxpayers of this nation due to this confusing dual-tax calculation regime. The Finance Minister has conveniently ignored the aspirations and problems faced by the taxpayers.

Ever since the fateful night of November 8 2016, the people of India have been continually suffering. This was aggravated by the hasty introduction of GST and moreover, the pandemic has massively deteriorated the financial situation of the people of India.

Except for the salaried class, the farmers and the poor have been hard hit due to the trifecta of mistakes. There have been no new tax reforms this year, which has been a long-standing demand of the taxpayers. How can you expect the people to spend when they have no income?

The Finance Bill, 2022 has failed to live up to the expectations of the taxpayers.

Hon. Chairperson, I come from a region that is often referred to as the Manchester of South India. The textile industry of Tirupur and Coimbatore are renowned across the world for the quality and craftsmanship of the textiles. The textile industry is now facing an existential threat due to the trifecta of mistakes by

this Government. The Government has not taken any concrete steps to address the concerns of the industry.

The withdrawal of basic customs duty concession and exemption on spindles, yarn guides, balloon control rings, technical textiles, woollen machinery items, non-woven textiles, denim fabrics, shuttle less looms, continuous polymerization plant, synthetic fibre plant, synthetic filament yarn plant, viscose staple fibre plant, lyocell fibre plant, yarn drying machines, knitting machine and spare parts, extruding machine, drawing machine, texturing machine, spinning machine, twisting machine, winding machine, weaving machine, knitting machine, and auxiliary machine will have a negative impact on lakhs of people associated with the textile industry.

Instead of a mere token reduction of customs duty, I call upon the Government to exempt cotton, cotton fibres, synthetic fibres and textile materials from customs duty for the next five years to boost the industry.

The withdrawal of basic customs duty concession on Specific agricultural implements and parts used for their manufacture including paddy transplanter, sugarcane harvester, cotton picker will affect the farmers who are still waiting for your long-standing promise of doubling of farmer's income by 2022.

Hon. Chairperson, Pollachi region is well known for its tender coconuts and coconut by-products. A 20% export duty on coir by-products like floor coverings will adversely affect the coir industry. Hence it should be withdrawn immediately and the Government should take steps to promote the coir industry.

The imposition of 100% customs duty on edible oils will have a domino effect on the prices of other essentials. The oil mills of Pollachi Constituency are already

suffering due to the 18% GST on Coconut Oil containers with less than 1 litre quantity and 5% GST on containers with more than 1 litre quantity. I call upon the Government to remove this GST and boost the livelihood of coconut farmers.

The prices of edible oils have already increased up to 45% in recent days due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. This hasty decision of imposing 100% customs duty on edible oils will affect the common man.

The imposition of an additional Rs. 2 excise duty on Petrol and Diesel will also lead to inflation along with the increase in prices of edible oils. The Government should also grant exemption to the defence and semiconductor sector so as to boost the planned indigenous semiconductor sector and the planned defence corridors.

To sum up, Hon. Chairperson Sir, this Bill has ignored not only the taxpayers but also the common man. The Government of India should heed the advice of The Great Tamil Poet Thiruvalluvar who, in his Magnum Opus Thirukkural, says:

“Araneenum Inpamum Eenum Thirananarindhu
Theedhindri Vandha Porul”

It means that only the wealth acquired with the knowledge of proper means and without foul practices will yield to virtue and happiness. The Government should keep in mind the aspirations of the citizens and should take policy decisions accordingly. With this, I conclude.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY (BANERJEE) (BIRBHUM): Sir, Nishikant Dubey ji started his speech by telling what the opposition would say. Opposition also knows that they would say BJP is good and Congress is bad.

[English]

Sir, coming to the Finance Bill, 2022, every year the Central Government introduces the Finance Bill along with other documents of the Union Budget. The Finance Bill is brought to seek the Legislature's approval for giving effect to the various tax proposals, including direct and indirect taxes, of the Central Government. These documents discuss the key provisions that are part of the Finance Bill, 2022.

Now, I come to the main tax proposals in the Finance Bill. First is rationalisation of surcharge. The Budget noted that there are several work contracts that require the formation of a consortium. The members in such consortiums are usually companies. Such consortiums or association of persons are subjected to a graded surcharge of up to 37 per cent on their income. Please note that the surcharge on domestic companies with income between Rs.1 crore and Rs 10 crore is seven per cent while for those with income above Rs 10 crore is 12 per cent.

The Budget proposes to cap the surcharge levied on the income of consortiums or association of persons at 15 per cent. Also, the long-term capital gains tax on listed equity shares is subject to a maximum surcharge of 15 per cent. However, other long-term capital gains tax is subjected to a graded surcharge up to 37 per cent. It has been proposed to cap the surcharge on long-term capital gains from transfer of any type of asset at 15 per cent.

Next, I come to the strategic disinvestment of Public Sector Companies. According to Section 79 the Income Tax Act, 1961, in case of change in the shareholding of a company in the previous year, any loss incurred prior to the previous year cannot be set off against the income of the previous year. This is applicable for companies where the public does not have a substantial interest. The Finance Bill, 2022 seeks to amend the Income Tax Act to provide that Section 79 will not apply to an erstwhile Public Sector Company. However, the holding company of the erstwhile Public Sector Company must continue to hold at least 51 per cent of the voting power immediately after the strategic disinvestment.

Now I come to tax on virtual digital assets. Virtual digital assets have gained popularity, and the volume of trading in such assets has substantially increased. In addition, a market is developing where payment for transferring virtual digital assets can be made through another such virtual digital assets. The Finance Bill proposes to tax any income from transfer of virtual digital assets at 30 per cent. No deduction related to any expenditure or allowance or setoff of any loss will be permitted while computing the income from transfer of such assets. Moreover, any loss from transfer of virtual digital asset will not be allowed to be set off against income under “any other provisions of the Income Tax Act”. Such losses will also not be allowed to be carried forward to subsequent assessment years. The proposed amendment will come into effect from April 1, 2023.

Please note that the Central Government has circulated certain amendments to the Finance Bill. The proposed amendments drop the word “other” from the clause, “any other provisions” regarding setting off of losses, as stated above. This may imply that the loss from virtual digital assets cannot be set off against the gains in such assets as well.

Sir, taxpayers will be permitted to file an updated return on Income Tax within two years of the Assessment Year. They will have to pay 25 per cent penalty on tax, and interest due, if it is filed in the year after the Assessment Year, and 50 per cent penalty in the second year.

Co-operative societies have to pay Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) at 18.5 per cent rate. It may be noted that the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 reduced the minimum Alternate Tax Rate payable by companies at 15 per cent. To provide parity between co-operative societies and companies, it has been proposed to reduce the AMT rate to 15 per cent at which co-operative societies pay Income Tax. These amendments will be applicable from April 1, 2023.

The Finance Bill also proposes to change the Customs Duty on a number of items. For example, the current Customs Duty on microbial fats and oils and their fractions is 30 per cent whereas the new Customs Duty will be 100 per cent.

Similarly, the current Customs Duty on umbrella is 10 per cent and the new Customs Duty will be 20 per cent; on imitation jewellery, current Customs Duty is 20 per cent whereas the new Customs Duty will be 20 per cent or Rs.400 per kilogram, whichever is higher. The current Customs Duty on single or multiple loudspeakers as well as headphones and earphones is 15 per cent, but the new Customs Duty on these items will be 20 per cent. On smart meters, current Customs Duty is 15 per cent and the new Customs Duty will be 25 per cent. The current Customs Duty on both solar cells and solar modules is 20 per cent, and the new Customs Duty will be 25 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.

There are certain non-tax proposals in the Finance Bill also. The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 is being amended to enable RBI to issue its digital currency.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that what is the amendment, what bills get introduced, what is finance bill, many poor people of the country do not know anything. They are not even interested to know that what is being discussed in the Parliament. They have only one question which is when and how the prices of Petrol, Diesel and Gas cylinders will be reduced? They only want to know, when this will happen, they are not interested in this discussion neither they want all this. This is useless for them. Sir, I have only one question to the Minister – no matter how they blame Congress but praise BJP, we are not interested in that. We also have the same question that when will these prices be reduced? When, when, when? Thank you.

[English]

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Thank you, Sir. We have reached the last leg of the process of Union Budget 2022-23 and I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill.

Sir, there is a perceptible change in the global economic scenario since presentation of the Budget due to Russia-Ukraine armed conflict. India cannot insulate itself from these developments, and hence we have to relook at the Budget proposals, recalibrate our forecasts and the House would not get a better opportunity than the Finance Bill to discuss all these.

Sir, before I start making my submissions, I would like to compliment hon. Finance Minister, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Government for showing outstanding performance and growth in our exports this Financial Year. We have touched, for the first time ever, exports worth 400 billion dollars in this

Financial Year when compared to 292 billion dollars in 2020-21. So, I take this opportunity to compliment the Government for this achievement.

In view of the paucity of time, let me start with the issues related to my state. My first point is regarding the Capital city of Amaravati, which falls in my Parliamentary Constituency. Nobody can dispute that it is the prerogative of the Assembly to make laws. But, at the same time, it is not just the Assembly but even the Parliament cannot make laws which violate the Constitution, because Constitution is supreme, and not the legislature. So, since the hon. High Court has also made it clear that Amaravati will remain the capital of Andhra Pradesh, I urge the hon. Prime Minister, who committed to the farmers of Amaravati and to the people of Andhra Pradesh the Central Government's support to develop Amaravati as a world class city, to bring an amendment to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act and insert a provision indicating that Amaravati is and will remain the only capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, the next point is that I am greatly disappointed that the hon. Finance Minister has not allocated much for the development of Amravati. I understand that only a few lakhs of rupees have been given by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It is pertinent to mention here that the High Court of Andhra Pradesh has directed the Government of Andhra Pradesh to construct and develop Amravati capital city and the capital region as per the approved Master Plan and within six months as agreed under the APCRDA Act.

Since the Government of Andhra Pradesh's coffers have become empty and it is not in a position to take up any work, I urge you for allocating sufficient funds to restart the development of the new capital Amaravati.

Sir, the Finance Minister is aware of the agitation going on at RINL Vizag Steel Plant since the announcement of privatization of this plant. There was a question in this very House on Monday on RINL and my friend, Mr. Ram Mohan Naidu, had raised it. We are not happy with the reply given by Steel Minister. Sir, hon. Steel Minister says that RINL was incurring losses. Sir, he should understand that RINL was incurring losses due to the loan it has taken for restructuring and to purchase ore. Had iron ore mine been allocated, RINL would not have resorted to Rs. 22,000 crore loan at 14 per cent interest and incurred losses. On the other hand, Minister is saying that SAIL is earning profits. It is earning profits because it has 10 mines whereas you have not given even a single mine to RINL. You give mines to Vizag Steel Plant and see how it will surpass SAIL. So, do not privatize it; instead, allocate mines and see how the hard-working workers of RINL will bring profits. So, I once again appeal to you to kindly allot mines to it and do not privatize. As an alternative, you can convert its debt into equity.

Sir, Polavaram project's revised cost estimates were approved by Government of India itself and put at Rs. 55,656 crore. This is now before the Finance Ministry. So, I request the Finance Minister to approve this so that the progress of work is not hindered and R&R can be taken up at the earliest.

Sir, on the issue of resource gap, there is a difference of opinion between the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of India. I understand that a team of officials from Government of Andhra Pradesh met officials of Government of India last month and discussed various issues and this issue was also one among them. The Government of India has given Rs. 4,117 crores out of Rs. 22,948 crore put forward by Government of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, even if you look at the C&AG

audit, it approved Rs. 16,078 crore as resource gap. So, I request you to kindly thrash it out and pay this amount to Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, now I come to the national issues. The *Economic Survey* projects the GDP growth for 2022-23 between 8 per cent and 8.5 per cent. Recently, RBI projected 7.8 per cent growth. But the reverberations of war and geopolitical scenario around the Russia-Ukraine conflict are being felt. Looking at USA and NATO's deployment of jets and nearly 30,000 troops in Norway and carrying out war exercises, I feel, it further will tilt the balance of risks downwards.

It is a tough scenario for a country like India. So, I would just like to know whether any fresh assessment has been made about the growth in the light of latest developments by the Finance Ministry. It may kindly be explained when the Finance Minister responds. Will there be any change in the forecast to GDP growth this year due to war and other geopolitical risks that we are facing.

Sir, as I said in the beginning, we have achieved record exports of 400 billion USD in the current fiscal. But in spite of this, if you look at the trade deficit, it also shot up to 21.2 billion dollars in February and is expected to go much beyond, this month. Also, the current account deficit could be around 2.6 or 2.7 per cent of GDP compared to this year's 1.7 per cent and is much higher than the average CAD of 1.1 per cent between 2014 and 2021. Hon. Finance Minister is very well aware that if there is 10 per cent rise in crude prices, CAD would widen by nearly 30 basis points and the Ministry has assumed average crude price of USD 75 at the time of presenting the Budget, but now if we look at the current price, it is well beyond that. So, some calibration needs to be made even on this account.

The next point is about inflation. Now inflation is hovering around six per cent. The US is seeing an inflation of nearly eight per cent which is the highest that country has seen in more than 40 years. I hope our inflation is manageable. If crude prices go up beyond USD 100 and stay for a reasonable period of time, which appears to be possible by the way US and NATO are moving forward in their approach, it will be a cause of concern. I agree that it is a tight rope walk looking at India importing 85 per cent of its oil and 50 per cent of its gas requirements. And, we are already feeling the pinch of inflation with rising prices of essential commodities, more particularly after increase in the price of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

I will now make some quick points. The investment of our oil PSUs such as IOC, OVL, etc., in Russia is to the tune of, I think, about USD 16 billion. Our companies have invested in Rosneft, Sakhalin, Vostok, Vankorneft, etc. Shell, Exxon, Mobil and Equinor are exiting from Russia, and British Petroleum has already announced its exit from Russia. So, what would be the fate of our investments in Russia may kindly be explained.

Sir, drivers of Gati Shakti include railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways, and logistics infrastructure. Due to time constraint, I will just touch upon a couple of points. Gati Shakti is highlighting the importance and need for a quality multi-modal transport since the cost of average logistics and transportation in India is around 14 per cent when compared to the global average of around 7-8 per cent. I hope that Gati Shakti will help in achieving overall cost competitiveness.

The Finance Minister has set a target of 25,000 kilometres of National Highways for 2022-23. I was just going through the construction of National

Highways during the last few years and found that the maximum per day construction is around 37 kilometres in 2020-21. And, if you calculate, it comes to 13,500 kilometres per year. Now, you have set a target to double the best achievement that we have till date. To achieve this, we have to construct 68 kilometres a day, which does not appear to be a realistic figure. I request the Finance Minister to explain how we would achieve this.

The Finance Minister also proposed 400 new Vande Bharat trains in the coming three years. At present, we have just two trains and each train costs around Rs. 100 crore as per the estimates of Railways. It means, for 400 trains, we need Rs. 40,000 crore in three years. And more than that, do we have the capacity to build 400 trains in three years? That also needs to be addressed. You are also proposing 100 cargo terminals, waterways, airports, etc. I have given just three examples. I have figures for all other drivers of Gati Shakti. But I will conclude by saying that the targets are too ambitious and not realistic. Let us have realistic, practical and achievable targets, rather than giving a rosy picture like disinvestment and be disappointed at the end of the day.

I will come to the final point now. War is terrible. I pray for quick and sustainable peace in Ukraine. India has taken a neutral position but there are certain impacts and outcomes that we must make note of, one of which is about wheat exports. Russia is the second largest and Ukraine is the fourth largest exporter of wheat. With conflict, no wheat is coming out of these countries and the price of wheat in the international market has also gone up to more than Rs. 2,600 per quintal from Rs. 2,000 per quintal just before the conflict started. The MSP is much higher than the existing MSP also, and this will help our farmers and traders.

Similarly, it is the case with mustard growers. The price is hovering around Rs. 6,600 per quintal, which is much higher than the MSP of Rs. 5,000 per quintal. We also have the advantage of exporting cotton since we are the leading cotton producers in the world. Finally, Russia has offered crude at discounted price to India. What is the volume and status of this offer? Whether the Finance Minister has given a go ahead to get oil from Russia at the discounted price? If so, naturally, it has to be insured and, if so, what would be the cost of insurance and how much cheaper would we get it. It should be clarified.

With these submissions, I wish to make a hope that we will escape from the impact of Russia-Ukraine conflict and expect to reach the goals set while presenting the Union Budget during the next fiscal year.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very important Bill. I appreciate that this is the most important part of the Bill. We have had a lot of very good discussions yesterday. I would like to start my speech with a line which I still remember because the hon. Member from the Treasury Bench has actually confused me. So, I am wondering what really the Treasury Bench is saying and what is the thinking of this Government.

I remember those days when we used to sit on that side, and Sushma Ji used to lead the debate from here. I still remember a remark used to be made, *[Translation]* there would be debates on inflation. *[English]* And after that, there was a tagline this Government came up with, *[Translation]* about which Meghwal ji, you will also remember “bahut hui mahangai ki maar, abki maar modi sarkar”. I will tell

you the truth [*English*] and I am not afraid to say this, my mother used to tell me [*Translation*] “Supriya, really! Now inflation is really high. This time they will vote you out. Be it any party, but the people of country are not in a good mood today.” Today I think about these words of my mother, because after many years, my mother has started saying the same thing. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): The inflation is in control now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Is it under control? ... (*Interruptions*) The cylinder costs Rs 1,000. ...(*Interruptions*) Meghwal Ji, see, please listen to women. ...(*Interruptions*) You people are in power because of these women. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I still remember. [*English*] What a wonderful scheme Ujjwala is! I support it. [*Translation*] When the Prime Minister said that you give subsidy, we happily gave subsidy. With the belief that we are saving the money of the homemakers of this country, so we will give them cylinders at a cheaper price. What was your chief speaker saying? They were saying that we are reducing the subsidy on oil. Let me first speak a little bit about inflation, because that is the biggest concern. My sister from Trinamool was right in speaking that things about Russia and Ukraine are being discussed here. Those things should also be discussed in Parliament, but you know how much inflation has happened in petrol and diesel today? How much has the price of eggs increased? Four rupees have increased. Do you know the price of the vegetable? Meghwal ji, when you go home, ask bhabhi ji about it. She might scold

you today. Don't feel bad, Holi is over now. Don't feel bad, bhabhi will be a little angry. Fuels such as petrol and diesel have become very expensive. They were talking about oil-bonds.

[English] I appreciate him talking about oil bonds. *[Translation]* Perhaps, we would have done a mistake. *[English]* But my point to this Government is *[Translation]* you were speaking against our subsidies, we didn't take oil bonds for ourselves. We took these oil bonds for the exploited, suffering, deprived people of this country and for the people who works hard.

Today, these people say very proudly every day that we are doing so much work through the welfare schemes of the Prime Minister. They are giving so much subsidy in fertilizers. That's a good thing, you must do it. If you will not do it for the poor of the country then who will do it for? *[English]* So, it is a very good thing which this Government is doing. But do not blame us *[Translation]* saying for whom did you take these oil bonds? That was for controlling the price. *[English]* I still remember Pranab Mukherjee speaking from here. He was one of the tallest leaders of this nation and a great Finance Minister. He used to tell us that if the price of crude oil was below Rs. 100, it would have been a game changer, *[Translation]* there would not have been that much inflation. Even yesterday, Piyush Goyal ji was saying that exports have increased in volume, but there is some inflation due to crude prices. If you sit this side, you will speak about the crude price and if you sit that side, you will speak about inflation? It should not be like this. I think the whole House should take steps in this regard. There is no point in a country considering itself inferior because of subsidies. If you don't do it for the poor, who will you do it for? If you don't do it for the underprivileged, then for whom?

[English]

So, I request this Government to take this inflation issue very, very seriously because this country has voted you that time only with trust and faith against all this.

Talking about oil, I am very confused about what he said. *[Translation]* He is very active on Twitter. I am asking for a little clarification that hon. Prime Minister, who is the Prime Minister of the country, not of the BJP, so we all have the right over him. I just want to ask him that he twitted two different tweets. In one, he said on January 27, 2019, which I quote here *[English]* -“Indian refinery industry has done well in establishing itself as a major player globally. India, which is the second largest oil refinery in Asia, is emerging as a refinery hub with refining more than its demand.” *[Translation]* This is what he wrote, I can quote it. *[English]* I can table it. Then he said on 27.2.2022: “We do not have oil refineries, we import crude oil... They (Opposition) never paid attention to it... Now, with the help of sugarcane, ethanol can be made, our Government is establishing a network of Ethanol plant.” We welcome that step. *[Translation]* We were also saying the same thing; which you are saying about Ethanol. There is nothing wrong in this. *[English]* But I feel sometimes that this Government is very, very confused in what they are saying.

I will give you the second example. *[Translation]* What he was saying, Dubey ji made a big comment. He spoke very well, actually, he always speaks well, he comes prepared after thorough study of the subject, and therefore, we also enjoy listening to him. We all learn from each other through good speeches. He spoke a lot about corruption and all such practices which are taking place in the country which is beyond my comprehension. He spoke about Tata Trusts and spoke a lot which is a

good thing. *[English]* Anybody who is going to clean up this system, we all unitedly stand in improving our system.

14.00 hrs

[Translation]

He raised a question about Tata Trust. I would just like to ask you something whether *[English]* Tata Trust is a holding company, which is run by the Tatas. I have great pride in the Tata Group because they come from my State. It is one of the best companies in the country. JRD Tata was the tallest leader who started Air India. *[Translation]* The reservation system which you brought, I am very confused because a big 'Tata' is visible from where we came to the Parliament House. They have got it. Thereafter, you also handed over Air India to Tata. Still you are questioning Tata Trust. I do not know, a lot of matters are being discussed about the children of many eminent persons. I do not want to talk about anyone's children right now. Kindly conduct an enquiry first. All authorities belong to you, on which I will speak later. *[English]* It was a very confusing signal for me. Then they came to crypto currency. I have to ask this Government this question. I have a slightly stronger opinion than my friend, Shri Gaurav Gogoi. Shri Nishikant ji also spoke very well about crypto, and I agree with him. *[Translation]* The RBI governors during your Government or the RBI governors in the intervening periods, Shri Meghwal Ji, everyone had the view that the Crypto Currency is not good for this country. If crypto is not good for the country, why are you not banning it? Ban what is wrong. Then why are you imposing 30% tax? When we ban tobacco that is harmful for all, then impose five hundred percent, not one hundred percent tax on cigarettes and gutkas. Crypto currency is like this and if it is not good, so where did the point of applying 30 percent come from? Nishikant ji is saying that the country is afraid. Do you think anyone would be afraid of paying 30% tax? No one is afraid.

Everything is going on in the darknet, you put an end to it. Either ban it completely or bring a complete clarity. *[English]* The Government has to have a vision on crypto. Your Committee only is saying that it is bad. *[Translation]* The speaking members of your party only are saying that it is wrong and people are getting ruined in it. What are you doing for that? How can you impose 30% tax on something for which no bills are available? If you are collecting 30% tax, are you legalizing it? I am praying you to take a strong action.

[English]

If you say that yours is a strong Government with a strong leadership under the Prime Minister, then you must take this initiative and stop this darknet because of which the common man of India is getting affected. *[Translation]* Some stringent should be taken. Good or bad will be considered upon later, but right now every person in the country does not know about crypto, you should ban it completely.

[English] Have some strategy and come clear today in the reply because we have to save our people who are going through such difficult times. This Government is very interesting. It is cart before the horse. There is no data in this Government. I can table it afterwards because I do not want to take the time of the House, *[Translation]* But whenever the Government has been asked, then every time the Government has replied that they have *[English]* 'no data'. It is not that they like data, and even RBI has shown such strong ... *(Interruptions)* *[Translation]* Meghwal ji, do not mind please. The festival of Holi is over now. Give me some freedom. *[English]* I do not like to use this word for my country, which I love, but it is almost sounding like a ...
 *. Something is not legal, *[Translation]* While on the one hand you are imposing tax upon that, on the other hand speaking against that. What are you thinking about this crypto?

* Not recorded

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:* These were the words of Robert Wadra. Where a senior and soft-spoken Member like you borrowed this word from?

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: No-No, this word is used by many people. *[English]* The other thing, which I need to talk about is this. I need a clarification from this Government about taxation. *[Translation]* Nishikant Ji and Gaurav Ji spoke about GST and said many times that this belonged to you. *[English]* We are very proud of it. The whole intention of bringing in GST was very good. But again, this Treasury Bench is giving a confusing signal *[Translation]* that we brought your Bill *[English]* and there is no cooperative federalism. *[Translation]* If it was so, then why did you bring this Bill?

[English]

One more thing, I want to bring to the notice of this House. I am happy that Dr. Bhagwat Karad ji and myself come from the same State. Dr. Bhagwat Karad ji, I am ill informed. Finance is not my strength. So, I want to ask you this. *[Translation]* A new incident took place in my State. *[English]* especially of the States, which are not of their ideology thinking Governments. If you do not have any compliance issue in the GST, then immediately you put the person in jail. You, in your own Finance Bill, under errors on page 6, you have brought in so many. *[Translation]* Even such a huge Ministry of Finance and such an intelligent people commit errors. *[English]* We are humans, Shri Karad ji. *[Translation]* Sometimes a person can commit some minor mistakes unintentionally, will you then put anyone behind the bars even for a minor mistake? *[English]* Was this discussed in the Council? Are you trying to tell us that all the Finance Ministers in this country agreed to this? Please clarify this

* Not recorded

because this is very important. *Translation*] Like you can commit error in Finance Bill, the same way, someone else can also commit some error. If someone has committed some error, then give him time. Give him time to correct his error in two months, six months or in a week. Please do not ask about my State wherein whoever they want, they put him behind the bars.

[English]

One more thing you have done in taxation, which is very interesting. I must share this with you. *[Translation]* Nishikant ji was speaking about PMLA. I remember, I was in this house when he was speaking about PMLA. *[English]* He spoke about PMLA. I would quickly give two or three clarifications. What did he say? What has happened is very unfortunate. I am not going get into the merits of right or wrong. Who am I to judge anybody? This is the same Government which has criticised the PMLA. Now, you can arrest somebody under the PMLA without an FIR. How can you do that? Please tell me. Even the Supreme Court has criticised it. Everybody is asking. *[Translation]* Sir, the things do not go this way. *[English]* This is a democracy. You cannot put people in jail like this. All I am saying is, even the Supreme Court have raised this issue. I urge this Government which wanted India to become a good investment place *[Translation]* which was mentioned by Gaurav ji. Sir, everyone is scared in this country. *[English]* I am not saying *[Translation]* that I am not against the Money Laundering. *[English]* If you are cleaning up the system. We will stand behind you in one voice, one vote. *[Translation]* Meghwal ji, we will stand with you, but don't do injustice. The poor person who works hard, if his compliance is one more or less, then the order is issued to put him in jail. This should not happen. *[English]* It will one day come back. I don't want to use Nishikant ji's words. I don't wish this for my worst enemy. *[Translation]* I never think like that. Who is benefited by putting someone in jail? There are wife and

children in his house. Please ask about their condition sometimes. What is their fault? Nowadays in Maharashtra notices are being served to the wife and children of a person. *[English]* What can that poor wife do? This is really the tragedy of this nation. *[Translation]* Nishikant ji spoke a lot about black money. *[English]* It is very good. I am very happy. *[Translation]* Black money coming to this country is a good thing. I do not know what else he said? Why did you de-monetise? You said that this will bring black money. *[English]* I am asking Karad ji a pointed question. Please tell how much of black money came into the system with demonetisation, etc. I respect Amit Shah ji for that. *[Translation]* Amit Shah ji spoke well on TV that day. He said on TV that this is a 'jumla'. *[English]* At least he was honest. I like honest people. I really have respect for him. *[Translation]* Since, it was a Jumla, I left it.

I will not ask him for the accounting of Rs 15 lakh, but I can ask him for the accounting of black money. You people used to attack us so much that we should bring back the black money. There is a fashion in Maharashtra. *[English]* This is something which is really important. This is my last point, I promise you. I wanted to raise it as this is of serious concern. There are agencies like EDI and CBI. If somebody has not done compliance, I am requesting you that a system has to be followed. *[Translation]* Do whatever you wish to do as regards with PLMA. *[English]* But when compliance is being done, you say that CBI, ED, IT are very independent bodies; they are independent bodies. Then, how on Twitter, we know who in Maharashtra is going to get raided in three or four or five days. *[Translation]* He will be put behind the bars within fifteen days. *[English]* Are they astrologers? Who are they? How do they know? *[Translation]* Meghwal Ji, it is posted on Twitter. *[English]* I can table this. *[Translation]* I have all the documents. I can tell you date-wise that it is his date today, put him in jail.

[English]

So, there are only two ways of looking at it. You admit that the ED, CBI and all these agencies are run by the people in power today. Admit it. *[Translation]* Please tell the truth like Amith Shah Ji. I think, I should ask him. I do not know about the rest. I do not know who speaks the truth in this Government, but he definitely speak the truth.

[English]

The second question I want to ask is about the leak. *[Translation]* If one official paper is leaked, you set up a complete inquiry. You put that officer in jail. I am making allegations and seeking justice from your Government. You have two such men, whom I can prove from Twitter that when they were jailed, when raided and when the investigation by ED took place. Everyone knows this. No one is going to ask you. If we have made a mistake, then hang us. Hang me at Vijay Chowk but not here, only if I have committed a mistake. I deserve a fair trial. Use of CBI, ED is not fair. Life is a full circle, Meghwal *ji*. There was a time when we too used to sit there. We might have committed the wrong of PMLA, but it did hang us one day. Please do not do that. *[English]* Be fair and be just is my only request.

There are some points I wanted to raised but I appreciate that you will think over all this and make sure that this is a safe environment for every Indian who is happy to pay tax for the betterment of this country.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): Sir, several hon. Members have talked about the price rise of the petroleum products. I request to the hon. Finance Minister to arrest the price rise of petroleum and diesel. All over India, poor people are suffering because taxi drivers and autorickshaw drivers are not getting passengers in their vehicles.

Another long pending demand to the Government is that the petroleum products should be included in GST. I know most of the States are opposing. The taxes are different everywhere. My constituency is Vadakara. Vadakara and Thalassery are the two major towns that belong to my constituency. From Vadakara to Thalassery, the distance is only 13 kms. Old Mahe belongs to Pondicherry and new Mahe belongs to Kerala. In old Mahe, petrol and diesel prices are less than those in Kerala. For diesel, it is Rs. 95 in Kerala, but it is only Rs. 85 in old Mahe. I will just request the Government to include petroleum products in GST. The price rise of petroleum products should be controlled. This is what most of the political parties also requested for.

14.12 hrs

(Shri N. K. Premachandran *in the Chair*)

The hon. Finance Minister said that the Calicut Airport is going to be privatised. In Kerala, there are only four international airports: Trivandrum, Cochin, Calicut and Kannur. The Cochin and Kannur Airports are joint ventures of the State Government and the Central Government. Trivandrum and Calicut airports which belonged to the Ministry of Civil Aviation have now been given to Adani. A few days back, the hon. Finance Minister told us that the Government is also going to privatise the Calicut Airport. The day before yesterday, the hon. Civil Aviation Minister said that a major accident took place in Calicut. Now the situation is that big flights are not coming to the Calicut Airport. The Calicut Airport is the Haj embarkation site also. Now, because the aircraft service is suspended, the Haj embarkation site is also suspended.

The Kerala Government is saying that the Calicut Airport is going to be privatised. Then, why are we acquiring land? The hon. Civil Aviation Minister told

that minimum 20 acres are required for the development of the runway. The State Government is saying that if the Central Government is going to privatise the airport, why is the Government acquiring the land for airport development? Please do not privatise the Calicut Airport.

Till the development work is finished, the Haj embarkation site should be shifted to the Kannur International Airport because most of the Haj pilgrims are coming from the northern part of Kerala. Currently, the Haj embarkation site is the Cochin International Airport. People travel for minimum 200 kms from Malabar to the Cochin Airport. So, till the development work of the Calicut Airport is over, the Kannur Airport should be the Haj embarkation site.

Regarding increasing MPLAD funds, our fund is only Rs. 5 crore. You know about Kerala.

Sir, you know that MLAs in Kerala get Rs.6 crore in a year. One Parliamentary Constituency in Kerala has seven Assembly segments. When one Kerala MLA is getting Rs.6 crore for one Assembly seat, MPs are getting only Rs.5 crore for seven Assembly segments. This must be increased.

Secondly, the implementing officers are not giving priority to MPLAD works. They are giving priority to MLA fund works. Sir, you also complained about it. In my case also, fund for 2019-20 was not utilised in spite of my giving work suggestions in time because the officers have not taken them up in time. The review meetings are also not being held timely. One review meeting was held last week when the Parliament is in session. So, please give instructions to Collectors to implement MPLAD works in time. That is my request.

Sir, Hindustan Latex Ltd., is going to be privatised. The State Government wants to take it over, the Central Government is not ready to give it to the State, and the State Government is not allowing the disinvestment process of Hindustan Latex Ltd., to go ahead. The Chief Minister of Kerala asked the Prime Minister to either allow the State Government to participate in the disinvestment process or to transfer it to the State Government because the land which was given by the State Government would now go into private hands. So, kindly allow the State Government to participate in the disinvestment process or give it to the State Government.

Sir, the right of senior citizens to travel in the Railways had been suspended for the COVID period. The COVID pandemic is partially over now but the right of the senior citizens has not been restored. My request is that the right of the senior citizens for travelling in Railways be restored.

My last point is about the K-rail project. Yesterday, the Chief Minister of Kerala met the Prime Minister and requested him for sanction of sufficient funds for the project. The Chief Minister of Kerala said that the total cost of K-rail project would be Rs.64,000 crore. However, the Central Minister yesterday told Rajya Sabha that cost of the K-rail project would be a minimum of Rs.1,00,000 crore. Sir, this will be a huge burden not only on the State but also on the Central Government. People in Kerala are agitating against this. Day after day, incidents of lathi charge are going on. The Kerala Government is laying foundation stones everywhere in the State. Please write to the Chief Minister asking him to stop laying foundation stones everywhere in Kerala. In fact, the Central Government should withdraw from this joint venture project. I request the Central Government to withdraw from the K-rail project. Yesterday, two CPI Members from Tamil Nadu said that they want K-rail

project. Sir, K-rail project would connect Trivandrum with Kasargod. It is not going to Tamil Nadu at all. If the CPI Members from Tamil Nadu want K-rail project, we have no objection to it. That is none of our business. Therefore, I request the Central Government to withdraw from the joint venture K-rail project.

Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL (SIRSA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, a very solid foundation has been provided for the economic development of India in the Union Budget 2022-23. There are 39 amendments in our Finance Bill. HON. Prime Minister had once said in his address that simpler the taxation system, easier is to ensure its compliance. You can see that long ago, Chanakya had also mentioned in his book Kautilya Arthashastra, that we should levy taxes the way, a bee takes honey from the flowers. Neither of them gets hurt in this way. The bee takes the honey and the flower also does not get hurt. I would like to thank my Government for this. I would also like to thank the hon. Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman ji and Karad sahab for simplifying the tax system as well as making efforts to make the life of poor easy and ensure delivery of benefits of all the schemes to the last person. HON. Prime Minister keeps his focus towards that.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to say that there was a time when the Tax payer feared going to the Income Tax Department. Even a big industrialist belonging to a well to do family used to change his clothes first whenever he came to know that he had to visit the Income Tax Department's office for assessment. He wore an old and torn kurta pyjama and such slippers as not to give any hint of him being very rich to the Income Tax Department officials. But the situation has changed

drastically now. The tagline of the Income Tax department is '*Koshmoolo Dandah*'. *Kosh* that is money is the real power. Money is the biggest power of any nation. It depends up on the incumbent leadership as to how to collect the money and how to spend it for the people. The intent of today's leadership under HON. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji is to collect taxes in a liberal way and then he also takes utmost care to distribute the collection among the people.

Sir, I have been listening a while ago to HON. Members of Parliament Shatabdi ji and Supriya ji. Supriya ji slaps so lovingly and in a gentle way that the person can neither weep nor laugh. She has got a very loving and gentle way. I appreciate her very much. She always puts forward her grievances, her thoughts in a very gentle way. If she is so much concerned about her State, why does she not present an example there, as quite gently mentioned by Shri Nishikant Dubey ji quoting State-wise percentages? Why are they not lowering the VAT in Maharashtra where they are in Government?

It is very easy to blame others or put others in the dock. The power held with oneself is not exercised properly. Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I only want to say that the recent amendments, such as regarding taxpayers in Section 68, have been repeated so many times during the tenures of previous Governments, that we have to merely reiterate them. If you observe minutely, numerous examples of first taking loan from a big industrialist friend and then investing the loan money back in his industries only, can be found. Even, many such cases are sub judice. It is the endeavour of the Government not to allow any evasiveness and impose 60% tax on it if it is there. If someone has taken any money without any reasonable explanation, straightway 60% tax will be imposed so as to prevent such misdeeds which have happened in the past.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, many things have been said about Cryptocurrency. The Government always initiates anything from the grassroots. For example, everyone ridiculed the Jan-Dhan Yojana initially when it was launched by the hon. Prime Minister through raising questions such as what shall it achieve and money is certainly not going to be deposited in these accounts. But, today I feel that the Opposition shall also support and appreciate this move due to which the money disbursed through any of the Government schemes reaches straightway to the accounts of the poor of our country. The former Prime Minister belonging to their party only, had once highlighted the comparison regarding the amount of money released by the Government and that which actually reaches to the people.

Sir, I would once again like to mention hon. Shatabdi ji and Supriya ji who have spoken about LPG. I would like to mention a very important fact that I feel there would be no household in the entire country without a gas cylinder and a burner under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Sir, one of the schemes of the Government is Biomass Gasification. I have seen it myself at twenty sites in my own Constituency, Sirsa. Initially, it requires two trolleys full of dung. Subsequently, two baskets of dung daily is sufficient to produce enough gas. You will be surprised to see that it gives flame more than the normal LPG cylinder. Now, when everyone has been provided with burners, I would like to know, what have they done for Biomass Gasification in their Constituencies? I would like to know. Let them tell me. I am talking only about one village in my Constituency. We are making full efforts to popularise it in whole of the region because with it, the village will remain clean and people will get gas absolutely for free. They are not going to be charged even a single penny for it. Even the small

connecting pipes involved in this system are also provided by the Government, then why do they not install it so that the people there can avail free LPG?

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, Members have spoken on the issue of Crypto currency. The Government has imposed one percent TDS on Crypto currency. This will ensure its tracking. With one percent TDS deduction, we will come to know whoever are trading in it because the crypto investors have increased by 641 percent during the last one or two years which is a huge number. In order to find ways to curb it, and fix it; the thought process of the hon. Prime Minister is so far sighted that he will attempt to curb it with his very broad minded approach to the issue.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, updated tax returns has been introduced. Earlier, the Chartered Accountants used to fill proper returns for the firms and companies which is altogether a different matter. But the common people used to face a lot of problems due to even some minor mistakes in the tax returns. Interest as well as penalties used to be imposed on them. With the updated tax returns, a very beneficial scheme has been launched wherein any mistake in tax returns can be corrected within a time period of three years and we can file the updated tax returns. However, this facility is not extended to cases involving the Black Money Act, the Lokpal Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, many a times, the cases of tax even reached to appellate stage, while they usually didn't involve any such technical issue. A provision has also been made in the current Finance Bill that the Department will not go for an appeal in cases which simply involve a 'Question of Law'.

Sir, the working of an Association of Persons (AOP) involves some work contractors bringing up a Consortium by floating a Company in market. In such

cases, the Long Term Capital Gains Surcharge sometimes used to be up to 37 percent. In the current Finance Bill, it has been capped and it will not be charged more than 15 % now.

Sir, about faceless assessment, I would like to mention that many problems were faced both by the administration as well as the tax payers initially. However, the recent amendments made in Section 144B have overhauled it and now; it will be very easy for the taxpayers to pay taxes. The teething problems usually faced in the initial days of any new scheme will all get solved gradually with time.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, our taxpayers had to endure a lot in the environment that prevailed everywhere during COVID-19. Towards this, the Government has provided relief in the expenses incurred by those patients suffered from COVID-19. Along with that, in case of any death in their family, if they receive any payment; a provision has been introduced in the Finance Bill by the Government by capping it to Rupees Ten lakh and providing tax relief on it. This is a very praiseworthy step and I would like to thank our Finance Minister for it.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I wanted to convey all the things mentioned by me such as '*Kosh Moolo Dandah*'. Regarding all the taxes being collected, and the plans being made for welfare of the poor, it is said that, '*Raajsva Rajya Prashasan kaa Aadhaar, Isliye Bina Darey, Karey iska Satkaar aur Baney Desh ke Vikaas mein Bhaagidaar*'.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, whatever hon. Gadkari ji mentioned the day before yesterday regarding infrastructure on the floor of the House and he always says good things. You must have observed that he fulfils his commitments. He told that by December, 2024 our country will go ahead of America too. Our National Highways, you see that whenever there is any issue, whether we talk about demand for grants

for National Highways, whether we talk about health and airports, all MPs stand up. At the same time it will be said that we need such and such highways, get an airport built here, give us the facility of railway, but where will all this infrastructure come from. As far as the matter of collecting funds for this is concerned, the provisions made for that are in this Finance Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now conclude, please.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: Sir, I am concluding now. The way in which money was collected in earlier Governments, especially I would like to say that the way black money was collected, today they are suffering also for that. I think everyone has to face the consequences of their actions. They need not get offended much.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech by simply saying:

Aham ki akad jyada nahi chal sakti,
Mout ki ghadi kabhi tal nahi sakti,
Loot kar doulat bhale hi jama kar lo,
Pap ki kamai kabhi fal nahi sakti.

Therefore, there is no need to cry. If someone has committed a mistake, he will have to bear the consequences. With these words, I thank the hon. Minister very much for this Finance Bill and thank the hon. Prime Minister and support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY (RAJAMPET): First of all, I would like to congratulate Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, Dr. Bhagwat Karad Ji and the whole finance team for having put up a good effort during COVID and also post- COVID. This is evident from the fact that the tax buoyancy has improved and the GST collections have gone up substantially. So, I think they need a good appreciation for this. Our Party appreciates their effort in the country's perspective.

Before I go into the national perspective, I would like to talk about the State issues because of the paucity of time.

Sir, the first and foremost thing is this. What was promised to us during bifurcation of the State is Polavaram Project. There is huge confusion over Polavaram Project. We have asked about it hundreds of times. It was clearly written in AP Reorganization Act that Polavaram Project will be completed in total by the Centre and will be handed over to the State. My State had already spent money on that which was supposed to be taken up as equity.

But every day, there is some issue or the other. There is some litigation which is coming up. If it does not come from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, then it comes from the Ministry of Finance. This is not fair. The Polavaram Project is a national project and was promised to us that it will be completed in time. So, the Central Government should support us heartfully. We do not need half-hearted support in this aspect.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the Government that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is very important. It has something to do with the sentiment of the State. It is not a loss-making unit. This year, we are definitely sure that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant will make good profits. I have heard in the reply that they will sell the loss-making units. There is just 6-7 days left for this financial year to end. I want the Ministry also to take a note of this because it is going to be profitable. In the years to come, steel industry will become even more brighter. It is going to be in profits. We request the Government to think of improving Visakhapatnam Steel Plant by allotting captive mines.

I would like to point out that when BSNL is a loss-making unit, the Government should think of privatising BSNL and things like that which are going to make a loss but not Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

Sir, recently we have seen that a lot of students have returned from Ukraine. A lot of students are taking admission in MBBS courses in other countries because we are not able to provide them with medical education in the country. The standard of education in those foreign universities is also not bad. Our hon. Chief Minister has taken up a very good initiative in our State in this direction. He proposes to set up 13 new medical colleges. They are in various stages of progress. I would like the Central Government to come forward to support this initiative because there should be a long-term solution. All our students cannot go to foreign countries for their education. We are talking about Atmanirbhar Bharat. But where is Atmanirbhar Bharat in education? Why should our students have to go abroad when we have very good teachers and staff here? So, I would like to request the Central Government to support this initiative of setting up of medical colleges in the interest of the nation.

Sir, the other point is that I would like the Government to support our fishing harbours and ports. The Government will not be at a loss in this process because whatever we transport through these fishing harbours in the small vessels, they can be transported throughout the country. There are thousands and thousands of trucks that go from Andhra Pradesh stacked with marine products or agro-products or other things. But if we make use of these nine fishing harbours and the new ports which the State of Andhra Pradesh is developing, then I think, a new ecosystem will develop and the Government will get back their revenues in the form of GST. I request the Central Government to support these fishing harbours and ports. It is because ultimately, they are also going to enjoy the revenues and tax collected from these ports. Money invested can be recovered within a very short span of time. It makes very good business sense for the Central Government. It will be useful for the people also. So, I request the Central Government to support these ports and fishing harbours.

Sir, my next point is with regard to the dues of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies. An amount of more than Rs. 1700 crore is pending which has to be reimbursed to the State. CA&G has already ratified and the State is eligible for the reimbursement. The Central Government should immediately do this. This Government talked of giving a special category status to the State of Andhra Pradesh in the election manifesto of 2014.

We were given unviable finances after our State was split. We have the most unviable finances in the country. We demand a special category status for the State of Andhra Pradesh. We want the Government to keep up to its word. It is not a request. What was promised on the floor of this House about giving a special category status to the State should be given. That is our demand. Even the Revenue Deficit Grant has also not been reimbursed fully.

Sir, I raised the issue of mango farmers during the discussion on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government and draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there is a discrepancy in the matter of mango pulp and mango puree. For these products, the GST charged is 18 per cent, instead of 12 per cent. There are mango farmers in Gujarat; there are mango farmers in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and also in other parts of the country. Each State is interpreting this in a different way and people are being asked to pay retrospective GST at 18 per cent. It is going to hit the poor farmers and kill the industry. It is not a good move. So, I would like to request the Government to inform the authorities accordingly in this regard. We will submit a representation in this regard. The interest of the farmers should be protected and the tax slab should be at 12 per cent. I will tell you the reason. This is an intermediate process. There is no loss to the Government because it is not the final product which a farmer will sell. There are various other issues also for the farmers.

For example, if one transports fish with ice, there is no GST. But if one transports cut fruit in ice adding some salt as preservatives, the Government charges 5 per cent GST. This is not fair. So, I would like to request the Government to sit with the Food Processing Associations and Farmers' Associations and sort out all these glitches that are there because it is something to do with the lives of lakhs and lakhs of farmers in the country. The Government may kindly accord topmost priority to this issue.

Sir, I would like to proudly mention here that all 40 thousand Government schools in our State are being renovated in *Nadu nedu*. They are at par with corporate managed schools and the gross enrolment ratio is going up. I have been asked to write recommendation letters for admission to Government schools located in my constituency. These schools have put up 'No Admission' notices

Our hon. Chief Minister is putting such an effort towards improvement of education in the State. So, I would like the Central Government to provide support for this novel programme where all the schools are being renovated where all the poor people will get a fair chance to get good education.

Even other States have announced it. The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Telangana have announced that they want to do it on the similar lines of Andhra Pradesh. I request the Central Government to support this Scheme. Without proper education, the country will not move in the right direction.

Coming to the issue of pending payment from the Central Government, people are being asked to pay advance GST even before realisation of the payments. Last time, I had raised this issue and they said that it is the prerogative of the GST Council. The hon. Finance Minister, being the head of the GST Council, should initiate action on this issue. Without realisation of payments, when people are in stress, when Government is trying to come up with incentives and support, that too,

when Government is not paying the people, how can GST be collected in advance? There should be proper justice in this issue. Only upon actual realisation of payments, GST should be collected. I want the hon. Minister to propose steps on this matter also.

Coming to the national perspective, the current tax threshold is Rs. 2.5 lakhs. This was fixed in 2014 but since the rate of inflation has increased a lot, poor people will not be benefited. The threshold limit should be indexed to inflation so that there will be benefit for the basic slab or the bottom most slab where you do not need to pay the income tax.

The slabs also need to be rationalised. There are various slabs which are confusing the people. In terms of faceless assessment and other things, the proposed substitution of Section 144B deals with procedures on faceless assessment which was just amended in the previous year. There have been 150 amendments which is not good. There should be some clarity on this issue as there is a lot of confusion. So many amendments are not good for the country. There is an important thing which I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister and that is about the decreasing interest rates for various savings schemes.

Recently, PF deposit rate was slashed in 2021-22 from 8.5 per cent to 8.1 per cent. After COVID-19 and during the COVID-19 pandemic, poor people have spent a lot of money directly or indirectly. They have lost their lifetime savings. Even small changes will make a big difference for the poor people. So, the Government should step in and come forward to see that it is not reduced.

There are reports that interest rates on small savings schemes might also be lowered which is not good. We want the Government to intervene and see that the interest rates do not come down on the savings of poor people.

There is one good thing which the Government has done and that is the amendment of Section 115BBH of the IT Act. They have put tax on cryptocurrency which is good. Without banning cryptocurrency, they have imposed tax. It is a good move but retrospective tax on anything, including cryptocurrency, is not good. So, retrospective tax must be re-looked into.

On relief to Startups and manufacturing companies, the Government is continuing the seven per cent concessional tax rate till March, 2024 which is a welcome move and additionally, they are giving incentives for Startups before March, 2023 which is also a welcome measure. We want proper utilisation of Startup India Scheme where only 37.46 per cent of the funds have been used and only a meagre amount of Rs. 50 crores has been allotted. This is a very good scheme for encouraging entrepreneurs. I think the Government should make sure that more people get benefited out of the scheme and the Government should remove the glitches because we are not even able to spend the allotted amount. A very small amount of Rs. 50 crores has been allotted. Sir, we are talking of cooperative federalism and *Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas* but you may find that the total gross tax revenue collected comes to 27.5 trillion dollars. Out of that, the States are getting only 8.1 trillion dollars. The Committee on Finance has recommended for 41 per cent but actually, there is 18 per cent of surcharges and cesses and the States are getting only 29 per cent which is not fair. As per the true spirit of cooperative federalism, they should help the States. The Central Government is talking about *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas* whereas it looks like *Sabka Saath, Centre ka Vikas*.

The States should also be treated fairly. They should get their funds properly. At the end, I would like to reiterate that in the AP Reorganisation Act, a lot of issues have still been pending. I want the Central Government to come forward and sort out the issues for Andhra Pradesh. Thank you.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (PURI): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for giving me the opportunity, on behalf of Biju Janata Dal, to speak on the tax and non-tax proposals in the Finance Bill of 2022-23.

I will speak first about the tax proposals. I think it is a matter of dismay, if not alarming, for India to have seen during the UP election when income tax raid took place in Kanpur and piles and piles of cash were found. It took the Income Tax Department five days to count the cash. I think there were no matching figures. At some point of time, it was Rs.180 crores, at some point of time, it was Rs.230 crore, Rs.235 crore etc. There is a mountain of cash which is floating in our economy.

The hon. Prime Minister, in a lightning strike on 8th November, 2016, called for demonetisation. The objectives of demonetisation were removal of black money, brining in digital economy, doing away with the fake currency, curbing the financing of terrorism etc. Our Chief Minister, Shri Navin Patnaik, believing in the Prime Minister's noble objectives, was one of the first Chief Ministers who came out openly in support of the demonetisation.

I think the Prime Minister's dream and his vision have been belied. I think the Treasury Benches, which are unfortunately empty at present, will understand that the Prime Minister's vision has been completely belied. A sum of Rs.16 lakh crore which were demonetised came back in its entirety. Supriya Sule ji has asked the question. I would also like to ask the Government how much black money came back. All the black money came back, nicely laundered, cleaned up and washed up. In fact, if my memory serves me right, some Rs.30000 crores more than the issued currency also came back. So, Rs.30000 crore fake currency also came back into our system.

The Government is still silent on how much tax they managed to get back from the laundered money. They are saying it is all wrapped up in litigation. I am sure it will be wrapped up in litigation for the next twenty years. What is the present position? It was Rs.16 lakh crore cash money in circulation in 2016. Today, it has gone up to Rs.29 lakh crore. It is almost double. This is the present position with regard to cash currency in circulation.

This Government has to acknowledge somewhere that it has been not different than the Congress Governments of 60s, 70s and 80s, because of which there is a legacy of black money in this country. In those days when I was a child, I used to be told one thing. My father was in Swatantra Party which always asked for liberal tax policies against Congress's so called 'Fabian socialism'. He used to tell me that the tax slab at one time in India was 110 per cent. That means, if you earn Rs.100, you will pay Rs.110 as tax. This was the tax slab including income tax, wealth tax and all other surcharges.

It has given rise to black money in this country. It has given rise to aversion to paying tax in this country. Shrimati Duggal has painted a rosy picture about the Department. Shrimati Duggal has said that the Department has now become much more user friendly, abled friendly etc. etc. I do not think anything of that sort has happened. In a country of 130 crore plus people, there are only 2.5 crore tax assesses. Tax assesses are not the tax payers. The tax payers are barely some 25 odd lakhs.

The rest file 'nil' returns. So, they are, actually, not tax payers; only for the namesake, they are tax assessees. Tax payers, therefore, out of 130 crores, are only 25 lakh people who pay direct taxes. Out of that, only 8,000, regrettably, are over that figure of Rs. Five crore income per year. Among those 8,000 people, let me tell you that 2,500 are lawyers and chartered accountants. We are proud to be part of those 8,000 people. But the point is, the figure of 8,000 in this country of 130 crores,

looking to the mountain of cash in circulation, should actually be no less than 80,000, if not eight lakhs if you look at it honestly.

Therefore, something is seriously still wrong with our tax compliance, because something is seriously still wrong with the method of tax collection in this country; the Government must be the first to come to terms with it, and I am sure the Prime Minister, who wants to change all that was wrong with the Congress, – much was wrong – and with what the Congress did for 60 or 70 years in this country, if he wishes to, actually, clean the system, he has to start right at the bottom. There is an army of tax collectors out there which is not necessary. You do not have to give them job and pension; they are there only to get job and pension.

That army can be whittled down to 25 per cent of what it is today, if you simplify your tax procedures and make out two clear slabs of 15 per cent and 20 per cent tax with no exemptions, 15 per cent for people below a particular threshold and 20 per cent for people above a particular threshold. You do not need 10,000 exemptions and, therefore, you have got 5.5 lakh people who adjudicate on a daily basis. We know what happens there.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I have been a tax payer for the last 37 years. So, people who actually pay those taxes know what the actual position is. All this faceless assessment etc. is complete hogwash and I am saying this on the floor of the House. That is as far as taxation is concerned. Therefore, it is a matter of regret that the Government has actually done very little to ensure that black money is weeded out of the system. This is my first point.

My second point is, again I was dismayed to hear what the Treasury Benches said today. I was dismayed to hear what Mr. Nishikant Dubey, who is a very close friend of mine and one of the best articulate speakers on behalf of the Treasury Benches, had to say about cryptocurrency today. He said that cryptocurrency has to

be banned sooner rather than later. The Government has spoken in multiple voices on this; there is rampant confusion. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance. We have deliberated on this, we have heard expert opinion on this, Ahluwaliaji, one of the most esteemed Members of that Committee, was one of the most vigorous cross-examiners of people whom we examined. Today, to ban cryptocurrency is the equivalent of banning the internet. It is an idea whose time has come. So, I am vastly surprised that somebody as sharp as Nishikant Dubey and Supriya Suleji are advocating a ban on cryptocurrency in this country.

What this Government has, in fact, done by the notion of a sin activity has not sent the right message. The notion is, dealing in cryptocurrency is something sinful. What the Government has done with that has created so much confusion and, unfortunately, the RBI Governor, who is one of the brightest and best bureaucrats this country has seen, has gone on record to say this is just hot air. So, there is complete confusion; there is hot air on behalf of the RBI Governor who is in-charge of issuing digital currency which will be equally, I think, hot air, and the Government, wants to, therefore, tax the hot air.

The Government has gone on to a 30 per cent slab on the basis that it must be at a higher slab than equity gains, because it is some kind of a sin. Again, there is one per cent TDS. There are lakhs of transactions taking place on a daily basis. The industry was saying, yes, we want to trace and track, have it at 0.01 per cent; instead, the Government goes on to tax one per cent which is 1,000 times more.

Therefore, these are, again, symptoms of complete confusion in the minds of the Government unfortunately, as far as this is concerned. I know I do not have too much time. Therefore, I would urge the Government that the Bill is already pending for a year. We, in the Standing Committee on Finance, were expecting this Bill to be brought to the Committee in last August or September, because that is what we

were told. It is still not ready which means the mandarins of the Finance Ministry are totally at sixes and sevens.

Therefore, I would suggest, get a proper Task Force with professionals involved who will draft this. Otherwise, this Bill is going to be a disaster. Like the IBC, or the Companies Act, which has now been amended eight times in six years, this is just going to keep having to be amended.

Sir, on the non-tax proposal side, I would make a couple of things very quickly. We welcome the disinvestment of Air India at Rs. 51,000 crores. This was long overdue. It is one of the boldest steps of the Government of India, and I congratulate the Government for it.

But I think, the Government again has fallen short by not being bold enough to go ahead and disinvest all the other white elephants that the Government is holding on. This Government has got a brute majority and such an extraordinary goodwill, which has been shown in the last five-State elections. In fact, in four States, they have swept. They have got great goodwill.

So, there is no reason why they cannot encash this goodwill, and go right ahead and do what they had to do by way of disinvestment. That is one of the real disappointments of this Government. Therefore, they need to seriously rethink their disinvestment policy.

The hon. Prime Minister, on day one, had talked about land monetisation, which is again one of the critical areas of the Indian economy. It had again languished completely in the times of the Congress for 60 to 70 years. On the contrary, the maximum amount of land encroachment had taken place during the Congress time, and I think, it had been actively supported by their local leaders.

Therefore, to prevent further encroachment, Mr. Chairperson, I would request the Government that they must aggressively come out with a land monetisation

policy. Needless to say, my time is up, so I am not going to waste the time of the House in trying to beseech you to give me more time. All I am going to say is that while we support the Finance Bill, the objectives being noble, need to be far sharper in their focus, and far, far sharper in their execution.

Thank you so much.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Thank you very much, hon. Chairperson, Sir, for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Bill to give effect to the Budget proposal made for the year 2022-23. The Budget of Rs. 39.45 lakh crore expenditure for the year 2022-23 has been presented by the Honorable Finance Minister. This is a very commendable budget to maintain the pace of development. As she has told that this year India's economic growth rate is estimated to be around 9.2 percent. Looking at the Corona period, the economy seems to be coming back on track. All this is the result of the successful leadership of the hon. Prime Minister.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, our country and the whole world is suffering from the corona pandemic for the last two years. It is the effect of the success of vaccination drive that we have been able to contain the damage by the third wave, otherwise, just by imagining the second wave, one starts to realize the fearful situation. This pandemic has changed our way of life. The Government is also alert. Today, health services have improved even in remotely located villages and are ready to deal with any situation. For this the Government also deserves applause. Today oxygen plants have been installed in almost all Government hospitals. Arrangements for ventilators and ICU have also been made. All this has been possible only with the mutual

cooperation of the Central and State Governments. But the difficulties faced by our labours in the first wave were painful.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today problem of unemployment has arisen. About 35 percent of our population is youth and they are searching for employment. Those who had employment during the pandemic have also become unemployed now. At this time, under the 'Garib Kalyan Yojana', the Government has done relief work by providing free foodgrains to 80 crore people. HON. Finance Minister has set a target of furthering the pace of sustainable development by clubbing seven sectors together in 'PM Gati Shakti'. This will create more jobs. It is expected that this will also reduce the problem of unemployment.

Sir, the proposal to link Koshi-Mechi Rivers is also pending in Bihar. Second, a proposal is pending with the Union Jal Shakti Minister to link the Bagmati and the Budhi Gandak, the Budhi Gandak and the Noon and the Ganga and the Bagmati rivers. This should also be implemented.

15.00 hrs

Every year 73 percent of Bihar's area gets flooded. If high dams are built at the border of Nepal on the Kosi and the Gandak rivers, it will bring relief from floods. Alongwith this, an action plan is needed to deal with the problem of siltation in the Ganga river. The State Government needs co-operation for this matter. Hon. Finance Minister should also look into this. The Government also needs to pay attention to the problem of inflation. Today the prices of all the essential commodities have increased a lot. People are troubled by inflation. Today the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas have gone beyond the capacity of the public.

Bihar and some other States are lagging far behind in the race for development. The report of NITI Aayog also confirms this thing. Just now hon. Reddy of Andhra Pradesh was saying, in the same way Bihar should also get the

status of a Special State. Bihar's MPs and public representatives, people of every party have passed a resolution for this in the Bihar Legislative Assembly and sent it to the Central Government. For this, I would request the Honorable Prime Minister that Bihar should get the status of a Special State. If there is no long term development in Bihar, then there will be a lot of trouble there. I would request the hon. Prime Minister that Bihar should also get the benefit of the exemption given in Central taxes; particularly for increasing the growth rate. There should be industrialization, due to which employment opportunities will be generated and the State will get more revenue. Hon. Chairperson sir, the Government has promised to double the income of the farmers in the year 2022. This promise should be fulfilled. There will be a need to pay more attention to the economic plight of the farmers in the country, so that our farmers remain happy. There is a need to promote animal husbandry, fish farming, poultry farming etc. so that farmers get more cash. Also, it is necessary to have a cold storage chain in place for their fruit and vegetable produces. There is a need to encourage them for the cultivation of more oilseeds and pulses. Similarly, the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, which has been adopted by the MPs, has still not achieved its targets. There is neither any allocation nor any fund arrangement for it. I would request the hon. Minister that separate funds should be earmarked for development under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. The announcement of 80 lakh pucca houses by the Honorable Finance Minister is a commendable step. Similarly, the action plan for electric vehicles will also be beneficial. The Government should also consider to give more subsidy for converting old vehicles to electric vehicles. This will benefit the middle class people. Sir, many trains have been discontinued since the Corona period. There are many places where a lot of money is being collected from the public by running special trains since the Corona period. Earlier the local trains which used to halt, are not

being stopped at those halts now, this is causing a lot of trouble to the people, this also needs to be amended. About 57 new projects are going on in the ECR zone of Railways in Bihar, but the allocation has been made for only Rs 6606 crore. This will cause difficulty in completing these rail projects. I request the hon. Minister that this field also needs attention. Sir, I would like to draw the attention towards my Parliamentary Constituency that Nalanda is an international tourist destination. It is also connected under the Buddhist circuit. UDAN scheme has been started in Kushinagar, Banaras and Gaya Buddhist circuit, but no project of airport in Nalanda has started yet, so I would request the hon. Minister to propose an international airport there. Under Bharatmala pariyojana, whatever projects of National Highways and expressways which have been allotted to Bihar, there is a need to complete the work on them rapidly. I support this Bill. Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAGH): Thank you, hon. Chairperson Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill.

Sir, we are slowly coming out of the coronavirus pandemic, and everyone was anticipating this Budget and the Finance Bill to be a booster dose for the economy in the endemic or post pandemic era. But in reality, the booster dose was meant only for the rich. The poor and the middle class have got only a dose of high taxation, increasing fuel prices, and rising inequality. The Government talks about increasing GDP. I feel, it means gas, diesel, and petrol, the prices of which are increasing.

I would point out a few announcements that have been made through the Finance Bill. The Budget seeks to lay the foundation for achieving the vision of the hon. Prime Minister for India, and also making India a preferred choice for the world to do business. The Government has been shifting the goalpost. First, they spoke about doubling farmers' income by 2022; then, they talked about housing for all by 2022; and then, they talked about achieving a 5 trillion-dollar economy. I would want the Minister to answer whether these targets have been achieved or not. If it has been achieved, please give the data about all this.

Sir, the Finance Minister has not proposed any change in the basic tax rates and maintained status quo for all types of assesseees based on the last year. However, it is proposed to extend the cap of surcharge at 15% for any long-term capital gains earned by Individuals and HUFs, which is currently applicable only to the capital gains on listed shares and dividend income, whereas the maximum surcharge for balance income was 37%.

Sir, there has been a demand for clarity on admissibility of Input Tax Credit for expenses incurred towards CSR activities as well as expenses incurred in the wake of COVID-19. Since such supplies are being procured in the course of business and mandated by law, industry opines that availment of ITC of GST charged on such supplies should not be in dispute.

Sir, there have been delays in processing GST refunds under various categories leading to working capital crunch to businesses, whereas there is a statutory timeline of 60 days within which refund amount must be disbursed. In view of the same, the Government may consider introducing granting provisional refund to the extent of ninety percent of the total claim within seven days of filing such refund claims.

Sir, as regards textile industry, while the Government has deferred increase in GST rates, the textile industry is facing several challenges, especially rising prices of cotton in the international commodity market. The key players in this sector have urged the Government to remove five per cent import duty on raw cotton. This move will help stabilize the costs and impart much needed support to both big and small businesses. Similarly, there are specific sectoral expectations on overall rationalization of customs duty rates specifically on raw materials in key sectors like steel, aluminium etc. to check input cost and inflation. On the other side, certain sectors like pulp and paper are seeking imposition of import duties on specific sourcing material to create a level-playing field, protect domestic industry, and further make them globally competitive.

Sir, in this Budget, we have not seen how much black money has come back due to demonetisation. *[Translation]* Sir, the people of India kept standing in the

queues at the banks, but how much black money has come back to this country till date? More than 100 people died when people stood in bank queues, but we do not have any data on how much black money has come back? We want to know that too.

[English]

Another thing is-there is no roadmap for giving employment to the unemployed youth in this country. *[Translation]* Some Ministers of the country have said that if you are educated, you do not have a job, then you fry pakoras, open a tea shop, this is also not a right thing. ... *(Interruptions)* You should speak when allowed.

Sir, due to the high price of fuel, the prices of every commodity are increasing, this is also a matter to think about. During the Corona period, due to the sudden lockdown, many workers had migrated to their home states from Delhi and many died on the way. It was seen that the main earning persons died, so what about their families? Will any assistance be provided to them or not? Nothing has been mentioned in the Finance Bill about it. I want to know this and with this I conclude. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Finance Bill, 2022.

Without any further delay, I am going to the pertinent issues that I would wish to raise. I am speaking exclusively for the marginalised people. I am not going into

the other issues. I am particularly raising the specific issues related to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward communities.

As in the case of any Budget or State and sectoral allocations made, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities are the most affected and the least allocated. In the Union Budget 2022-23, the allocation for the Scheduled Castes stands at Rs.1,42,342.36 crore, and the allocation for the Scheduled Tribes is Rs.89,265.12 crore. For the welfare schemes of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 329 schemes for SC and 336 schemes for ST, have been allocated respectively.

While the allocation appears to be large and generous, the proportion of allocation for targeted schemes is 37.79 per cent, with Rs.53,794.09 crore allocated for the targeted schemes under the SC Budget, and the proportion is 43.8 percent for the targeted schemes of STs with an allocation of Rs.39,113 crore. This is the disparity of these marginalised people. Hon. Chairperson, Sir, you are very much aware of that.

What is the living condition of the marginalised people, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? Inflation is going up every day. Also, the price hike on the essential commodities is going up at a drastic level. The employment opportunity is also decreasing. Who is the ultimate victim in this country? When the Government pursues various wrong policies, who is the victim in this country? We are not realising it. Ultimately, the victims are the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable people.

The rest of the schemes under Dalit and Adivasi section in the Budget are de facto general schemes with a mask of SC or ST Budget schemes. They do not qualify

to be called as SC/ST schemes that will benefit these communities. Considering the general nature of the schemes, these will not address the development gap between SC/ST and the rest of the population as mandated by the guidelines.

The Government has been voicing the need for the development of the Dalit and Adivasi communities. However, the same is not reflected in the Budget for the financial year 2022-23. Let me explain the budget SC and ST-wise. The total expenditure Budget Estimate for 2022-23 is Rs.44,14,361 crore for SCs and STs. This is as per the total expenditure Budget Estimate. This will come through the Budget and the resources of public enterprises. This is as per the Expenditure Profile statement of the financial year, 2022-23.

Sir, the total eligible fund under Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for SCs is Rs.1230836 crore and for STs is Rs.1,226,282 crore, whereas the due allocation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Schemes, as per the new guidelines of NITI Aayog, is Rs.182976 crore for SCs and Rs. 98664 crores for STs.

Allocation under schemes for Welfare of Scheduled Castes (as per Statement 10A) and for Welfare of Scheduled Tribes (as per Statement 10B) is Rs.142,342 crore and Rs.89,265 crore respectively. Therefore, the total gap in allocation is Rs.129,181 crore for SCs and Rs. 55,077 crore for STs.

This has always been the case for the last seven years – not only this year, not only last year, but for the last seven years – and despite giving the high figures, there has been no actual and sincere allocation in any successive Budgets. Apart from the budgeted discrimination, the Government is extending its humiliating stance on rejecting the rights of dalits in every walk of life.

Sir, the available data shows that about 7000 cases of atrocities on dalit women were reported, with about 10 dalit women raped on an average daily. However, the budget allocated for the effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act this year is only Rs.600 crore, and of which, only a meagre amount of about Rs.180 crore is sanctioned to address violence and crime against dalit women. The trans dalit community do not find any mention in the Budget and they have been totally ignored by giving no share in the allocation.

Sir, the other point is with regard to discrimination in allocation for post matric scholarships for students belonging to SC/ST communities. The commitment to allocate Rs.7000 crore for post-matric scholarships has not been fulfilled this year too. This year, the allocation for SCs is only Rs.5660 crore and for STs is Rs.1,965 crore.

So, it is abundantly clear that the Government is doing a white wash in terms of allocation instead of spending any actual amount for the most challenged and discriminated sections of the society. This is the overall condition of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes communities. Nobody is listening to them. Their problems are not addressed. In employment, their number is decreasing day by day. But the Government of India is not paying any attention towards these people.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I am concluding in a minute only. You are very much aware about the issues pertaining to my State, Kerala.

I want to bring to the kind attention of the hon. Finance Minister the highly objectionable K-RAIL project in Kerala. A large-scale agitation is going on against this. The economic crisis in Kerala is going to be far worse and serious than Venezuela and Sri Lanka. The present rate of debt in Kerala is reaching 3.27 lakh crores and the debt constitutes 37.3 percent of State GSDP and debt-to-rate of revenue ratio for 2020-21 and 2019-20 is at 318 and 290, respectively.

The debt to State's own revenue ratio for 2020-21 and 2019-20 at 362 and 419 respectively indicates that Kerala is in bad debt category. During 2019-20, Kerala spent 75.6 percent of borrowed money for revenue expenditure which means that the State is not in a position to service its debt or take any other loan any soon. In this financial crisis, the Government of Kerala is pushing ahead with the Silver Line Project that is based on a fake and manipulated DPR pegging the total project cost at Rs. 63,000 crore. This figure has been exposed by several experts, including 'Metroman' Sreedharan who stated that - even the NITI Aayog also mentioned – this cost will be going up to Rs. 125,000 crore.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly see the DPR prepared by the Kerala Government for Silver Line and do not allow any financial sanction for this project. If they are giving the financial sanction for this project, entire Kerala will be totally demolished. Therefore, I would request the Government, and the Finance Minister, through you, Sir, to not give any financial sanction for the Silver Line Project. This is my humble request.

Hon. Finance Minister is also here. She is very much aware of that. A total of 19 Members of Parliament – Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha – signed a memorandum and submitted it to you. You are very much aware of the Silver Line Project.

The Chief Minister has told about it in the media yesterday in Kerala. In Delhi also, the Railway Ministry has, in principle, agreed and the Finance Ministry has given permission. The NITI Aayog has also given the permission for Silver Line. We are Members of Parliament, but we do not know whether the Government of India has given final sanction for Silver Line, the Finance Ministry has given sanction for Silver Line. We do not know that, but the Chief Minister has already declared that. The Minister has also declared that. Survey is going on and the action of eviction is also going on.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to clarify it while replying to the debate.

Thank you.

***DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (CHIDAMBARAM):** Hon Chairperson Sir, Vanakkam. Thank you for allowing me to take part in this discussion. There is a separate Ministry for Social Justice. It is a matter of great happiness and I appreciate. But there is no adequate allocation of funds for that ministry which is a matter of concern. For the financial year 2021-22, as much as Rs1395 Crore was allocated to the Central Sector Schemes. But the same allocation has been reduced to Rs 969.50 Crore during the year 2022-23. I should say that this Ministry should

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

be allocated more funds than any other Ministry. Because this Ministry has been working for the upliftment of the marginalized sections of the society who are downtrodden. We are aware of the fact that the marginalized sections are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities, denotified, differently-abled, women, transgender, etc. They can be also called as sections of Social Justice. This Ministry functions with an aim to uplift them in the fields of education, employment and economic development. If the Government was having the intention to uplift the backward, less-privileged and deprived sections of the society, it would not have reduced the fund allocation. I want the the Hon. Minister to clarify that why approximately an amount of Rs.400 Crore has been reduced for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during the year 2022-23. Particularly for SMILE, Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise; SEED, Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (De-notified Tribes), NTs (Nomadic Tribes) and SNTs (Semi Nomadic Tribes); Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi yojana are the schemes which have seen reduction in allocation of funds. By giving up reduction of funds, I humbly request the Hon Minister to allocate adequate funds for these programmes. Till now incentives were provided to couples who come together by doing inter-caste marriages as they need to be protected, economic supported and encouraged. Now this scheme of giving incentives has been stopped. It should be implemented as it was before. More over the Incentives for the inter-caste marriage couples should be restored and also enhanced.

Similarly Ambedkar Foundation was set-up. This Foundation compiled the speeches and works of Dr, Ambedkar and published the same in all the Indian languages of the country. Recently the activities of this Foundation seems to be standstill. Whether this Government wants to close the Ambedkar Foundation? A question which bothers our mind. Why this Government is not allocating sufficient

funds to Ambedkar Foundation thereby making it ineffective. On one side This Government makes lot of praise for Ambedkar, upholds in high esteem the Constitution which was framed by Dr. Ambedkar and celebrates the birthday of Dr Ambedkar. But I want this Government to clarify the fact that what is the intention behind reduced allocation of funds for Ambedkar Foundation? I urge that more funds should be allocated to Ambedkar Foundation. The Speeches, works and thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar should be translated and published in all the Indian languages making them reach the general public. If you really want to give importance to social justice, Ambedkar Foundation should be allowed to function without any constraints. Therefore, I urge that there should be adequate allocation of funds for Ambedkar Foundation. I also request the Government to declare the birthday of Dr Ambedkar as a holiday. Indian students who study abroad face lots of difficulties. The Scholarships given to them are inadequate. The Government announced that the number of such Scholarships will be increased from a meagre 100 to 125. But lakhs of Indian students are studying abroad. But there are demands from the student community for providing at least 20000 Scholarships annually. I urge upon the Government in this august House that atleast 2000 students should be given Scholarships by the Government in this regard. SC and ST students are getting education in all the States of our country through post-matric scholarships. There is no yearly allocation of funds. But the total allocation is fixed at Rs. 35,000 Crore. It seems to be misleading. Therefore I urge that the allocation for post-matric scholarships should be decided on yearly basis and the allocated amount should be sent to States for the benefit of SC and ST students. Thank you for this opportunity.

***DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM):** Hon Chairperson Sir, Vanakkam. Thank you for allowing me to take part in this discussion. We were happy to learn that the Fifteenth Finance Commission while deciding on devolution of funds for the States enhanced the allocation. But the statistics explain that the actual devolution of funds to the States is below 30 per cent. As a result States like Tamil Nadu are facing severe financial burden.

I therefore urge that the Union Government should share the funds with the States as recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. Besides, by levying additional taxes like Cess, Surcharge, etc. the Union Government takes away the collection amount of all such taxes without giving any share to the States. It seems to be a misleading act of the Government.

15.31 hrs

(Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy in the Chair)

Therefore I urge that the States should be given their due share in the connection amount of cess, surcharge etc. GST compensations to the States will end in 2022. It has been already decided that thereafter the States may not get GST compensation from the Union Government. But if the States do not get GST compensation they will face severe financial crises. I therefore request to extend providing GST compensation for another five years. After this Government came to power, Hon. Finance Minister while meeting the representatives of banking sector, assured them for enhancing the pension amount of pensioners of that sector. Hon. Minister also offered suggestions to IBA in this regard. The pensions of persons who

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

retired from Banks have not seen any revision for the last 30 to 40 years. As a result several lakhs of Bank pensioners are affected. I urge upon the Government, as assured by the Hon. Finance Minister, the IBA should be instructed accordingly to revise and enhance the pension amount of Bank pensioners. Our Government is implementing several schemes for the welfare of the disabled persons. Particularly there is a Scheme to provide pension to the disabled. It is fixed at Rs 300 per month. In the States, the State Governments are providing enhanced pension after adding their contribution to this pension fund. This pension for disabled has not been reviewed for so many years. I urge that the pension amount for differently-abled persons should be revised and enhanced to atleast Rs. 3000 per month and adequate allocation should be made in this regard. The equipment used by the disabled such as crutches, wheel chairs, walkers are at present having a maximum of 12 per cent GST. This is affecting the disabled persons very much. Therefore I humbly request our Hon Finance Minister to fully waive the GST component for equipment used by disabled persons. I want to talk about SC and ST people. Many MPs have spoken here about their plight. They face problems as they are landless in rural areas. NSSO records say that only 17 per cent of SC and ST people own land in rural areas. There is a direct connect between landlessness and atrocities faced by them. In order to protect them from the atrocities against them, this Government should devise a scheme to provide land to these SC and ST people. This was the demand made by the revolutionary leader Dr Ambedkar to the then Union Government when he was in deathbed. This Government should provide land to the SC and ST people in rural areas. We have surplus land everywhere in the country. The then Hon President Shri K.R. Narayanan had set up a Group of Hon. Governors to present a Report in this regard. Such a report was presented by the Group of Hon Governors to the then

Union Government in the year 2008. The Report had the details of surplus land available in every State and the way it can be given to the SC and ST people.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Ravikumar, please conclude soon.

DR. D. RAVIKUMAR: Sir, I request that the recommendations of that report should be implemented soon. Thank you for this opportunity.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Finance Bill, 2022. I would like to appreciate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting a non-controversial Finance Bill after a long time. It is a moderate Bill, though, the policies and programmes of this Government are pro-corporates. This Finance Bill is moderate. It is a well-balanced Finance Bill. So, once again I take this opportunity to appreciate the hon. Finance Minister for having presented such a Bill.

Regarding the Budget, we had a very detailed and in-depth discussion. So, I am not going to the fiscal and economic terms of the Budget and the issues related to the Budget. I am directly coming to the tax proposals. The Finance Bill, which gives effect to the taxation proposals to a Budget Estimate of Rs. 22,04,422 crore as tax revenue alone. This is anticipated for the Financial Year 2022-2023. The Revised Estimate of 2020-2021 is Rs. 20,78,936 crore. So, the tax revenue Budget Estimate seems to be realistic as the gross tax collection for the month of January, 2022 is more than Rs. 1.4 lakh crore, which is the highest or record collection that we have seen in January, 2022 since inception of GST. So, definitely that estimate, which is shown in the Budget Estimate of total gross tax revenue, is realistic according to me.

It also estimates a fiscal deficit of 6.4 and a revenue deficit of 3.6. If this economy grows in such a way, then definitely we will be able to contain the fiscal deficit as well as revenue deficit as estimated. But my apprehension and also the first question to the hon. Finance Minister is this. What would be the impact in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war? I am asking this because it is going to adversely affect the Indian economic situation. Why am I saying this? It is because Russia is the world's third largest producer and exporter of oil after USA and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and it is meeting 10 percent of the global demand also. So, in such a situation, the elevated oil prices will also raise India's CAD. Now, it is staying in a comfortable stage. Further, the higher price level of oil products will inevitably drive in the inflation also.

So, I would like to caution the Government that we have to be very careful in addressing the issue of this war situation so as to address the issues pertaining to the economic situation in our country.

Coming to the tax proposals, the first point that I would like to make is about the tax-GDP ratio. The tax support is generally measured by the tax-GDP ratio. The buoyancy of the tax reflects in the revenue generating capacity. The tax-GDP ratio in India was 16.55 per cent to 18.79 per cent during 2005-2009. Now, it is 9.9 percent to 11.2 percent of the GDP, that is, between 2013-2014 to 2022-2023. We have to improve the tax-GDP ratio. So many recommendations have been given, but none of the recommendations has been implemented so far in a fruitful manner.

We have to control tax evasion effectively, make tax administration accountable, remove the uncertainty for tax payers, and move away from the statistic revenue principle to the progressive principles. These are the suggestions, which I

would like to make so as to have a good tax-GDP ratio and to have a better financial position in our country.

With these principles in mind, we have introduced the Goods and Service Tax in the year 2017. I think that this morning Shri Gaurav Gogoi has rightly said that it is the right time to review GST. I think that a special Session or a special discussion is highly essential so as to review the performance of GST during the last 4 ½ years. The basic purpose of introduction of GST was to avoid multiplicity of rate of tax, strict tax compliance, increase the tax base, and one-nation-one-tax. This was the principle that we had adopted at that time when late Shri Arun Jaitley was introducing the GST.

I would like to quote certain speeches of late Shri Arun Jaitley ji. The House is having great respect for late Shri Arun Jaitley ji. His first statement which I would like to quote was made in 2014. Late Shri Arun Jaitley ji said, “Consistency and transparency of taxation laws are essential for a consistent growth of revenue of the Government”.

This was made in 2014. The second thing which echoes in my mind is from his speech at Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington in April 2015. "The Government sees Tax Payers as partners and not as potential hostages or victims." And the third one I would like to cite is the comment of a Judge of the High Court of Gujarat, during an online hearing. “It is very easy to reach the moon...we would take a chance...but to understand your policies and intricacies of this tax...Oh God, with folded hands, we say that it is beyond our capacity to understand". These are the wordings of a Judge regarding the tax structure which is prevailing in our country.

We have merged the GST to make it simpler and more effective and to have strict tax compliance. Sir, the GST law is the most intricate Tax law the country has ever seen. Even after four and a half years of its implementation, still the entire system of GST is in a premature stage. Transparency. Consistency, easy compliance and seamless transactions were the assurance made at the time of its introduction on the Independence Day. That was the most historic day. The hon. President has introduced the GST, and gave it to the people of this country prior to its implementation.

It may be noted that the slogan on the eve of implementation of GST Act in 2017 was "Good & Simple Tax" and "File your returns over a single click of the mouse" This was the slogan which was made at that time. Presently, even a nil return cannot be filed with a single click of the mouse. That is the situation which is prevailing as far as the GST is concerned.

Sir, I am not here to protect the interests of the cunning habitual tax evaders but I am here to reflect the agonies suffered by an innocent micro, small and medium taxpayer in fulfilling his duties to the country. Were we able to maintain the consistency and transparency of taxation laws in the country? Do we register a consistent growth in revenue of the Central and State Governments? Are the tax payers made partners of the system or are they still treated as potential hostages or victims of the tax system?

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister regarding an amendment. I am moving an amendment also on this issue. Seamless Input Tax Credit has been provided in the original GST but it is quite unfortunate because

traders are complaining about the new amendment to Section 38 of the Central GST Act and by virtue of Clause 108 of the present Finance Bill, this is being taken away.

If the Seamless Input Tax Credit as envisioned by the Legislature through three tier system of return filing, that is, GSTR I, GSTR II and GSTR III, is implemented, majority of present-day grievances and cases would not have occurred. So, Seamless Input Tax Credit, which is an assurance given at the time of introduction of the GST, is not being complied with or is not being honoured with. This has to be taken care of, for which, I have already given a notice of amendment, which is pending, and which would be taken up at the time when Bill is taken up for consideration.

The other point is about gold. India is the highest consumer of gold in the world. India's gold jewellery stood at US \$ 30.9 billion, and imports stood at US\$ 26 billion in the financial year 2018-19. Since the price of the gold stood very high, large-scale smuggling is taking place throughout the country. Basic reason for the illegal activities is due to the higher rate of current customs duties. The rate of customs duty for 2011-12 was one per cent; in 2012-13, it was two per cent; in 2013-14, it was four per cent. Then, it was six; then, it was eight. In 2014-15 to 2017-18, it was ten per cent; in 2019, it was 12.5 per cent; in 2020-21, it was 10.75 per cent. I fully appreciate the hon. Minister, now, it has been reduced from 12.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent. The demand of the gem and jewellery industry is further reduction in the import tax to avoid smuggling. Also, further relaxation is required as far as these traders are concerned. Honest taxpayers are being punished when it comes to gem and jewellery industry.

Sir, I want to make a political point regarding cess and surcharge. The 80th Constitutional Amendment provides for all Central taxes except the surcharge and cess to be shared between the Centre and the States. That means, cess and surcharge will not be a part of the divisible pool. Till 2015-16, surcharge and cess were just 5 to 6 percent of the Gross Tax Revenue (GTR), now it has increased to more than 9 percent of the GTR.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: So, the intention of imposing surcharge and cess instead of imposing taxes is to avoid sharing of the tax with the States. That has to be relooked or reviewed.

Regarding the customs duty of 2.5 per cent on cashew nuts, I am from cashew capital of the country, Kollam district, thousands and thousands of poor workers are now troubled. The entire cashew industry is in a big trouble. Customs duty of 2.5 percent of is imposed by the Government. I request the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw the 2.5 percent of the customs duty on raw cashew nuts so as to save the cashew industry in Kerala. I also urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to announce a cashew revival package so as to save the industry, not only in Kollam but also throughout the country. Cashew industry is now progressing like anything. So, that has to be done.

Lastly, there is an increase in the customs duty on the titanium dioxide from 10 per cent to 25 per cent. Please do something to save the domestic industry just like KMML and Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL).

With these words, I take this opportunity to appreciate the hon. Finance Minister for bringing such a moderate non-controversial Finance Bill for the year 2022-23.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA (BHILWARA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill. Sir, the special thing in the Finance Bill for the year 2022 is to remove the minor problems faced by the honest tax payers and to close the way for those who evade taxes. Both these works have been done in this Finance Bill.

Sir, let me tell you that due to the Corona period, some start-ups got delayed, their registration got delayed, their production got delayed, so these should not be deprived of the start-up benefits, so the dates have been extended in this Finance Bill. Along with this, the minimum alternative tax rate on Co-operative societies, which was higher than that of companies, has been reduced to the level of the companies so that there remains uniformity between the two. The surcharge has also been reduced which was very high.

Sir, earlier an employee of a company, used to get perquisites; TDS was never deducted from them and due to that tax of perquisites used to be evaded. Now, for the first time through this bill, a provision has been made that any employee, if the value of the perquisite is more than 20 thousand rupees, then 10 percent TDS will have to be deducted and the employer will have to deposit that 10 percent. So, the tax which was earlier used to get stuck in perquisite, now that way is closed.

Sir, there is one more provision which says that the persons who has died of Covid, if their employer companies want to provide any assistance to their family members, it can provide it within 12 months, and tax will be applicable on it. I urge that this time limit of 12 months should be removed and the assistance whenever provided by the company assistance to the bereaved family should remain tax free. The attention should be paid to this request. Earlier, one percent TDS used to be deducted on a sale of property valued above Rs. 50 lakhs. This TDS was to be deducted on the actual sale price or stamp duty, whichever is less. But, now after a new amendment, TDS is to be deducted on the sale price or stamp duty, whichever is higher.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I am the third speaker from the party. Let me be given at least ten minutes.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I raise my demand. There is no Act for the protection of small investors who invest in the schemes of various companies. Due to non existence of any act for the protection of the lakhs of small investors, who have invested their savings in Sahara, PACL, Adarsh Credit Co-operative Society etc., their money is stuck in these schemes. Therefore, to save the investors, the Investors Protection Act must be brought this time.

Sir, now I come to GST. The rate of GST is decided by the GST Council, but the Central Government has veto power in the GST Council as one-third of the voting rights are with the Central Government and two-third with the States. Three-fourth majority is required to pass any proposal, so we can say that the Center has veto power in this. I would like to state that it has been five years since GST was implemented, but GST tribunals have not yet been constituted. A lot of litigations

are taking place in this, after the commissioner, for appeal they have to go directly to the High Courts. This is a long process. Therefore, I urge the Hon. Finance Minister through you that the Appellate Tribunal for GST should be set up as soon as possible.

The exporters are facing problems. If one exports today, the customs office makes entry of the shipping bill in 'ICEGATE'. This should automatically appear on the DGFT portal, it is not being followed. Now the exporter runs from here to there and he or she doesn't get any answer about his work for a year or so. It should also be looked into.

Sir, there is talk of abolishing the inverted duty structure under GST. I urge the Government through you that the output duty which is less in the inverted duty structure should be maintained and the inverted duty structure should be abolished by reducing the input duty, not by increasing the output duty.

Sir, this is my special request through you. Thank you very much.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Danish ji, you have two people to speak from your Party – you and Ritesh.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Sir, I am the only speaker from my Party.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have five minutes. Please go ahead.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill. The Hon. Prime Minister of the

country made two very big promises. First, on November 8, 2016 at 8 pm when he announced demonetization and said that we are heading towards cashless economy. The money flowing towards terrorism will be checked, the money coming through money laundering will be checked, but what happened ultimately? The 16 lakh crore rupees used to circulate in cash, I am surprised that for many days the R.B.I. could not give the figure of the cash that has been deposited.

It was found that fake notes were also deposited in our Government of India banks by the black marketeers who were keeping black money. More than Rs 30,000 crore fake currency was also deposited. I don't know about the number of bank managers who were in connivance and about the action that has been taken against such people. Today almost double the cash is circulating in the market. Almost Rs 29 lakh crore is circulating in the market. One example was recently seen during the Uttar Pradesh elections, where the money was seized from an industrialist perfume trader. It took several days to count the hundred crores of rupees. The Bharatiya Janata Party's I.T. cell is very active, so initially it was said that the perfume trader belongs to the opposition party. But, later it came to know that the businessman had connections with the ruling party... (*Interruptions*) No denial came from him. A lot of money was seized from the houses of the ruling party, it is not hidden from anyone.

Sir, the second thing is that the Government had decided that the income of the farmers will be doubled in the year 2022. Now we are in the year 2022 itself. I am a farmer myself. The way the farmers of the country sit on strike around Delhi for many days, everyone knows the plight of the farmers today. Forget doubling the income of the farmers, their money and investment has increased on cost itself.

Sir, I, through you, would like to state that too much hype has been created about Ujjwala Yojana. See, how well the Government changes the goal post, you have provided cylinders, regulators, but where is the gas? ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Sir, I have just started to speak.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude within one minute.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Sir, a Member of Parliament from the ruling party has just advised to fill biogas in that cylinder, by setting up a *Gobar Gas* plant. A Member of Parliament from the ruling party has made a new invention here.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I, through you, would like to state that the Government is constantly changing its goal post. Now, there is a lot of debate going on in the country about crypto currency. The Government should decide whether to legalize crypto currency or not? It should be decided, why is it being allowed?... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to speak two to three minutes more.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please conclude. We do not have enough time today.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: I just want to say that the Government should decide its priorities.

Sir, the second thing is that today we are seeing how there is an atmosphere of fear. The central agencies, the tax agencies are, by singling out, continuously targeting the people of the opposition parties or the industrialists who don't follow the line of the Government.

I want to say that now I am not asking about my 15 lakh rupees. The Government had promised to give Rs. 15 lakh to everyone if the black money is brought back. I have now given up hope for it at least. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I will be completing in a minute or two. This time has been allotted to my party and party has conveyed it in writing.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. Your Party was allotted five minutes' time, and that is over now.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Sir, through you, I would like to convey only this much that we are being singled out and targeted. The Government had said that they will bring back the black money from Swiss Bank. Recently, it has been published in the newspaper, how the trust of a big corporate house was there in the Swiss Bank. ... (*Interruptions*)

16.00 hrs

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN (BISHNUPUR): Hon. Sir, first of all, I would like to thank our hon. Prime Minister. I greet the hon. Prime Minister and Nirmala Sitharaman ji.

[English]

*Hon. Speaker Sir, I whole heartedly thank our respected Prime Minister of the country; because of him 130 crore people of India are living a happy life. I also thank our Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. We have seen so many Prime Ministers earlier. But the way in which much needed Corona vaccine has been invented in India, the common people are praising hon. Prime Minister profusely. They are saying that we are alive due to his efforts.

Once, Kolkata was the capital of India, but today I am compelled to say that West Bengal has completely transformed into a terrorist state. We have seen that HON. Prime Minister has done everything for the state of West Bengal which our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee could not do.*

[Translation] Sir, kindly allow two extra minutes for Bengal at least. They talk about GST, about black money and crypto currency. I would like to mention only one thing that after demonetisation, they object whenever CBI or ED takes action to arrest someone or regarding coal mines.

* ...* English translation of this part of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[English]

*How can anything good happen to the state? We wish to reiterate that what horrific incident happened in Bengal's Birbhum. 12 persons were charred to death. Independent probe should take place to nab the culprits. We thank HON. Finance Minister for introducing RBI digital currency. But I urge upon the Government to identify the persons involved in coal scam. We demand that those involved in sand lifting scam and various murders should be brought to book. The Trinamool Congress Block President who had done this violent murder should be put behind bars. I thank hon. PM for the Ujjala Scheme; I thank PM for Pradhan Mantri Health Insurance Scheme. We all are surviving happily in this country.

I thank him for 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', for giving dignified life to us. But in Bengal no scheme in the name of Prime Minister is implemented; funds of central schemes are usurped. It is shameful. No HON. MP can say in this House that bombs are hurled on them in any other state. But it is a matter of shame that the car of an MP of Bengal is attacked with bombs. This should be also investigated. MPs and MLAs of West Bengal are fighting for justice putting their own lives at stake. No opposition MP here can claim that bombs are hurled at their cars in Uttar Pradesh. But we are in extremely pathetic condition in West Bengal. Article 356 may be immediately imposed on Bengal. Poor farmers there are starving. I request hon. Finance Minister to announce a special grant for those farmers, so that they are able to survive. The students of Bengal, who want to appear for teacher's examination are on the streets, sitting on dharna before the education department office. We are

* ...* English translation of this part of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

at the mercy of hon. Prime Minister. I request Finance Minister madam to visit West Bengal and generate employment for the people.

With these words I support the Finance Bill and urge upon the Government to put on end to the violent regime of West Bengal.

Thank you.*

16.03 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Zero Hour is also there.

Shrikant Shinde ji, kindly conclude in two minutes.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Hon. Speaker sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Finance Bill. I would like to start with a quote by Albert Einstein:

[English]

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

[Translation]

I think everyone will be able to associate himself with this quote of Einstein. The Middle class has not been given any exemption or slab benefit in the income tax which is a matter of concern. Numerous people have lost their jobs during Corona

pandemic. The main problem today is of high tax and low income. The Government must concentrate on the ways to tackle it. Apart from that, the way, the Income Tax and ED are being misused as said by Supriya ji in her speech. We earlier used to listen the slogan '*Kuchh Din to Guzaaro Gujarat Mein*' prompting to spend a few days touring Gujarat. The way, raids are being conducted by the ED and Income Tax department, the next slogan is going to be '*Kuchh Din to Guzaaro Havalaat Mein*'. The number of jails required for this is not clear though. This investigating agency is being bestowed with more powers. Provision of retrospective effect has been made through Clause 96, *[English]* to validate any action taken or duties performed by officers of DRI and Customs before the enactment of Finance Bill, 2022 notwithstanding the decisions of Courts/Tribunals/Authorities. *[Translation]* I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as to why so much power is being delegated to these authorities. What is the intent of the Government? The Government intends to target the political opponents. I am reminded of a dialogue seeing the delegation of powers to these officers. All must have watched the movie 'Sacred Games' in which the actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui says that sometimes he feels that he himself is God. The officials will start feeling that they are above the Supreme Court. A law has been introduced in the House with retrospective effect in contravention of the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court. You talk about Ease of Doing Business but it seems that with your policies, Ease of Closing Businesses has become easier. As per the data quoted by our colleague Gaurav Gogoi, thirty to thirty five thousand rich Indians would have left the country in the last five years. The reply provided by the Government says that businesses registered with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises were shut during the financial year 2021-22. These figures are not good for the country because some industrialists are escaping after committing frauds and the rest are running away due to the Government's

policies. I feel that the hospitality sector was the one of the worst affected sectors during Corona period and also needs to be paid attention.

Besides that, the Government evacuated lakhs of students due to the Russia-Ukraine war. Several hon. Members of Parliament have demanded and I also feel it necessary to consider their loss of studies as it will be a huge liability on the country.

I feel that Petrol and Diesel have a direct connection with elections. Whenever there are elections, the price comes down and it doubles just after the elections. I feel, the prices of Petrol and Diesel have increased just a few days back. The year 2022 is being celebrated as 'Amrit Mahotsav'. We have been listening for years now that the incomes of the farmers will get doubled. Everyone will get housing. But, its only a week left of the Financial Year 2022. I would like to know from the Government as to how many targets have been achieved and how many works have been completed.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ritesh Pandey ji, you have only two minutes to finish. Kindly conclude precisely within two minutes.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Please allow me four minutes. I will conclude within four minutes.

HON. SPEAKER: No, you have only two minutes to conclude.

[English]

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): In a single stroke, the Government has managed to hamper India's crypto currency future. While there is no clarity on how the Government actually intends to regulate this base of crypto

currency since there is not even a draft Bill or there is a Bill in front of a Parliamentary Committee, the Finance Minister has made certain changes to the regulation of virtual digital asset class that will greatly hamper India's Web 3.0 space. The Web 3.0 space is not just crypto currencies where there are movies, music, gaming, ticketing, and commerce. It intends to revolutionize the world with smart contracts and the metaverse. The interchanging assets across different blockchains is critical to the business of Web 3.0. It does what a one per cent of TDS does to the business of the blockchain. It is critical to understand what the hon. Finance Minister has done by introducing this one per cent TDS on the blockchain industry. It is going to hamper the way this business is done. I will like to point out here that Shri Amitabh Bachchan has launched his NFT. *[Translation]* Recently, a movie named '83' based on Cricket was released which has shown all the great cricketers. An NFT was also launched. For example, if you purchase Thorium, a crypto currency, by paying in Indian Rupees and put it in Meta Mask Crypto wallet. Then you purchase a Bollywood movie with it which gives you a poster signed by that actor. One percent TDS will be charged at every stage on these three transactions. Through you, I would certainly like to tell the HON. Finance Minister that imposing TDS three times on a single transaction will only expose our red tapism. It works towards completely destroying this new asset class which is young.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I am nearing my last point. I would like to urge the hon. Finance Minister to take my word that she herself is going to change in times to come the one percent TDS policy introduced recently. You will end the policy of charging TDS at three points. You should think about investors too. During Wave 1.0, you can see that a big company like Google has come from Silicon Valley in this space. During Wave 2.0, big company like Facebook also came from Silicon Valley only. You are working to strangulate the transactions taking place by placing

so many regulations at every stage in numerous Unicorns emerging in our country during wave 3.0.

Sir, I am concluding. Kindly allow me one more minute. I am concluding. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not allowing even for a second.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Sir, kindly allow me one more minute. I am pleading before you. The young people of the country in age group 18 to 25 years are the one who have invested more in it. Please do not stifle and finish their thoughts in this manner. Please revoke the one percent TDS for the sake of this asset class because it is going to destroy such an excellent asset class in our country in future. Therefore, you are requested not to impose one percent TDS on it.

HON. SPEAKER: Are you going to make movies?

Hon. Minister.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I specifically thank you and also the hon. Members of this House for having agreed to have the discussion today, being a Friday. I also thank all the hon. Members who were considerate enough to have the Private Members' Business shifted to some other alternative day. The reason for this, in spite of some Members having reservations, is because we are in the last week of the month and ideally by 1st of April, I would like to have all the Ministries and Departments receive their funds. But the process of approval after this will have to go through several stages and also the Rajya Sabha and that is why, with your kind permission, we are able to handle it on a Friday afternoon. In fact, from my heart, I thank all the hon. Members who have taken the time to be here and participate in the discussions. More than 20 hon. Members have spoken on this Finance Bill today.

Sir, I just want to start with the Finance Bill, the provisions for taxation, other than the points discussed in the general discussion on the general Budget. This discussion on the Finance Bill, like the way many hon. Members have seen through the kind of details and was able to highlight what has been said in the Finance Bill, actually highlights the way in which, under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, during the pandemic and coming out of the pandemic and aiding recovery, we have taken a conscious decision, I hope I am able to articulate this fact to all the hon. Members that we have taken a conscious position, not to fund the recovery 25.03.2022 929 through any additional taxes. That is why last year and this year there is continuity in not bringing newer taxation and that is something which I would like to place on record of this House. It is because I want to draw on the Reports which have come out of the OECD (Organisation for Economic

Cooperation and Development). It very clearly said that at least 32 countries increased various tax rates during the pandemic. India did not. Thirty-two countries, during the Pandemic increased personal income tax, or tax on corporate income; or environmental related taxes were raised; or health related taxes were raised; or excise duties were raised.

We have not done that last year nor have we done it this year. Which are these countries which had to depend on tax increases to meet the expenses of the pandemic? They are no less absolutely developed countries, large countries like Germany, France, Canada, UK and Russia apart from very many smaller economies. All of them depended on increasing taxation to meet the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and also the recovery requirements.

So, I would like to place that on the Table because the clear instruction, first guidance which, in fact I received while preparing the Budget - 2021 and Budget - 2022 was that we shall not take the taxation route. I remember the media, last year, was also suggesting that there could be a COVID-19 tax. But we did not resort to any of these steps to burden the common man and as a result, therefore, this Finance Bill has been received as being one of the boring ones, one of the insipid ones, one of them which had nothing great about it. It is indeed, I would think, a Budget which did not burden the common public but yet put the money where the multipliable be the maximum and where the infrastructure creation of assets will happen. And on that, we did not come up with small allowances in the Budget but a big time increase in infrastructure spending.

There are more to say on that, Sir, but I will come to that a bit later after I answer the specific questions which Members have raised on issues pertaining to the features of the Budget.

I will start with Shri Gaurav Gogoi who actually has been providing comments and, in his comments, he has come up with a lot of positive suggestions as to how we can take on some of these issues.

I just want to specifically tell him that the corporate tax reduction has actually been carried out. As you observed it, there is no relief for the middle class. Has there been any study undertaken to assess the impact of corporate tax rate reduction is one of the questions which he has raised.

Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member, for individuals, due to rebate, they do not pay any tax if income is below Rs. 5 lakh. This is very well known. Those opting for tax savings, of course, pay no tax even on higher income as they can claim deduction for tax saving and for bringing the income below Rs. 5 lakh.

For those who are not opting for any of these exemptions, last year, we came out with a separate track or a second alternative tax saving scheme. We have come up with that kind of an income tax layer with which they can pay lesser tax and benefit from it. But about the corporate tax reductions, it has actually helped the economy, it has helped the Government, and it has also helped the companies because we are now starting to see the positive impact.

In the year 2018-19, our corporate tax collection was about Rs. 6.6 lakh crore. Then COVID-19 happened and so, you could not have expected anything to come through there. In spite of tax reduction and COVID-19, we have already collected corporate tax of Rs. 7.3 lakh crore till yesterday. So, the reduction in corporate tax has actually now given us the reward in spite of the intervening year being under COVID-19.

So, I wanted to inform the hon. Member, Shri Gogoi that the corporate tax is actually also helping the flow of money and also making sure that the health of the companies is improving, thereby improving the possibilities of greater employment.

Hon. Member, Shri Gogoi also voiced his concern, which I thought even as we presented the Budget, we had explained it last year possibly, and again this year, particularly on umbrellas and on the question of increasing custom duty on umbrellas. Sir, I think, I did explain it but I want to reiterate the point.

Umbrellas are manufactured in India and nearly 25 million pieces of individual umbrellas are imported every year into this country. They were being imported from one country. These 25 million pieces of umbrella were being imported from one country. Do we really need it? Can we not manufacture it? We were manufacturing umbrellas already. Can we not strengthen our manufacturing? So, we have imposed this custom duty. This is only to encourage the MSMEs which are producing It.

Sir, another question was raised whether the revocation of ADD and CVD on steels was permanent. The countervailing duties on steel, ADD and CVD, have been revoked to provide relief to the user industry. I am sure that all the hon. Members will see that the integrated steel manufacturers are very buoyant now. They are able to export a lot. In fact, they are seeing unprecedented size and quantum in exports. Therefore, steel has become probably expensive for many of our downstream industries.

So, we have revoked CVD and ADD to provide relief to our user industry which suffers because of the increased price of steel and the rise in the prices of steel does not seem to look to get abated soon. We wanted to support our MSMEs. So, we have revoked ADD and CVD. I just want to make sure that the concerns of the hon. Member Shri Gogoi are fully addressed.

Shri Gaurav Gogoi has raised the issue about IFSC. IFSC is a premier centre through which the global financial companies are coming to India. We are seeing a rapid change in terms of kind of usages through which IFSC is benefitting all of us. We have seen very good results. A number of 21 banks have got licenses. Total banking asset sizes have increased by more than 25 billion US dollars. Asset size alone has increased by 25 billion US dollars. Total banking transaction has crossed up to 156 billion US dollars. Two stock exchanges have also been opened with daily trading value of index derivatives of 13.14 billion US dollars and daily trade value of currency derivatives are at the level of 13 million US dollars. Commodity derivatives are at 174 million US dollars. So, the footfall, the extent of business, the coverage, and the kind of generation in the activity, all are very distinctive for all of us to see.

More than 50 funds have registered themselves in IFSC. The amount committed by private equity and venture capital is about 3.8 billion US dollars. Hedge funds have committed 845 million US dollars and the total amount committed by the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) is to the extent of 4.6 billion US dollars. A number of 19 insurance companies have started operation in the IFSC and they have underwritten insurance premium of more than 300 million US dollars including intermediaries.

So, we have seen the progress in the IFSC. This is an issue on which there are questions and answers in every Budget. It is said that we are supporting the IFSC. Has it really shown any difference? Has it really made any difference to the kind of concessions made? Yes, the fiscal concession which had been given has shown its tangible results in the IFSC more than adequately.

Sir, a lot of Members have spoken about virtual digital currency. A point was raised that the Government is giving a mixed signal and there is no clarity. This was raised by quite a lot of hon. Members: Supriya Sule ji, Ritesh Pandey ji and Pinaki ji. I just want to say that there is no confusing signal. We are very clear that the consultation is going on whether we want to regulate it fully or we want to regulate it to some extent or we want to totally ban it. After the consultation is concluded, the result will come out.

But till then, we are taxing it also, because there is a lot of reported activity happening; a lot of transactions are happening; and from the way the concerns are being expressed by several Members, there is definitely a common place knowledge that a lot of exchanges are happening, people are putting money, people are taking money, people are creating assets, and assets are being sold and bought. So, obviously, the Government made its position clear saying, we shall tax the money being generated out of it and that is why, we have come out with the proposal to tax it at 30 per cent and the TDS has also been brought in. As always, TDS is more for tracking; it is not an additional tax, it is not a new tax, it is a tax which is going to help people to track it.

But, at the same time, the person who has paid one per cent TDS can always reconcile it with the total tax that he has to pay to the Government; he can subtract it if he has paid more or add it if he has to pay additional tax. So, there is no new taxation because of TDS. The TDS principle has always been the same and that, probably, is also one of the reasons why the tax base has widened not here only on the digital side, but, in general, the tax base has been widening. Earlier, we had only about 5 crore and odd people who were paying taxes in 2014. We are now touching 9.1 crore people and that is because we are able to find the money trail of people

who seem to be spending money, who file assessments sometimes, but they do not pay even if they are expected to pay. So, TDS is always a legitimate way through which we are tracking the transactions and, therefore, it is helpful to widen the tax base.

Sir, I am just asking for your guidance; earlier, once you had requested me not to answer to the issues raised by Members who are not present in the House. Should I do it or should I not? If I do not, I can always straight go to Members who are sitting here for whom I can always answer.

Sir, on the strict provisions of the GST, hon. Member Supriya Sule had raised a question saying these provisions lead to imprisonment as a punishment for mistaken entries. I would like to clarify here that there is only one section which is Section 132 in the CGST Act which provides for imprisonment in specific cases and the specific cases are evasion of tax, availing fraudulent input tax credit, deliberately tampering financial records, and giving false information with an intent to evade payment of tax.

These are the specific items under which, after proper adjudication, imprisonment is done if it is necessary to be taken as a step. Imprisonment is done only in cases of serious nature such as these and not for minor mistakes or wrong entries. So, in normal cases of compliances, where records are maintained and where furnishing of returns happen, no imprisonment is ever invoked. Further, the GST law also does not provide for imprisonment in cases where the amount of tax evaded or the income tax concessions availed and utilised is less than the threshold limit of Rs. One crore. So, anything below it is, anyway, not going to be taken up for imprisonment. These provisions were made as per the recommendation of the GST Council where States are also equally present and, in fact, that one line is, actually, the answer or my

response for every suggestion which has come about GST, including the suggestion given by hon. Member N.K. Premachandran. Some suggestions related to GST have come. Some comments have also been made on the amendments which we have brought in the Finance Bill related to GST. They have not been brought by me; they are not brought by the Ministry of Finance; they are brought by us post the GST Council's suggestion saying, 'yes, this should go through', so we are bringing it in the Finance Bill. So, it is not that they are being brought in by the Central Government.

Sir, PMLA and ED have naturally attracted a lot of attention and some observations have also been made by hon. Members. I am, in particular, referring to arrests made under PMLA without even registration of a FIR.

The ED always comes in following the trial of the main offence which is taken up by some other FIR, and post that, when the trial goes on and you realise that money has been laundered, the PMLA can be invoked; then comes the ED. So, the ED is never the first one in the scene. If you see the ED, be sure that there is something else already with you.

Sir, Midhun Reddy-ji and Pinaki Misra-ji had raised questions about faceless assessment that it is seeing frequent amendments. I would like to assure the hon. Members that the faceless assessment has been well received. People are relieved that they do not have to go to the offices. But if there are amendments, it is more because we just want to ensure that there is no nuisance.

Where eventually after the faceless assessment has gone through stage-I and stage-II, and actually there is a need for some personal interaction at the final stages, we would want to come in. There, we make the small amendments. So, these amendments have been proposed in the Bill to ensure that the tax payer who wants

to have a hearing at the eventual final stage having gone through everything, he gets a hearing through video conferencing. So, these kinds of changes are more for the facilitation.

There was also a question raised about retrospective aspect, which is part of this Bill. That is only because one particular issue where the surcharge on tax and cess on tax have been, over some years -- if I can use the word -- 'misused', the people have treated it as their exemptions and all expenditure/business expenditure undertaken, and therefore, they think that it can be used for deleting that level of income from their taxable income. So, that had become a very, very confusing point on which people have gone to courts also. So, that amendment with a retrospective effect has been brought more for clarity. That is not going to burden the tax payer because what we have done is: 'please approach from your side claiming that this is shown as undisclosed income; and if you come on your own, there is no penalty. We will treat it again, and the Local Commissioner of Income Tax will be able to reassess your income including that which has been otherwise shown as expenditure/business expenditure. And, the income now we assess, you can pay up what is got to be paid legitimately as tax. There is no penalty if you come on your own.'

Unless we take it back to the time when this misuse has started, there will always be a hiatus, and that hiatus will lead to confusion. Some people will continue to benefit from that misuse; and others would have done it fairly.

So, it is only for that explanatory purpose that retrospective aspect has been brought in.

Sir, about tax rationalisation, I think, we have started doing it. For the direct taxation, we have started doing it from the corporate tax business and also for the

income tax where we gave a second parallel track. For the GST, we have a Group of Ministers headed by our Chief Minister who is looking into it so that we can get back to being revenue-neutral and rationalise the number of slabs that we have.

Sir, Pinaki Misra-ji also asked about the black money in the economy, and a very few tax payers are paying tax. I think, I partly answered this by saying that five crore tax payers were there a couple of years ago, and now it has gone up to nine crore. We have taken many steps for widening and deepening of the tax base. We have reduced tax rates and removed exemptions.

Through technology – I place a lot of emphasis on this – we have also made compliance easy; tax payment is making a headway; and also assessment is made easier. So, all this has brought in a greater buoyancy like never before. I would think people accept the way in which technology is giving us greater room to operate, we will have the base widen a lot more.

Sir, I partly referred to it also as Shri N.K. Premachandran ji said: “GST is not simple.” He invoked the statement of the former Finance Minister, Shri Jaitley, saying: “No, it will be a very simple tax.” Definitely, difficulties which were there, we have periodically sat with the stakeholders and tried to remove it. Nil return under GST, both, GSTR 3B as well as GSTR 1, can be filed without logging in on to the GST portal by a simple SMS through mobile. So, if the portal through which you had to do it is a bit cumbersome for you, there is also an alternative way of using the SMS facility. But the other issues related to the CGST Act and items that has got to be looked at for differential rates, I would go back to the GST Council’s suggestions which have been brought in here. They are not mine. I just want to highlight that.

Sir, other than that, I think, Members who had raised some of the very significant issues are not here, so going by your advice and also keeping the constraint in mind,

I just want to be sure that I would not go into the details of the questions that they had asked.

Sir, I want to emphasise here on one last point. As I said, we started by saying that we have not brought in extra burden and I know not just during the discussion on the Finance Bill but even otherwise, people have been saying: “How could you raise taxes and fuel prices?” Sir, the global war like situation is not a time when we are looking at raising these things. It has nothing to do with the elections of any kind. If the oil marketing companies – the Petroleum Minister is seated here – think that they are procuring on a 15-day average higher rate, obviously, we will have to bear this.

This war which is being fought in Ukraine is exerting its impact on all the countries. The supply chains are disrupted, particularly, of crude oil and so on. So, I would just very quickly recall one quote based on the crude oil and the war like situation when India is very globally connected in the value chain. In 1951, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that a Korean war can affect Indian inflation. I will have to say this because war anywhere can affect us. Today, in a globally connected day, it will, definitely, affect. At that time, he said, sorry for my Hindi, but the speech was in Hindi, so I read it in Hindi:

[Translation]

“Prices keep rising, food prices go up, rationing and many other issues altogether surfaced before us and you too had to face problems. You complained about your problems and you had to complain about the issues faced by you.

We were so entangled in the global affairs, like- the impacts of Korean war was experienced here in our country, consequently the prices of articles shot up, in the similar way, the effects of any eventuality in USA is witnessed here which cause increase in the prices of the articles.”

[English]

In 1951, when India was not globally connected with Korea and America, that could be used for justifying a price rise but if genuinely today Ukraine is hitting us and if we say that war is causing the price rise, it is not accepted. How can this ...*(Interruptions) ... (Interruptions) ... (Interruptions).

Sir, finally, we, as a Government, and Shri Narendra Modi, as the Prime Minister, and a Chief Minister have strongly believed in lowering taxes and reducing the burden on the common man. We have been continuously and successfully doing it steadily.

Sir, I would just like to compare what prevailed earlier and what is today. In the Union Budget Speech of February 28, 1970, the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who also held the Finance Minister’s Office at that time, announced to increase the marginal tax rate by 11 percentage points to 93.5 per cent on all income groups above Rs. 2 lakh. I would like to quote from the Indira Gandhiji’s Budget Speech of 1970. She said:

“With the addition of the surcharge at 10 per cent, the maximum rate of 93.5 per cent will now be reached in the slab over Rs. 2 lakh as against 82.5 per cent in the slab over Rs. 2.5 lakh at present.”

* Not recorded

Sir, I dread to read this. There was 93.5 per cent tax. And, today when we do 1 per cent TDS, we are being mocked at, we are being hit at. Sir, as per our current tax slabs, the highest tax slab for those earning more than Rs. 10 lakh is just 30 per cent. ... (*Interruptions*) Under the new and optional tax slabs announced in 2020, this rate is 30 per cent which would apply to the earnings of more than Rs. 15 lakh. So, tax is a matter on which the Congress Party never thought of reducing the common man's burden. Whereas, we are constantly working to make sure that people are not burdened and we give them maximum benefit through various ways. Also, we make sure that the people who make and run businesses are treated with a sense of pride so that they can create jobs. We do not treat them as the people from whom we have to suck out everything so that we have the vicarious pleasure of killing their businesses as well. We do not do that.

So, with that, I seek your support and also the support of the entire House. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to know one thing from the Minister regarding GST compensation. The way, the Central Government has accorded extensions to start-ups and manufacturing companies, so considering the financial conditions of the State, whether the Central Government or the GST Council proposes to accord extension in GST compensation as well?

I don't know whether in any parliament of the world, the talks of the year 1950 or 1970 take place in the year 2022, I watch the debates of the other parliament also, but I could not find such debate anywhere else.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Sir, I have a small question. ...

(Interruptions) Sir, she had taken my name. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON.SPEAKER: Here, the permission is granted by the speaker, but not by the Ministers.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON.SPEAKER: Are you saying something?

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Sir, I have one small question regarding PMLA. There were two specific issues of Maharashtra, where I come from. The allegation was of Rs. 100 crore. When the FIR was launched, it was Rs. 1 crore. Similarly, there was an allegation of Rs. 55 lakh. Then, they said that it was a typographical error, and the amount was changed to Rs. 5 lakh. So, what happens in such a situation when an allegation is made? From Rs. 100 crore, it comes to Rs. 1 crore and from Rs. 55 lakh, it comes to Rs. 5 lakh. Then, the people were arrested, and nothing happened. So, is there something where you can put a cap?

[Translation]

HON.SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, would you like to answer?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITARAMAN: Sir, I would like to answer in brief.

[English] The concern of the hon. Member is right. States do have a problem about how they are going to handle their finances. As regards revenue generation and collection of taxes, the States and the Centre are improving. I am not saying that, that is the reason why nothing would happen. As it is, the cess for compensation payment is already extended from July 2022 to March 2026. So, extension has happened to meet the payment dues. Many Members do raise their points that the

dues for this State and that State are so much. Those are not decided by me. As of now, about Rs. 53,000 odd crores are pending, and that is also an amount decided by the Council. *[Translation]* Borrow this much now, borrow that much later and in the same fashion, we have to keep borrowing every now and then to fulfill the demands of the States as mandated by the council. Its interest and the amount other than the interest that is still due for payment, all will be compensated by collection of the Cess, which will be extended from July, 2022.

This formula has been decided in the Council, so, as per the decision, whatever amount of fund we owe to the States has already been released and I have confirmed that nothing is left with us. So far as Rs. 53 thousand crore is concerned, I have clearly affirmed in the House that yes, it is pending. I am not hiding this. Some Honourable Members allege that their States were not provided with sufficient funds but others, particularly, the BJP-ruled States were provided with sufficient funds. They allege that we are giving it only to the BJP-ruled States but not the Congress-ruled States. It is not so at all. ... *(Interruptions)* Please Stop doing this politics at all. ... *(Interruptions)* We release fund to every state as decided by the GST Council. ... *(Interruptions)* We have already given what we had to give so far.

It has already been extended till March 2026 to compensate for the shortfall under the formula and the interest payment that will be collected from the coming year 2022. It is obvious, and known to all; but there is nothing left with them to corner the Government, so they raise this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER : The question is:

“ that the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2022-23 be taken into consideration.”

The Motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up clause- wise consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That Clause 2 stands part of the Bill.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Amendment of Section 2

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No.1

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 20, *after* line 4, *insert-*

'(a) in clause (12A), for the words in the written form or as print-outs of data stored in", the words "in the written form or in electronic form or in digital form or as print-outs of data stored in such electronic form or in digital form or in shall be *substituted*;' (1)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 Amendment of Section 10

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment no. 2 to 5.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 21, *after* line 5, *insert-*

(i) in clause (4D), in the *Explanation*, in clause (c), in sub-clause (i), in this item for the words "non-residents; or", the following shall be *substituted*, namely: -

"non- residents:

Provided that the condition specified in this item shall not `` apply where any unit holder or holders, being -non-resident during the previous year when such unit or units were issued, becomes resident under clause (1) or clause (1A) of section 6 in any previous year subsequent to that year, if the aggregate value and number of the units held by such resident unitholder or

unitholders do not exceed five per cent of the total units issued and fulfill such other conditions as may be prescribed; or". (2)

Page 27, line 6, *after* "approved", *insert* "or provisionally approved". (3)

Page 29 *for* line 34, *substitute-*

"thereof for that previous year.

Explanation. - Where, on or *after* the 1st day of April, 2022 any fund or institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or any trust or institution referred to in sub-clause (v) or any university or other educational institution referred to in sub-clause (vi) or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (via) is notified under clause (46) of section 10; the approval or provisional approval granted to such fund or institution or trust or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution shall become inoperative from the date of notification of such fund or institution or trust or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution, as the case may be, under clause (46) of the said section:",(4)

Page 30, *for* line 11, *substitute* 'section, be deemed to be the income of such fund or institution or trust or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution of'.

(5)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause 10 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 16 Amendment of Section 56

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, now, move amendment No. 6

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 40, *after* line 4, *insert-*

‘(ii) in sub-clause (c), *after* the proviso occurring *after* item (B) and before the Explanation, the following proviso shall be *inserted* with effect from the 1st day of April, 2023, namely: -

"Provided further that clauses (VI) and (VII) of the first proviso shall not apply where any sum of money or any property

has been received by any person referred to in sub-section (3) of section 13." ;'. ` (6)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 to 20 were added to the Bill.

Clause 21 to 27 were added to the Bill.

Clause 28 Insertion of new sections 115 BBH and 115 BBI

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No. 7 to 11.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 45, line 9, *after "asset,"*, insert "notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act,". (7)

Page 45, lines 19 and 20, *for* "(other than cost of acquisition)",
substitute "(other than cost of acquisition, if any)". (8)

Page 45, line 26, *omit* "other". (9)

Page 45, *after* line 29, *insert*-

‘(3) For the purposes of this section, the word "transfer" as defined in clause (47) of section 2, shall apply to any virtual digital asset, whether capital asset or not.’(10)

Page 45, line 38, *for* "specified income", *substitute* "specified income, notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act".(11)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 28, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 29 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 38 Amendment of Section 139

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No. 12 and 13.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 52, line 33, *for* "two assessment years", *substitute* "any assessment year". (12)

Page 53, *for* line 31, *substitute-*

"regard:

Provided also that if any person has sustained a loss in any previous year and has furnished a return of loss in the prescribed form within the time allowed under sub-section (1) and verified in the prescribed manner and containing such other particulars as may be prescribed, he shall be allowed to furnish an updated return where such updated return is a return of income:

Provided also that if the loss or any part thereof carried forward under Chapter VI or unabsorbed depreciation carried forward under sub-section (2) of section 32 or tax credit carried forward under section 115JAA or under section 115JD is to be reduced for any subsequent previous year as a result of furnishing of return of income under this sub-section for a previous year, an updated return shall be furnished for each such subsequent year."

(13)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 39 to 47 were added to the Bill.

Clause 48 Amendment of Section 153

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No. 14.

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 73, *after* line 31, *insert-*

‘(a) in sub-section (1), for the second proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2021, namely:

—

“Provided further that in respect of an order of assessment relating to the assessment year commencing on the—

(i) 1st day of Apr11, 2019, the provisions of this sub-section shall have effect, as if for the words “twenty-one months”, the words “twelve months” had been substituted;

(ii) 1st day of April, 2020, the provisions of this sub-section shall have effect, as if for the words “twenty-one months”, the words “eighteen months” had been substituted:”’. (14)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 48, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 48, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 49 Amendment of Section 153 B

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment no. 15.

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 75, *after* line 33, *insert*—

‘(a) in sub-section (1), *after* the fifth proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2021, namely: —

“Provided also that in a case where the last of the authorisations for search under section 132 or requisition under section 132A was executed during the financial year commencing on the 1st day of April, 2020 or in case of other person referred to in section 153 C, the books of account or document or assets seized or requisitioned were handed over under section 153C to the Assessing Officer having jurisdiction over such other person during the financial year commencing on the 1st day of April, 2020, the assessment in such cases for the assessment year commencing on the 1st day of April, 2021 shall be made on or before the 30th day of September, 2022.”;

(15)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

*[Translation]***HON. SPEAKER :** The question is :

“That Clause 49, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 49, as amended, was added to the Bill.**[English]***Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I beg to move:

“That is House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No.16** to the Finance Bill, 2022 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is:

“That is House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No.16* to the Finance Bill, 2022 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

New Clause 49 A Amendment of Section 155

Amendment made:

Page 76, *after* line 20, *insert—*

* Vide Amendments list No.1 circulated on 23.3.2022.

‘49A. In section 155 of the Income-tax Act, *after* sub-section (17) and before the Explanation, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely: —

‘(18) Where any deduction in respect of any surcharge or cess, which is not allowable as deduction under section 40, has been claimed and allowed in the case of an assessee in any previous year, such claim shall be deemed to be under-reported income of the assessee for such previous year for the purposes of sub-section (3) of section 270A, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (6) of section 270A, and the Assessing Officer shall recompute the total income of the assessee for such previous year and make necessary amendment; and the provisions of section 154 shall, so far as may be, apply thereto, the period of four years specified in sub-section (7) of section 154 being reckoned from the end of the previous year commencing on the 1st day of April 2021:

Provided that in a case where the assessee makes an application to the Assessing Officer in the prescribed form and within the prescribed time, requesting for recomputation of the total income of the previous year without allowing the claim for deduction of surcharge or cess and pays the amount due thereon within the specified time, such claim shall not be deemed to be under-reported

income for the purposes of sub-section (3) of section 270A.’.’. (16)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is:

“ that a new Clause 49A, as amended , added to the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

A New Clause 49A was added to the Bill.

Clause 50 and 51, were added to the Bill.

Clause 52 Insertion of new section 158 AB

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment no. 17 to 22.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 77, line 30, *after* “sub-section (1)”, *insert* “, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3) of section 253 or clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 260A”. (17)

Page 77, for lines 33 to 36, *substitute*—

“prescribed within a period of one hundred and twenty days from the date of receipt of the order of the Commissioner (Appeals) or of the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may”. (18)

Page 78, *for* lines 9 and 10, *substitute* “Commissioner shall, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3) of section 253 or clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 260A, proceed in accordance with the provisions contained in sub-section (2) of section 253 or in clause (c) of.”. (19)

Page 78, line 20, *after* “Part B”, *insert* “and Part CC”. (20)

Page 78, line 23, *after* “sixty days”, *insert* “to the Appellate Tribunal or one hundred and twenty days to the High Court as the case may be,”. (21)

Page 78, *for* lines 25 to 27, *substitute* —

“other case is communicated to the Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner (having jurisdiction over the relevant case), in accordance with the procedure specified by the Board in this behalf.”. (22)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 52, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 52, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 53 Amendment of Section 170

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment no. 23 and 24.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 78, for lines 37 to 41, *substitute* —

“sections (1) and (2), where there is succession, the assessment or reassessment or any other proceedings, made or initiated on the predecessor during the course of pendency of such succession, shall be deemed to have been made or initiated on the successor and all the provisions of”. (23)

Page 79, for lines 1 to 9, *substitute* —

‘*Explanation,-* For the purposes of this sub-section, the term “pendency” means the period commencing from the date of filing of application for such succession of business before the High Court or’. (24)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 53, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 53, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 54 Insertion of new section 170A

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, now, move Amendment No. 25..

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 79, for lines 33 to 35, substitute—

‘Explanation. - In this section, the expressions-

(i) “business reorganisation” means the reorganisation of business involving the amalgamation or de-merger or merger of business of one or more persons;

(ii) “successor” means all resulting companies in a business reorganisation, whether or not the company was in existence prior to such business reorganisation.’.

(25)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 54, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 54, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 55 to 57 were added to the Bill.

Clause 58 Insertion of new section 194 R

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No. 26 to 28.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 80, line 18, for “194R” *substitute* “194R(1)” (26)

Page 80, line 32, *after* “ensure that tax”, *insert* “required to be deducted”. (27)

Page 81, *after* line 5, *insert*—

‘(2) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this section, the Board may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, issue guidelines for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

(3) Every guideline issued by the Board under sub-section (2) shall, as soon as may be after it is issued, be laid before each House of Parliament, and shall be binding on the income-tax authorities and on the person providing any such benefit or perquisite.’. (28)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 58, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 58, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 59 Insertion of new section 194 S

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No. 29 to 32.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 81, line 14, *for* “a resident”, *substitute* “any resident”.

(29)

Page 81, line 28, *after* “ensure that tax”, *insert* “required to be deducted”. (30)

Page 82, *for* lines 5 to 8, *substitute* –

‘(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 194-0, in case of a transaction to which the provisions of the said section are also applicable along with the provisions of this section, then, tax shall be deducted under sub-section (1).’ (31)

Page 82, *omit* lines 24 to 27. (32)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 59, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 59, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 60 to 65 were added to the Bill.

Clause 66 to 92 were added to the Bill.

Clause 93 Insertion of new section 110 AA

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, now, move amendmen No. 33 and 34.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 93, line 8, *for* “(a)”, *substitute* “(i)”. (33)

Page 93, line 12, *for* “(b)”, *substitute* “(ii)”. (34)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 93, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 93, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 94 Insertion of new section 135 AA

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No. 35 and 36.

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 93, *for* lines 21 to 26, *substitute-*

“135AA. (1) If a person publishes any information, that is furnished to customs by an exporter or importer under this Act, relating to the value or classification or quantity of goods entered for export from India, or import into India, along with the identity of the persons involved or in a manner that leads to disclosure of such identity,

unless required so to do under any law for the time being in force or by specific authorisation of such exporter or importer, he shall be punishable with imprisonment”. (35)

Page 93, for lines 29 to 31, substitute-

“(2) Nothing contained in this section shall apply to—

any publication made by or on behalf of the Central Government;

(b) data sourced from any publication made by or on behalf of the Central Government for analysis of trends in India's international trade and dissemination thereof.”; (36)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 94, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 94, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 95 to 97 were added to the Bill.

Clause 98 Amendment of Fourth Schedule

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No. 37.

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 94, line 35, *after* “the Fourth Schedule shall”, *insert* “, with effect from the 1st May, 2022,”; (37)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 98, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 98, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 99 to 102 were added to the Bill.

17.00 hrs

Clause 103 Substitution of new section for section 38

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Sir.

My amendment is to Section 38 of the Central GST Act. I have already spoken at the time of my speech and the hon. Minister has responded to it also. This is the genuine and serious demand of the small and medium-scale traders because the seamless Input Tax Credit is being chalked out by virtue of this amendment. That is

why I am moving some amendments. The hon. Minister has responded that this House is not able to make the amendment and we have to go to the GST Council.

At the time when Shri Arun Jaitley was moving the Bill, we supported the Bill in letter and spirit. Now, I am feeling guilty that the Parliament is not able to even make any amendment to this. To go and appeal to the GST Council for having the amendment means the sovereign function of the Parliament itself is in question. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER : Do not talk with each other.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I fully agree. The pathetic situation of the Parliament of India is, if we want to put some tax, then the Central Government has to go to the GST Council.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : Do you want to move his amendment or not?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, kindly take up this matter to the GST Council. It is a genuine and serious demand of the small-scale and medium-scale traders as far as the seamless Input Tax Credit which is to be given is concerned. There is no cascading effect. I am moving the amendments.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : Shri N. K. Premachandran, would he like to move his amendment?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 97, lines 6 and 7,-

omit “and subject to such conditions and restrictions”. (62)

Page 97, *for* lines 13 to 16,-

substitute “(b) details of supplies furnished under sub-section (1) of Section 37,-”. (63)

Page 97, lines 17 and 18,-

omit “within such period of taking registration as may be prescribed;”. (64)

Page 97, *omit* lines 19 to 21. (65)

Page 97, line 25,-

omit “during such period, as may be prescribed”. (66)

Page 97, lines 31 and 32,-

omit “by such limit as may be prescribed; or”. (67)

Page 97, *omit* lines 33 to 39. (68)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : Now, I put the amendment No. 62 to 68 to Clause 103 move by Shri. N. K. Premchandran, to the vote of the House.

Amendments put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER : The question is:

“That Clause 103 stands part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 103 was added to the Bill.

Clause 104 to 125 were added to the Bill.

First Schedule

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, now move Amendment No. 38

[English]

Amendment made:

Page 114, *for* line 20, *substitute—*

“gains referred to in section 112A exceeding one lakh rupees”.

(38)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is:

“that first Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill”

The motion was adopted.

First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Second Schedule

HON. SPEAKER : Shri N. K. Premachandran, would you like to move your amendment?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, this is regarding customs duty on Gold. This is within the powers of our Parliament. It can be done. I am moving the amendment.

I beg to move:

Page 135, *after* line 28, *insert*, -

‘5A. In the notification No.2/2021/Cus., dated 1.2.2021, against serial No. 357A relating to tariff item 7108,-

(i) in column (3) giving description of goods, the words “other than those mentioned at S. No.354” shall be omitted; and

(ii) in column (4) indicating standard rate, for the figure “7.5%”, the figure “2.5%” shall be substituted.’. (69)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : now, I put the amendment No. 69 to the Second Schdeudle moved by Shri N. K . Premachandran to the the vote of the House.

Amendment put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER : The question is:

“that Second Schedule stands part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill

Third Schedule

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Now, move amendment No. 39.

Amendment made:

Page 146, lines 19 and 20, *after* “2903 43 00”, *insert* “2903 44 00, 2903 45 00”.

(39)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

HON. SPEAKER : Shri N. K. Premachandran, do you want to move amendment No. 70 and 71?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, this is amendment to Third Schedule regarding 2.5 per cent of import duty on raw cashew nuts. The industry is affected. Cashew workers are affected. Ninety-five per cent of the workers are women workers belonging to the lower strata. Kindly consider this amendment of taking off 2.5 per cent customs duty.

I beg to move:

Page 137, *for* lines 21 and 22,-

substitute ‘(i) for the entry in column (4) occurring against tariff item 0801 31 00, the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;’. (70)

Page 144, *after* line 19,-

insert ‘(ixa) for the entry in column (4) occurring against tariff item 2823 00 10, the entry “25%” shall be substituted;’. (71)

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I just to want to respond on this issue of cashew. We have discussed it with the representatives brought by the hon. MP and many others as well. The hon. MP is expecting it to be brought down from 2.5 per cent to nil, literally zero rate. The only reason why we have retained it at 2.5 per cent is because of the *kisans* who cultivate cashew. They also feel that unless the duty is kept somewhere, cashenut will be import in an exceptionally large quantity. So, we are trying to make a balance. I understand the industry needs it because they also want to import it at a lesser cost. But those who are producing cashew also want some kind of a response from the Government. So, every time we have to balance the interests. While I fully appreciate the concern because that is the area which actually has a very strong hold on cashew and cashew industry, the reason why we have kept it is that one. Also, I take this opportunity to say that the hon. Member need not feel regret about the GST Council taking a call, etc. Not at all, Sir. In a way, we are going to come back to the Parliament for every kind of amendment that we have to make. The present Bill also has a GST amendment. But to look at the GST Council with one lesser status is not good. It is a constitutional body. It has representation of all the States. In a federal structure, this is one institution which actually shows federalism. So, let us not regret it.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : Now, I put the amendment No. 70 and 71 to the Third Schedule move by Shri N.K. Premachandran, to the vote fo the House.

Amendments put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER : The question is :

“that Third Schdedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

The Third Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Fourth to Ninth Schedules were added to the Bill.

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

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : The question is:

“that the Bill, as amended, be passed”

The motion was adopted

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as all of you know that a new clause has been added to the Bill. So, I direct that subsequent clauses and sub-clauses be renumbered accordingly, and resulting changes, as and where required, be made in the Bill.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour'. Hon. Member may leave silently.

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I request you to allow me to speak in my mother tongue. So, I may kindly be permitted.

17.09 hrs

(Shri N.K. Premachandran *in the Chair*)

*Sir, the dream project of hon. Prime Minister 'One Nation, One Ration Card' has brought about an unprecedented transformation in the entire country. The Government of West Bengal did not participate in this 'One Nation, One Ration Card' programme in the beginning but later due to a verdict of the Supreme Court, it was compelled to be a part of this programme and also link Aadhar Card with ration card. After this, as per the media reports of West Bengal, 1,70,00,000 ration cards have been deactivated there and so far 50 lakh ration cards have been declared as rejected. There is an apprehension that this number will increase in future. HON. Chairperson Sir, I wish to highlight the fact through you that the West Bengal Government has admitted that because of this approximately Rs. 30,000 crore will be saved. This Bengal Government is in power since the year 2011 to date. Now all these years, the financial assistance amounting to Rs.30000 crore have been transferred from the Central Government to the state government. So, for these 10 years, using the fake ration cards, who were given the PDS ration? Who were the

* English translation of Speech originally delivered in Bengali

ghost ration card holders? Who usurped the money? Proper investigation must be conducted in this regard. It is not a paltry sum. There is a scam of more than Rs. 30,000 crore. The Trinamool Congress leaders and the ruling dispensation is involved in this. A probe is the need of the hour. Rs.30,000 crore is the money of the taxpayers, of the common people of the country. This huge amount has been siphoned off to feed the fake ration card holders. Thus, I once again request HON. Minister to order an inquiry into it and the culprits should be hunted down. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI GOMATI SAI (RAIGARH) : Respected Chairperson Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the problems faced by the farmers of District Jashpur, my parliamentary constituency in Raigarh.

Sir, my parliamentary constituency is dominated by tribal farmers. The farmer produces tomatoes, potatoes and chillies in large quantity here. Due to non-availability of market in development block Pathalgaon, Ludeg, Sannamanora and other nearby areas of Jashpur district, farmers have to sell their produce at throwaway prices, due to which farmers do not even get the cost price of their produce. As a result of this, the farmer here is very poor and ridden in debt. If a food processing unit is established in this area, the farmers here can get a fair price for their produce, which will improve their economic condition and improve their quality of life to a great extent.

Therefore, through you, I request the Food Processing Minister to take initiative to set up a food processing unit in my parliamentary constituency urgently, so that the farmers can avail the benefit of this scheme here. Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Shyam Singh Yadav --not present.

Shri Arun Sao - not present.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GEETA KORA (SINGHBHUM) : Hon. Chairperson Sir, for the last two years the country is battling with a pandemic like Covid. With this pandemic, there is exorbitant inflation and people are losing their jobs. The number of educated and trained but unemployed persons is continuously increasing in the country. Today the youth of the country are forced to roam the streets even after taking degrees like ITI, Polytechnic, Engineering, Medical, MCA, MBA, Graduation. Their parents borrowed money to get them educated by taking loans and mortgaging their lands. Today, due to unemployment and inflation, people are struggling with financial constraints as well as mental illness, due to which they are compelled to commit suicide incessantly and this number is also increasing day by day.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to say through you that according to Government statistical data, more than 5 crore 30 lakh people have registered in Labor Employment Registration centers across the country. However, there is no clear action plan of the Union Government which shall provide employment to these unemployed youth. Whether the Government proposes to provide unemployment allowance to these unemployed people in such a situation by bringing Minimum Livelihood Guarantee Scheme as an alternative arrangement?

[English]

SHRI VE. VAITHILINGAM (PUDUCHERRY): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, Puducherry had suffered a lot because of floods during the Monsoon of 2021 as huts and houses were submerged in flood waters in Bahour Taluk, Villianur Taluk, Puducherry Town and Karaikal area also.

Many people were affected a lot and also lost their properties. Farmers were affected because of flood in Bahour, Villianur, Ariyankuppam and Karaikal areas. Their paddy crops were totally affected, and the farmers felt helpless and found no way to get out of this situation. It occurs once in two years, and because of this the farmers and people in Puducherry area get affected. At the same time, people over there are getting affected during summer because of salinity in drinking water.

Farmers are also affected due to shortage for irrigation and drinking purposes. The State Government is arranging temporary cash relief to the affected people but it is not able to find a permanent solution. Hence, I request the Jal Shakti Minister to find a way by sending a team to prepare DPR for it. If it is taken up, urban and poor people in the villages will be benefitted and farmers can also irrigate their crop without the fear of floods. Once again, I request the Jal Shakti Minister to send a team to prepare DPR for it.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Sir, I raise my concern regarding the inadequate budget for Shaksam Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. The budget of 2022-23 saw a marginal one per cent increase in the allocation for nutrition scheme from Rs.20,000 crore in the previous year to Rs.20,263 crore, which is just a per cent increase where a study by the Centre for Policy Research has shown that the approved budget is only 41 per cent of the cost that is required to reach 100 per cent of the estimated target population. It is also a concern to note that between 2016 and

2021, the number of beneficiaries of the supplementary nutrition programme fell by 19 per cent whereas during the same period, the number of children has increased. So, I would like the Ministry to look at the data again. Again, I would like to remind, not only the ICDS is poorly underfunded but are also poorly planned. It is a matter of great regret that neither has the Poshan 2.0 been approved, nor the guidelines for the ICDS been completed even in December 2021, 11 months after the Government has announced their consolidation.

[Translation]

ER. GUMAN SINGH DAMOR (RATLAM) : Sir, the culture of our country has played the most crucial role in the unity and integrity of the country. Our sages, saints and Mahatmas have strengthened the thousand years old culture. Similarly, the eleventh Presiding Acharya of our Terapanth, Shri Mahashraman ji, is currently preaching non-violence in the country, Mahashraman ji has so far travelled to three countries and 20 States. He has completed the 18,000 kilometer march of non-violence and it will end on March 27 at Talkatora ground.

Sir, I request you that the path through which Acharya Shri Mahashraman ji has travelled through, that road should be named as Ahimsa Marg. The purpose of this journey is that we will strive to express cordiality, we will follow honesty in good faith and we will lead a drug free life.

Sir, I demand through you that if we make our children take up this resolution while studying in schools, they will become good citizens of the country.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu - not present.

Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya - not present.

Shri Rajesh Naranbhai Chudasama - not present.

Shri Rajbahadhur Singh - not present.

Shri Bhaginath Choudhary – not present.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY (AJMER) : Hon. Chairperson Sir, today our country is celebrating the 75th year of independence in the form of 'Amrit Mahotsav'. While on the one hand, the construction work of the grand temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya as well as the construction work of the Shri Mahakal temple at Ujjain is going on warfooting, on the other hand, the Kashi Vishwanath temple corridor has been completely transformed. In this context, I request the Union Government to oblige me by providing kind approval for the following works under the Departmental Action Plans of the Budget year 2022-23 for the holistic and overall development of the historical and world-famous holy city of Lord Shri Brahma and the oldest religious place 'Tirtharaj Pushkar' located in my parliamentary constituency Ajmer , so that the religious importance of the city of Lord Brahma, the creator of the universe and the feelings of faith associated with the people including the tourists and devotees coming from the country and abroad, are respected.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, Other than ensuring adequate and clean water supply in Tirthraj Pushkar Sarovar, a concrete plan should be made and implemented without delay to prevent the inflow of dirty sewerage water into the Sarovar.

Secondly, after the devotees worship the Pushkar Sarovar located at Tirtharaj Pushkar, there is great difficulty being faced while doing 'Parikrama' since the condition of its ghats and 'Parikrama' route is very bad and dilapidated. The Ghats

and 'Parikrama' route should be renovated by taking competent action for the purpose.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the sewerage line at Tirtharaj Pushkar was laid around 35-40 years ago. Its condition is very bad at present due to the expansion of population. Its condition is very pathetic. The sewerage line is jammed there. As a result, local residents as well as domestic and foreign pilgrims and tourists have to face difficulties. Therefore, the sewerage line should be repaired.

There is a great need to develop Teerthraj Pushkar alongwith the religious, historical and ancient temples located around it by developing a corridor on the basis of tourist places.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to request the Union Government through you that concrete action should be taken on these four points without any delay.

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA (NAGINA) : Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the time to speak.

Sir, Kho river passes near Sherkot in Dhampur Legislative Assembly under my Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency Nagina. A large number of villages are situated on the banks of this river, such as Benipur Kopa, Mandhaura, Nathadoi, Nandgaon, Nayagaon, Haadakpur, Birampur etc. During the rainy season, a lot of damage gets inflicted to the lives and property of the people and the crops in these villages,. The condition of two of these villages, Nandgaon and Birampur, is very bad. It had become very difficult to save both these villages this time in the rainy season. It is very important to build a dam here.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the river Ganges also flows in the Najibabad Legislative Assembly. Many villages are also situated on the banks of this river, in which a lot of erosion is taking place from Nangal to Gauspur. It is very important to build a dam here too, so that all these villages can be saved safely before the monsoons.

Sir, both these rivers cause a lot of damage to the life and property of the people in the rainy season. Sir, through you, I demand from the Government that immediate attention should be paid to the the erosion being done by the rivers flowing in my area and damage caused by them to the crops and the dam should be constructed at the earliest using boulder stunts etc.for the safety of life and property. I demand from the Government that it should also make arrangements to provide proper monetary compensation to the person's family for the loss of their lives, property and crops. Thank you so much.

SHRI ARUN SAO (BILASPUR): HON. Chairperson Sir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi started the biggest welfare scheme which we know as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for the poor in the history of 74 years of Independent India,.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, every person dreams of his own house. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is a scheme fulfilling this dreams of the poor. Till the time there was Government of Bhartiya Janata Party in Chhattisgarh, large number of poor were getting allotted houses under the scheme. But, allotment of the houses under the scheme has been stopped after Congress party formed the Government in the State. The Congress led Government is working to shatter the dreams of the poor. The anti poor face of Congress Party has once again been exposed.

Hon. Chairperson sir, I would like to inform you that thousands of poor have got trapped in debt because of the Congress Government not providing them the installment. They have become homeless. The State Government has not provided its share since after 2019-20. As on date also, Rs. 565 Crores of the State's share is lying pending. The Union Government allocated a target of 6,48,867 houses during the year 2020-21. The State Government opted to take only 1,57,815 houses out of it. Similarly, a target of 7,81,979 houses was fixed for the year 2021-22, which the State Government declined to avail. Through you, I would like to urge the State Government to stop this injustice to the poor and cooperate with the Union Government in fulfilling the dreams of the poor.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to attract the attention of the Government towards a major problem of my Parliamentary Constituency.

Sir, I would like to bring to notice a major problem of my Parliamentary Constituency, Patliputra. I want to mention my problem in front of the hon. Minister of Railways. No road exists from Sarma Railway Crossing to the West side of Sipara Railway Crossing on the Patna Railway section. The road is there only on the Eastern side. Of late, considerable number of people have settled and are living on the Western side of the railway track. They have to cross the Railway track and access the road leading to the Eastern side for commute. An ROB is being constructed on Sipara Crossing at Jatdumri Railway Station. Lakhs of people have started residing at Bhalua, Nadwa and Kurthaul. They do not have any other solution. They are forced to illegally cross the Railway tracks to go to the other side. As far as I know, my understanding is that all the illegal crossings have been stopped recently. The lakhs of people living on that side do not have any way to come to this side. So much so, that there is no way to cross the tracks even for the pregnant women and patients. People are facing a lot of problems due to this.

Sir, thousands of people held demonstration and sat on hunger strike continuously for a week in support of this demand. Being their public representative, I also had to join this agitation. I arranged a meeting also between a delegation of the agitators and the General Manager there urging him to find some way out. This is not a new settlement. These people have been living there since years. With the growth of population of the country, the population there has also grown. They do not have any way to go to the other side. There has not been any positive solution for this so far.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways that the situation there is very bad. We may have to face the anger of the people there anytime. Keeping in view the problems being faced by the people, I

would request you to kindly draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways, intervene in the matter and find some solution. Earlier, lakhs of people used to cross this Railway crossing which has been stopped altogether by the Government. People there are facing problems. If that is not opened, people will have to face lot of problems. Take up the construction of either an underpass there or a Railway Over Bridge or at least a parallel road. Make some alternate arrangement for them. Through you, I draw the attention of the HON. Minister of railways towards this issue.

SHRIMATI KALABEN MOHANBHAI DELKAR (DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI): Sir, today I want to inform about the Par-Tapi-Narmada River linking project in Gujarat being implemented by the Union Government. The place where this project is planned to be implemented is my birth place. People living there have conveyed to me that they are going to suffer a lot due to this project. A lot of tribal communities will be affected due to this. There is dense forest in the area where this project is being planned. People living there have been caring for the forests for years. They have the right over the water resources, forests and land on which depends their lives also. Thirty five thousand tribals living in 75 villages coming within the project will get displaced which will increase unemployment and will also affect the education of the children. Along with that there will be great damage to the dense forest, wild life, environment and all life forms.

Sir, through you, I would request the Government to cancel this project at once which is likely to cause great damage to the tribal society and environment. Thank you.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, about more than twenty three thousand medical students went to China to pursue MBBS. We witness in parliament, that the Ministers keep on praising one another. They do not watch the movie Star Wars, it seems they have reached the stars. It seems Ministers speak to other ministers turn by turn. When they see on the ground, they come to know of the real situation. Yesterday also, Hon. Minister, Mansukh Bhai was speaking. The reality is that lakhs of students had to be evacuated from Ukraine in difficult situation because there are no resources for education here. Eight years of this Government have completed, still they keep on talking about construction of Medical colleges and about pre-2014 era. Whenever they speak, they talk of time prior to 2014 only.

These students went to China for studies. Subsequently, COVID spread. Their poor parents arranged for loan from somewhere and got them to study for three- four years. They are sitting idle here now. The universities cannot issue them Visas. For some time they used to study using online apps. But due to the prevailing relations of our country with China, as you know, about more than 200 apps had to be banned. And now, there is no online education also.

The National Medical Commission has done a lot for the students back from Ukraine. But the students returning from China had shifted here because the quality of teaching was very good compared to Russia or European countries. Regarding Medical Commission, they give permission in more than 7.5 percent Medical colleges. The permission should be for such colleges where there are foreign students. Some steps must be taken for them urgently. The Attorney General of the Supreme Court have also said that similar arrangements should be made for the students returning from China after Medical as is being done for those returning from

Ukraine. The Government should talk about the period after the year 2014. Talking about pre-2014 era will not suffice. Thank you.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I want to put before the House the problems being faced by the EPS-95 pensioners. The EPS-95 pensioners from different States are agitating since the past few months. These pensioners have toiled hard to strengthen the industrial organisations and have contributed a lot for the development of the country.

There numbers exceed 65 lakh in total from across the country but the pension amount being granted to them is meagre Rs. One Thousand only. This affects their livelihood adversely and they remain deprived of basic health facilities also in the absence of any insurance scheme. Several committees, including the Parliamentary Committee on Labour in 2018, High Level Committee of EPFO and the Koshyari Committee in 2013 have recommended for raising their pensions.

I demand that the Government take action on the demands of pensioners covered under the EPS-95 pension scheme. The Government should provide pension of Rs. 5000/- per month along with dearness allowance to these pensioners and their families by effecting necessary changes in the EPS-95 pension scheme.

Apart from this, I demand that they should be made eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana also so that this section of people is also benefitted and they do not have to face any financial crisis after retirement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA (SHRAWASTI): Thank you, Chairperson, Sir for allowing me to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, a large section of population is engaged in animal husbandry and fisheries. The Government needs to promote fisheries and animal husbandry activities and also to make them remunerative. Along with this, subsidies being given for fisheries and animal husbandries by the Government should be increase from 50% to 100% so that more number of youths as well as farmers may enter in this sector and can leverage the benefit by use of modern technology. The promotion of animal husbandries and fisheries will not only strengthen the rural economy, but will create new employment opportunities at rural level also. It would also prevent rural to urban migration. For the development of rural areas, fisheries should be promoted in all the village ponds by beautifying them. It will promote commercial activities, raise water level and will benefit aquatic animals.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I urge upon the concerned minister to take these points in his notice.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The list is over. Now, I request all the hon. Members to put their demands in one minute each so that all the hon. Members can be accommodated. We will try to adjourn the House by six o' clock itself.

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Jal Shakti to declare Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (EERCP) as a national project which is

an important irrigation and drinking water project for Jhalawara, Bara, Kota, Bundi, Sawaimadhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dholpur of Rajasthan. Chairperson Sir, the Minister of Jal Shakti stated in his reply given on 24.03.2022 that the Government of Rajasthan has not submitted any proposal in a prescribed proforma proposal for inclusion of ERCP as a National Project whereas, the Government of Rajasthan prepared a detailed report and submitted it to the Central Water Commission. More than 15 correspondences have taken place between the Center and the Government of Rajasthan. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan had talked this project over with the Prime Minister, as he has told. He has also sent many communications to the hon. Minister of Jal Shakti in this regard. I have date wise details with me. ...*(Interruptions)* I am going to conclude my point within a second. Who should be taken as right? Did the central Government receive the proposal or not? Or has the state Government sent the proposal or not? What is the format in which Government want the required information. Along with this, by citing the submission of Madhya Pradesh, it is said that assessment of ERCP was not possible due to its inter-state nature. The DPR of the project was finalized in the meeting of the Inter-state Control Board comprising of the representatives from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Thus the NOC from the Government of Madhya Pradesh is not necessary, if so, what are the facts?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri B. Manickam Tagore

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He is reading a written speech. He is an experienced Member. What is his demand?

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Sir, I am going to conclude my point. Such confusing reply shows the mindset of the Government of India and the Ministry of Jal shakti about Rajasthan.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, my submission is that the aim of the ERCP is to use the excess water available during rainy season in rivers in Southern Rajasthan such as Chambal and its tributaries like Kunnu, Parvati and Kalisindh in south-eastern districts where there is acute shortage of water for drinking and irrigation. I request that Eastern Rajasthan Canal Irrigation Project should be announced as a national project.

[English]

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I stand here with pain to speak about the Tamil brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka.

Tamils are fleeing because of food shortage and economic misery. First trickle of Sri Lankan refugees has reached the Tamil Nadu coast. More than two thousand families are forced to leave Sri Lanka because, at present, in Sri Lanka, the price of one kilogram of rice is Rs. 290; the price of one kilogram of sugar is Rs. 290; and the price of 400 grams of milk powder is Rs. 790.

The Sri Lankan Government has postponed school exams indefinitely due to paper shortage. It is a humanitarian crisis there. I request the Union Government to send food materials to the Tamil brothers and sisters and stand with them in the hour of crisis and help the Tamil Nadu Government which is making efforts to help the refugees who are reaching here.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the railway passengers of my Constituency is facing a problem related the ministry of railways. Earlier, Shaheed Express connecting Amroha-Hapur-Ghaziabad was plying in my constituency. It has been discontinued. I request that it should be re-started. The MST facility should be restored to passengers as earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*. It is my demand to the Ministry of Railways.

Sir, I am a Member of Aligarh University and more than 10,000 student from eastern Uttar Pradesh have been demanding stoppages at Aligarh City of Gorakhdam Express (Train No. 12555/12556) Hamsafar Express (Train No. 12571/12572) which run from Gorakhpur to Anand Vihar terminal. This is a long cherished demand because 10-12 thousand students are living there. The Vice-chancellor and the Registrar of the University have also written a letter in this regard to the ministry. So, through you, I would like to that the stoppages of these trains should be given there.

SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI (BHARATPUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am thankful for giving me a opportunity to speak during the ‘Zero Hour’”

Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to an important issue related to the women of the country. Widows and the females above 58 years of age get widow pension and old age pension respectively. But there are so many unmarried women in the country who are single, living alone and there is no one in their families to take care of them. If such women are identified and a provision for pension to those women who have crossed 40 years of age is made, it will help millions of women to live their life easily.

Sir, there are many women in my constituency who do not have any living member in their families; they have been deserted by their relatives. Such women take up job for earning livelihood in urban places. But, such women of rural areas do find any job even today. So, I request you that such lonely, single and unmarried women of 40 years of age should be given monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or the sum which is sanctioned, so they may be able to earn their livelihood.

[English]

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA (AMRAVATI): Sir, around 30 stock brokers were declared defaulters, who are registered and monitored by the NSE, in a span of around 20 months.

More than Rs. 7,500 crore investors' money is lost in these defaults. Karvy Stock Broking and Anugrah Stock Broking have done major scams and no real efforts are made by the NSE.

When the brokers could not pay the dues of the clients because of their misappropriation and illegal actions, the NSE declared them defaulters. Such brokers have no funds in their account which in fact could have been noticed during the inspection by the NSE.

Sir, the NSE has made whopping profits and a revenue of more than Rs. 2,000 crore as per their annual report and wants to come out with an IPO which was held up till now because of the SEBI Order to restrain and disgorgement of around Rs. 750 crore in the scam at NSE.

I just wanted to request a few things in this. Stock exchange is not above the law but is still given protection and no investigative agencies have questioned NSE including SEBI.

I just want that an investigation must be ordered against the National Stock Exchange to check why such lapses over and over again have been found only with the NSE brokers and ascertain if the NSE officials are really concerned about investors. The investigation must look into this carelessness and find out if the NSE is indirectly permitting such activities of the brokers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am thankful for giving me an opportunity to speak during the 'Zero Hour'. I am going to raise a very serious issue, but promise to complete it in a minute.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, there are 11 castes in Gorakhas, with your permission, I am going to enumerate these castes. These are Mangar, Rai, Sunwar, Yaksha, Gurang, Newar, Khas, Dhimal, Jogi, Thami and Bujel. These casts are still not in the list of STs. However, all Gorakhas, being hill tribes, should be considered as STs. Our Government has also made such promised to them. Thus, I want that this work should be done immediately.

Second, I, being a Gorakha, want justice from this House. I need my motherland and a country. There are 1.5 crore Gorakhas who are living in India, they want their identity. I am not going to turn the pages from the history to apprise the valuable contribution of Gorakhas. Ex-chief Minister of Assam is also present here. He has done a lot of work for Gorakhas. But, the situation in West Bengal is very peculiar,

as aspersions are cast on them by calling them 'foreigner' which is heart-wrenching. We promised to find a permanent political solution; and the solution within the framework of the Constitution. I request that this demand should be met earliest because these people are in despair.

[English]

DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S. (DHARMAPURI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I would to like raise an issue with regard to the plight of the medical graduates from foreign universities. After completion of their degree from a foreign university, these students have to undergo Foreign Medical Graduation Examination (FMGE) and subsequently mandatory rotating medical internship. As per recent Gazette notification by the National Medical Council, period of completion of internship has to be within two years of passing the FMGE. The major issue here is that the current intake of FMGE interns is 7.5 per cent which is very less in respect of the State of Tamil Nadu. Due to this less intake, more than 580 FMGE students in Tamil Nadu are awaiting their due internship even after clearing FMGE. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also raised this issue in a memorandum submitted to the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister on 12.1.2022 requesting for enhancement of the intake capacity from 7.5 per cent to 20 per cent every year as adequate infrastructure facility is available in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, I urge upon the Health Ministry to bring in suitable amendments which would enable inclusion of district headquarter hospitals and enhance the intake capacity from 7.5 per cent to 20 per cent and also expedite the process. The Government has

issued a Circular on 4th March, 2022 that all States will help in completing the CRMI within two years of passing the examination.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving this opportunity to speak in 'Zero Hour'. I would like to draw your kind attention to a serious accident that happened at Sayan Koliwara in my Lok Sabha constituency South-Central Mumbai. Two small kids, each of Shri Vijay Ramkishore Jaiswal, and his neighbor Shri Alok Kumar Ram Pravesh Chandravanshi were playing in a park near Building No. 43, Sector-7, CGHS colony, Sayan Koliwada on 25th January, 2021. While playing in the park, these two children fell down in a deep pit and died. The parents of these children and other persons present at the site held CPWD Executive Engineer, Zone -3, the contractor Balu Duraikanu and the Supervisor, Mohan Kappu Tewar responsible for this unfortunate accident and alleged that this accident happened due their negligence. The family members filed a FIR against these persons. Next day, when I came to know of this accident, I called the Chief Engineer, Zone-3 (CPWD) and asked to take the matter seriously and conduct an inquiry. He assured me that the victim's parents would be helped by paying some compensation. The Chief Engineer, Zone-3 took the incident seriously and directed the Executive Engineer-Zone 3 to take action. The Executive Engineer still has not investigated the matter. Whenever the parents of victims go to meet the Executive Engineer or the contractor, these persons either ignore or refuse to meet them. The executive Engineer who is protecting the contractor is wholly responsible for the death of two small children.

So, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister to get the incident inquired upon and to take action against the officer due to whose negligence that incident happened.

SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL (DURG): Thank you Hon. Chairperson Sir. The leprosy patients not only from Chhattisgarh but also from neighboring states like Odisha, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh as well as other states come to get treatment in the Regional Leprosy Training and Research Institute (RLTRI), Raipur.

It is one of the biggest leprosy research centers in India. Through you, I would like to request the Minister of health to upgrade an operation theater in this center.

[English]

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Sir, the Sri Lankan Tamils have been suffering for several decades due to oppression by the Sinhalese Government. They have been oppressed wherein during the war also, several lakhs of people died and subsequently, as they were planning to recover, there was pandemic. Now, they have an economic debacle where the Sri Lankan Government has been supported by the Government of India by providing a financial aid of 1.5 billion dollars. Despite that, due to the rise in inflation there, the Sinhalese people are discriminating against the Tamils because of which several Tamils are coming to Tamil Nādu. Our hon. Chief Minister has also written to the Union Minister to help us in aiding these people.

There are already more than a lakh of refugees who have come. For them, we want the Citizenship Amendment Act to be brought in so that these people can be given citizenship.

I would also like an emergency visa to be provided for the present people or some kind of a visa on arrival may be provided to them which will help them in settling down better here.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY (BHIND): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson Sir. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Ayush to Datia and Bhind, two districts in my Lok Sabha constituency. The combined population of both the districts is 22 lakh. The Ministry of Ayush has set up many Ayush centers across the country and millions of people are getting benefits. The Government of India is promoting Ayurveda. No ayush center has been set up in Bhind and Datia districts of parliamentary Constituency. The general public and the workers of my party constantly request me during public outreach programmes to get an Ayush center set up in both these districts

Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to request the Minister of Ayush to set up Ayush centers in both the Datia and Bhind districts at the earliest.

SHRIMATI KAVITA SINGH (SIWAN): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of railways to my parliamentary constituency Siwan. A number of trains like Maurya Express train no. 15027-15028, Barauni-Gwalior Express train no. 14185-14186 and Chhapara-Nautanwa intercity train no. 15105-15106 used to stop at Jiradei station, Mairwa station and Siwan station in my constituency before the Corona pandemic. I want that these trains should be stopped at these stations as a pre-pandemic period.

Sir, I request that the stoppages of these trains be at Jiradei station, Mairwa station and Siwan station. Besides, I also like to point out that the preceding railway minister allowed the construction of a ROB at crossing no. 91, Siswan-Siwan Dhala two years back. Since then, the railway officers and the officers of the Government of Bihar are just writing letters to each other. Such tedious correspondence should be stopped and the said ROB should be constructed by issuing a fresh tender. I will be much obliged.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, the central Government enacted the Official Language Act in 1963 to promote Hindi as official language and other local languages. This Act came into force in 1976 and the Department of Official Language is under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Minister of Home Affairs is the President of the Official Language Committee.

Sir, many departments of the central Government do use Hindi in their communications as stipulated under the Official Language Act. Several Ministries are even unaware of the constitution of the Committee for the promotion of official language and other local languages. If we observe, we will find that many ministries of the central Government mostly use English. Either there is a shortage of Official Language personnel or their posts are lying vacant. If the central Government does pay attention to the department of official language, Hindi or other languages of various states become extinct. Although hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs speak in Hindi or use it in their communications.

Hon. Chairperson, through you, I would like to request the central Government to direct all the ministries to use Hindi progressively in their work as stipulated in the Official Language Act.

[English]

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): Thank you, Chairperson, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Sir, Jeypore is one of the largest cities in southern Odisha. It is a very important city. We have been demanding for establishing a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Jeypore. I raised this demand in the House seven/eight times.

After much difficulty and support from the Central Government and the District Administration, finally the safety certificate has been issued so that a temporary building can be established in Jeypore.

I would also like to request the hon. Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, through you, who is also from Odisha to start the admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas from this academic year. We have reached this stage after much struggle where all the formalities have been completed. The State Government and the district administration have already supported it.

Therefore, my humble request to Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, through you, is to start the admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas in this academic year. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU): Thank You Hon. Chairperson Sir. Through you I would like to draw the attention to a new washing line in my Lok Sabha constituency. Churu is 250 km away from Jaipur and Delhi. All the washing lines in the area near to Churu, either in Bikaner, in GangaNagar or in Hisar, have utilized

their 100% of capacity. We do not get long route trains as the capacity of all the washing lines in my area have almost exhausted.

Through you, I would like to request the Minister of railways that a new washing line may kindly be laid down at Churu or RatanGarh in my Lok Sabha constituency, so that we can get long route trains. In view of the exhausted washing capacity, the priority should be given to approve a new washing line at Churu or RatanGarh.

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): I express my gratitude to you for allowing me to speak in 'Zero Hour'. Hon. Prime Minister launched a very ambitious scheme named 'Jan Aushadhi Kendra' in November, 2008 and more than 8,012 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been set up across the country till date where patients can buy generic medicines at a very low rate. Almost 1,415 types of medicines and 300 types of surgical items of various companies are available at these stores.

There is Buddha Pawapuri Medical College, Sadar hospital and many more private clinics in my Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency, Nalanda. But, there is not a single Jan Aushadhi Kendra. So, I request the hon. Minister of health to set up a Jan Aushadhi Kendra there.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (GANGANAGAR): Thank you Hon. Chairperson, Sir. Hanuman Garh District is located in my Lok Sabha Constituency. It is a border area, so a washing line and a solar plant are most required. I have already requested it. This region can develop as a railway hub. From this area, Bhatinda and ShriGanganagar railway junctions, both, are 80 Km away. There is dire need of a railway washing line which will enable operation of many passenger trains from this district.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, erstwhile prime minister, announced a new railway line for Hanumangarh, Rawatsar, Pallu and Sardarshahar in the year 1998 which has not been laid till date. Survey for this railway line is carried out every year. Through you, I request the central Government that the provision for completing the railway line which was announced by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji should be made in this budget. A new washing line may be laid at Hanumangarh districts' headquarters. A solar plant should be set up on almost 300 acres of land laying there. These are my requests to the central Government.

[English]

18.00 hrs

SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV (HINDUPUR): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my submission is regarding farmers. Please allow me at least three minutes.

Sir, I would like to bring to your kind attention that the Government of Andhra Pradesh requires urgent Environmental Clearance for the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project. During June, 2020, the Government of Andhra Pradesh announced the Rayalaseema Lift Scheme to facilitate the Rayalaseema region to stabilize irrigation and drinking water. The announced scheme is within the purview of Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal Award, that is, out of total 811 TMC water, 512 TMC water would be given for Andhra Pradesh and 299 TMC water would be given for Telangana. The scheme is within the purview of 2006 notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. During September, 2020 also, the National Green Tribunal pronounced that Environmental Clearance is required for the scheme. After that, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh addressed a letter to the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to consider the expert committee's opinion.

During June, 2021, the Government of Andhra Pradesh approached the Ministry of Environment and Forests for an amendment to the existing Environmental Clearance. Based on this application, the Environmental Assessment Committee, in its June, 2021 meeting, discussed the topic and issued minutes asking for some clarifications. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted clarifications on this. So, I request the Central Government to kindly grant Environmental Clearance to the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation project at the earliest.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, now it is already 6 o'clock. The Speaker has directed adjournment of the House by 6 o'clock. But five or six Members want to make their submissions. If everybody agrees, let us extend the time of the House till their submissions are over. Then, there is also a statement to be made by the Minister of Ayush. After his statement, we will again take up 'Zero Hour' submissions.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time of the House is extended.

18.01 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[English]

**Establishment of WHO Global Centre For Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar,
Gujarat**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the hon. Minister will make the statement.

**THE MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS AND
MINISTER OF AYUSH (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL):** Mr. Chairperson, Sir, today there is very good news for the people of the country.

As you all know, regarding the establishment of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat, the hon. Director General, World Health Organisation, in the presence of the hon. Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India on the occasion of the 5th Ayurveda Day on 13th November, 2020. On 9th March, 2022, the Union Cabinet approved signing and ratification of the Host Country Agreement between the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India and the World Health Organisation for establishment of WHO GCTM to be located at Jamnagar, Gujarat. Today, that moment has come. Today, the Host Country Agreement is to be signed by the Secretary (Ayush), Government of India and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the hon. Director General, WHO on 25th March, 2022 at WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland in a formal event hosted by WHO.

So, this is great news for the practitioners, healers and the stakeholders of the Ministry of Ayush as well as the Ayush industry. The traditional system of medicine has not only won the hearts of the people of the country, but also has won the hearts

of the people of the whole world. This is a great achievement of the Government headed by Shri Narendra Modi and I believe this House should appreciate and specially thank our hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for this outstanding achievement for the people of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI (INDORE): Hon. Chairperson Sir, 'Bachara' cast is included in the list of SCs. The people of this caste who live in Madhya Pradesh demand not to call them with this surname. They may be called by any surname. These hardworking people are living a dignified life as laborers and farmers. They are also in Government jobs. They have also been elected as Panch and Sarpanch. But, their surname is considered undignified so they are unable to marry off their daughters, their children are looked down upon with disdain and their women could not go out from their homes. The male of this cast are humiliated everywhere in the society.

So, these people are demanding that the word 'Bachara' should be replaced with any word in the list of SCs.

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the Panchayat and Rurla Development Commissioner of Assam has sent a letter about the Prime Minister Awas Yojana on 15th March. This letter No. CPRD/PMAYG/111/2021/4 Dated: 15 March, 2022 has been sent to all the Chief Executive officers of District Councils and the project directors of District Rural Development Agency. It says

that the Government sanctioned 7 lakh additional houses in the year 2020-21 and asked to complete the work of registration and Geo-tagging of these houses at the earliest. I am sorry to say that this work is being done across the state except for three districts. My home district Barpeta is also one of these districts. The Minister of Shipping who also has been the Chief Minister of Assam is present here. He frequently visits Barpeta district as his Gurudham is also located here. Along with this, Dhubari and south Salamara-Mankachhar districts also have been left.

All these three districts are backward districts. The work of registration and Geo-tagging should have been done as early as possible. So, I would like to know why these districts have dropped out.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: So, you demand that these districts should be included.

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE: Yes Sir, these must have been included.

There are many kuccha houses in Assam which have tin roofs and walls. These houses should be included in the list for constructing pucca houses. This is my humble request.

SHRI RAMAKANT BHARGAVA (VIDISHA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, 08 trains used to stop at Obaidullaganj station in Bhojpur Legislative Assembly of Parliamentary Constituency, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. The people of the area would take long distance trains from there. The operation of these trains was stopped during the corona pandemic. Now, the Corona pandemic is almost over and operations of a number of trains have been resumed. But the passengers who used to take trains to travel to and from Bhopal are facing inconvenience as trains do not have stoppage at Obaidullaganj station.

Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Railways to reinstate the stoppages of all the trains at Obaidullaganj station as before. Apart from this, the stoppage of Indore-Chhindwara Panchvalley passenger train should also be reinstated.

SHRI GAJENDRA UMRAO SINGH PATEL (KHARGONE): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, Manish Kushwah, Kumar Mansi Thaketa, Prateek Patidar, Tushar Yadav, Rajendra Patel, Chetan Gupta, Daksh Thakur, Ashish Chaudhary, Rahul Parmar, Prakhar Chokde, Manas Rathore, Srishti Yadav, Dhruv Gupta, Vivek Nirgude and many more students were studying in Ukraine.

The 'Operation Gang' was launched by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to bring back more than 22 thousand students stranded there and these students were brought back.

I, on behalf of the whole country, would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister. I am also grateful to the minister of his council like Respected Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Ji, Shri Kiren Rijiju Ji, Dr. V.K. Singh ji and Shri Hardeep Singh Puri ji.

Through you, I would like to request the Government that these were the students of first, second or third year of their courses. Their study has got disturbed. So, the Government of India should provide education to these students. This is my only request to the Government of India.

Thank you very much.

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): Thank you, Chairperson, Sir.

The people living in rural settlements like Prakash Nagar, Ghodabandha and Baghbeda located at the outskirts of Jamshedpur (TATA) are bearing untold misery due to acute shortage of drinking water. The situation worsens in the summer season.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention particularly to Chotagovindpur-Bagbera Rural Drinking Water project. The foundation stone for the Chotagovindpur-Bagbera drinking water project was laid on April 18, 2015. It was started in 2015 with the financial assistance of Rs. 237.21 crore from the World bank. While World Bank is funding 50 per cent of the project cost, the Centre will give 33 per cent and the state 16 per cent. Local residents will take care of the remaining one per cent. The project cost is shared 50% of the total by the World Bank, 33% by the Central Government, 16% by the state Government and 1% by the local people.

This scheme was to be completed in the year 2018 and a total Rs. 217 crore has already been spent on the scheme. The public is getting water from the Chhota Govindpur scheme, but the scheme meant for Bagbera is still pending. The concerned agency has been demanding payment of the amount due in GST and bill, and has stopped the work for the last one year.

The work of this scheme was awarded to ILFS, a world reputed company. The time limit to finish the scheme was June 26, 2018. The company has completed 75% work on the scheme, and the remaining 25% is not being completed by citing its own bad financial situation. So, the work of the scheme is far from over; and construction of bridges on Intekwell and Kharkai rivers; laying pipe line is incomplete. Thereby piped-water connections to 20 thousand households are laying pending.

The public of this area, with a view to draw the attention of the state as well as central government, has set off a foot march from Jamshedpur to Ranchi, and from there to Delhi on March 21, 2022.

Thus, Sir, through you, I humbly request the Minister of Jal Shakti to take notice of this pending scheme for achieving the target of ambitious, '*Har Ghar Nal Yojana*' as envisioned by the hon. Prime Minister by the year 2024.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI KRISHNAPALSINGH YADAV (GUNA): Thank you, Chairperson Sir, three districts namely Guna, Shivpuri and Ashok Nagar in my Parliamentary constituency have vast forest land. Medicinal plants of various varieties are found in this forest land. Besides these plants, Ashwagandha and Giloy are grown in these districts. The local people including tribal communities are traditionally using these medicinal plants for treating many ailments.

In view of abundant availability and utility, I request the Central Government and the Ayush Minister to set up a Ayush Research and Development Center to carry out a research through the Minister of Ayush on the medicinal plants. It will increase production of plant based medicines and a large scale use as well as create employment opportunities for the local people. Thank You.

SHRI DURGA DAS UIKEY (BETUL): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving an opportunity to raise the matter of public importance on the floor of the House.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, transport facilities in my parliamentary constituency are very poor. The tribal areas in my constituencies need railway routes and the public

of the constituency has been demanding it for a very long time. I would like to urge the Government that a railway line should be laid from Baitul to Chicholi –Bhimpur-Nanda, Kunkheri and Damjipur which will connect with new Burhanpur-Khandwa railway line. A new railway line from Baitul Bazar to Chandur Bazar Amravati has been proposed. I humbly request to start the work of laying this railway line at the earliest. Thank you very much. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

**LIST OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH
THE
ISSUES RAISED UNDER MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

Members who raised issues of Urgent public importance	The Members who associated themselves with raised issues.
Shri Rahul Kaswan	Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma
Shri Abdul Khaleque	
Shri Shankar Lalwani	
Shri Durga Das Uikey	
Shri Kaushlendra Kumar	
Shri Ramakant Bhargava	
Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato	

Shri Nihal Chand Chouhan	
Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka	
Shri Krishnapalsingh Yadav	
Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav	
Shri Gajendra Umrao Singh Patel	
Shri Gaurav Gogoi	Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S.
Shri Ravneet Singh	
Shri Ve. Vaithilingam	
Shri B. Manickam Tagore	
Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy	
Shri Shrirang Appa Barne	Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 28th March, 2022, at 11 a.m.

18.13 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, March 28, 2022 / Chaitra 7, 1944 (Saka).

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