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Chaitra 09, 1944 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session

(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XVIII Contains Nos. 21 to 27)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 30, 2022/Chaitra 09,1944 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 381, Shri Upendra Singh Rawat - not present.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kanakmal Katara.

... *(Interruptions)*

(Q. 381)

SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA: Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that Dungarpur and Banswara are tribal areas of Rajasthan. In Gram Panchayat Heeratan and other surrounding villages, BSNL and other networks do not work at all. It causes a lot of trouble to the local residents, public distribution system distributors and students. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister about the steps taken to strengthen the network in tribal dominated areas.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, ask your question, please. This is Question Hour. I request the Hon. Members to allow the Question Hour to run like a Question Hour. If you want to ask a supplementary question, ask it in brief.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I have asked a supplementary question only. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: All right.

Hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Hon. Speaker Sir, total nine schemes have been launched so far in all the aspirational districts to increase 4G connectivity, towers and mobile connectivity. Total nine schemes have been formulated for this purpose so far. Under the first scheme launched for the LWE area, 2,343 towers were installed. 2,542 towers were approved under the second scheme for the LWE area. They are still being worked on. 1,358 towers have been specially installed for the North-East region. 1,511 towers have been installed for Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in the North East and 889 towers have been installed for Meghalaya. A scheme of Rs 6,466 crore has been made to cover 409 villages in border areas including Ladakh and Kargil, 502 villages in aspirational districts and 7,287 other villages thereafter. The results of all these schemes have started to show. The connectivity is increasing really well.

We are progressing on the path of complete coverage in the Constituency of the Hon. Member. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Sir, I am very thankful to you....*(Interruptions)* You know that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai and Delhi, MTNL Mumbai.....*(Interruptions)* Even today if we go to the airport, not only airport, if we go to the Chamber of the Hon. Speaker, we do not get the BSNL network there. These things are happening. I request you that MTNL Delhi and Mumbai is the biggest and important sector. There is a need to pay attention to it.

11.06 hrs

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

Sir, I would like to give you a suggestion regarding BSNL. At present, the Government is going to issue equity of the interest of loan of Vodafone and Idea companies. This means that the Government is going to become a shareholder in it. If the towers of Vodafone, Idea and BSNL are merged, better service can be provided. Whether the Government would make efforts in this direction and what is it going to do about MTNL?

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Hon. Speaker Sir, we all know who is responsible for this situation of BSNL and MTNL. It has been discussed many times in this House. Several steps have been taken in this regard, due to which BSNL has entered into operating profit after many years. This thing should be acknowledged. BSNL has become a stable entity after a package of Rs 69,000 crore in the year 2019. A provision of Rs 44,720 crore has been made in the current financial year budget. Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to tell you with great pride that India's own 4G core network and its own radio network is ready as per the resolution taken by the Engineers under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister. It will be rolled out very soon. People all over the world are wondering as to how India has prepared its 4G network so quickly. 5G is the next stage of 4G network. According to the estimates by scientists, it will also be operational by the end of this year.

[English]

SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM): Sir, in 2018, the Gaja Cyclone destroyed all the BSNL towers not only in my constituency, Nagapattinam, but also in all the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. The towers have not been repaired till now. BSNL mobiles and telephones are not working there. I would like to know from the Minister, through you, whether there is any plan to repair the towers in Tamil Nadu. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW: Sir, Hon. Member has enquired about a particular area. I will definitely get information about that and make it available to him.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 382, Shri Ravindra Kushawaha.

(Q. 382)

SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHAWAHA: Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that the export of agricultural products is increasing continuously. Farmers from remote areas of the country should also benefit from this. They should also get the facilities to export their products. For example, Deoria and Ballia under my Parliamentary Constituency Salempur in Purvanchal region are rich in production of agricultural products. Fruits and vegetables are produced here on a large scale along with food grains. The land here is very fertile, due to which there is immense potential for export of fruits and vegetables, but at present no mechanism has been developed to promote exports.

Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry has any intention to send a Central team to explore the possibilities of export in Purvanchal region including Deoria and Ballia?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Prime Minister has mentioned about a big achievement of the Department of Commerce in his 'Mann Ki Baat' Programme this time. Our merchandise exports have reached \$400 billion nine days ahead of schedule. Our agricultural exports have a huge role in achieving this milestone.

The Government came up with the Agriculture Export Policy in the year 2018. We decided to double the agricultural products and to increase the income of the farmers at the same time. We will integrate our farmers and agricultural products into global value chains. In view of this, we have worked to take the interventions up to the State and district level. Our organization 'APEDA' is playing an important role in it. An Hon. Member has mentioned Purvanchal, I would like to specially tell him that 'APEDA' is paying special attention to Eastern Uttar Pradesh from this point of view. An export plan has been made at the district level by contacting Farmer Producer Organizations or FPCs there. Under this, work is being done to identify any such agricultural product which has the potential to be exported and promote it for export.

Apart from this, you have mentioned Ballia and Deoria. So, I want to say that we will make arrangements to export these agricultural products to other countries by including these products in the district export plan through 'APEDA' and by identifying its export potential.

HON. SPEAKER: By the way, you got the answer to your question. So, Shri Ravi Kishan, you may now ask the question.

SHRI RAVI KISHAN: Thank you, Speaker Sir. It is the goal of hon. Prime Minister to double the income of farmers. He always has good intentions. In this regard, through you, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that Gorakhpur is a

metropolis and it has very fertile land. There are plenty of fruits and vegetables there. I want to know the plan of the Hon. Minister regarding the export of these fruits and vegetables and an export house. If there is any plan, when will it be completed?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Speaker Sir, as I have said earlier, we have an organization called “APEDA”. Through this organization, FPOs or FPCs are being fully supported. To provide market linkage, our farmers are being linked with exporters through Farmers Connect portal. As you have mentioned Gorakhpur, I would like to tell you that we have started exporting black salt and rice from this region. 'APEDA' also has an important role in making export infrastructure and 'APEDA' has all the resources to make any type of infrastructure for export. If anyone needs any kind of resource, we can grant up to 20 crore rupees through 'APEDA' or 'Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme' under our ministry through which they can develop infrastructure.

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA: Hon. Speaker Sir, Thank you very much. Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the way in which Farmer Connect Portal works for the farmers. Whether the suggestions to solve the problems of the farmers can be taken into consideration through this portal? If so, then how can it be done? Whether the farmers can also register their complaints on this portal?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Speaker, we have made this portal because the farmers in our country produce agricultural produce in large quantities. The agricultural products in our country have great potential be it fruits, flowers, vegetables or food grains and it plays a very important role in the export of our country. This portal is launched to connect the farmers of our country with

exporters. The farmers register in this portal. 'APEDA' helps them. Through this portal, the farmers can contact the exporters. They get the market linkage and along with this, 'APEDA' helps in the capacity building and training of the farmers. This training program is conducted to teach the farmers to make their products good for export, solve all kinds of problems and clear their doubts. I would like to tell you that 3,295 farmers and 3,315 exporters have been registered in this portal.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kotha Prabhakar Reddy - Not present.

Shrimati Vanga Geetha Viswanath

[English]

(Q. 383)

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH: Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Science and Technology for organising, as part of the year-long celebrations 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', a Science Week – Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate, on the occasion of National Science Day.

The Government's expenditure or spending on scientific research and development appears to be very low. In the recent Budget for 2022-23, the Government has not made any extra provision for R&D. The share of female researchers in India has increased from 14 per cent to 19 per cent. It is really very good. But the situation is still dismal as compared to other countries.

I would like to know the steps that have been taken by the Ministry to increase female participation in STEM courses in India. Has the Ministry included anything in this regard under the Vigyan Sarvarta Puujyate?

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir.

At the outset, I would like to thank the hon. Member for encouraging us with her complimentary remarks. As you have rightly mentioned, one of the purposes of organising this National Week -- which culminated on 28th of February and which culminated on the occasion of the National Science Day, which is observed every year on 28th of February -- was to highlight the role of youth, especially the role of women in science. You will be glad to know when I will bring this to your kind notice. Since we are observing this year as the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav or 75th Year of Independence -- as has been inspired by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi -- we will be coming out with a coffee-table book very soon depicting seventy-five female scientists who have actually excelled in this field. As far as encouraging them is concerned, a number of programmes have been introduced in the past few years under our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. For example, we have an INSPIRE Programme for women. We have also a KIRAN Programme.

I think, the House will be amused to know that during the Beating the Retreat Ceremony -- which was held on 29th of January this year -- where thousands of drones lit-up the sky, that concept was also conceptualised by the Ministry of Science and Technology. Three youths had led that team. That was again led by a woman namely Sarita from Haryana. Similarly, ...(*Interruptions*) She worked in IIT-Delhi but funding was from the Ministry. I think, funding matters equally. Similarly, in Gaganyaan, a very important role is being played by

some of the leading female scientists in ISRO. So, in the recent few years, female scientists have come forward. We are also encouraging them. We are also devising special programmes for them. You would also appreciate that a new approach has been sought to be adopted -- an approach which is more integrated to promote science and scientific endeavours; an approach which is meant to ensure sustainable growth; and an approach which is targeting youth and women. Taking these things into consideration, the theme of this year's National Science Festival was Sustainable Growth for Youth in India, Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future. So, all these things have been planned keeping in view the next twenty-five years when these young scientists, including the women scientists, will be known as the Architects of India at Hundred in 2047.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR : Sir, it is precisely on this particular point -- that the hon. Minister made -- that I wish to seek additional clarifications. The hon. Minister has talked about some of these distinguished women. The truth is that though we have the world's leading figure of forty-three per cent in STEM subjects -- who are female -- only fourteen per cent of them actually pursue scientific research in universities and institutions. The Government has to look into the question why women are not going further in larger amount. The Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum has shown that India has dropped twenty-eight places in its world's ranking to 148th in the world when it comes to women in science and technology. Only twenty-nine per cent of all technical roles in the sciences are being held by women in India. The fact is that the challenge that the hon. Minister has not addressed in his otherwise positive answer, is that there is unfortunately serious variation in career attainment between men and women. The 2017 report of the NITI Aayog also points out that women have a problem in persuading employers that they can work longer in STEM.

The question is, can the Government take any special measures to improve women's participation in STEM research and in pursuing careers in education and research ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: While agreeing with what the hon. Member Shashi Tharoor Ji has pointed out, what I would suggest through hon. Speaker is that the issue that he has pointed out is very relevant. We cannot defy the figures or statistics. But if we take the figures on the whole, you would find the same projection happening even among males. So, there is a mismatch of preferences at the society level. The issue is too large to be left only to the management of science and technology. In fact, I have suggested a study in this regard. If you take class twelve level, you will have 80-90 per cent of the students both boys and girls who have science as subjects but very few of them go up to post-graduation. That means they are taking up those subjects not for science *per se* as their goal but looking for something else. May be in class twelve, they are looking for a high score to get into NEET or to get into IIT-JEE. If they succeed, that is well and good. But if they do not, then they go in for graduation for a higher score in civil services.

Now, in civil services, nearly 90 per cent are boys and girls who are coming from the engineering and medical streams. So, they do not actually go in for aptitude.

Sir, there is an aptitudinal crisis in the Indian society. I think that is still to be evolved.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Hon. Minister, the gender gap is increasing.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Absolutely. I think it requires a larger measure and the Government is very conscious of it. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri A. Raja, I will give you the permission to speak but I will not allow it if you speak while sitting. Now, I have not given you the permission to speak. *[English]* Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: As far as the gender gap is concerned, the Government and the department is very much conscious of it and that is why, new projects and new schemes are being devised each passing day.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, now you may ask the question.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA : Sir, (b) part is not answered. Please see the (b) part. Whether this Government is having the real intention to promote scientific temper in the minds of youth. This question is not answered. What does it mean? The Government is not ready to give scientific temper to youth in the name of religion. Am I correct?

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Raja ji, if you recall what I answered in the earlier question, I said the present Government in the last three years as far as science and technology is concerned has acquired a three-pronged approach - A. integration, that is integration of all the science streams plus also industry academia; B, an approach which ensures sustainable growth; and C, the start-ups, the youth, so that

we can link the start-ups and the scientific growth with sources of livelihood in order to sustain it.

So, obviously, I agree with you. During Amrit Mahotsav, the focus is on the youth who have another 25 years of active life to live, so that they can celebrate 'century India'.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question no. 384, Shri D.M.Kathir Anand.

(Q.384)

[English]

SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND : Sir, I want to know whether the production and area of cultivation of organic cotton increased from 300 per cent to 400 per cent after COVID-19 and if so, the details thereof; (b) the details of India's organic cotton production and exports in terms of quantity and value; (c) whether any organic certification agency violated the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) in organic cotton certification recently and was suspended by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in January, 2022 and if so, the details thereof; and (d) whether the organic certification agencies certified those grower groups with area and production and if so, the details thereof?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, the hon. Member has actually repeated the question.

Sir, I request you to refer to the written reply that I have sent. Each and every part of the question has been answered. If you have any supplementaries, I would be happy to answer.

Sir, if you want me to repeat, I can repeat the written answer, but it has been answered already in the written reply.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: If he has asked the question verbally, please give the answer. What is the problem?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, I would like to tell the House that globally our*(Interruptions)* Globally, the organic...

HON. SPEAKER: I have not give you the permission to speak. I will give you the permission to ask supplementary question.

.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: After supplementary, I will allow you.

SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND: Sir, the Question is about organic cotton and it is involved with the farmers. I request the Minister to answer in English so that the entire country will be aware of this.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: I am answering in English Sir.

The first part of the question you asked me is about the area of cultivation and the production. Both things have increased. The area of cultivation under

organic products has gone up by 153 per cent and the production has gone up by 142 per cent.

Sir, I also want to inform the hon. Member that insofar as the areas of cultivation and production are concerned, it is the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare which looks into it. The role of the Ministry of Commerce comes in when we have to certify the agencies.

The global market for organic products has grown very big. It is as high as 106.4 billion Euros and the major markets are the United States of America, the European Union, Canada and Great Britain. The Indian products globally have been recognised and our organic products have made a mark across the globe. We started the National Programme on Organic Production way back in 2001. Since then, our production has also increased and our exports also have gone up. Our exports have increased from Rs. 62 crore in 2002-03 post NPOP to Rs. 7,778.50 crore in the year 2020-21. How has this been possible? Such a record growth has been possible because under NPOP we framed national standards for production of organic products. We are very stringent about it. Our national standards are never compromised and the farmers, the producers, and the growers are always expected to adhere to the national standards throughout the entire operations whenever they produce any organic product. There are certification agencies or bodies which are certified by the National Accreditation Board and they look into and certify organic products and give them the India organic mark. In case there is ever any complaint, APEDA looks into it. The Evaluation Committee looks into it. They send their reports to NAB and if there are irregularities, if there are malpractices, and if there is any procedural lapse, we suspend the accreditation of those certification bodies to make sure that these standards which are in harmony with

the international standards are never compromised because we do not want to put India's reputation at stake. Our organic products, I emphasise, are recognised globally.

SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND: Sir, the quantum of organic cotton turnover, as per the reply of the hon. Minister, is worth Rs. 1.50 crore. Forty per cent of the figures given by organic cotton farmers is fictitious. They are giving false statements and because of this, the real organic growers are being punished and are being harassed. When the organic farmers are asking for any clarification, or they are going for exports, because of the exporters engaged in malpractices, the entire organic cotton market is being put to hardship. It is not happening just not for cotton, but it is happening in the case of spices and other things.

India has a big market for agricultural produce. Now, to give an example, whatever material they use for making shoe dye for polishing our shoes is mixed with chillies and turmeric. They use artificial colours. When such commodities reach the international market, pride of India goes down. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what kind of activities have the Government started to curtail this. Also, I would like to know if the agencies, which are certifying the products as 'organic and fit for exports', have violated any procedure and if the Government has taken any punitive action against them.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, I have already explained this in detail. I would like to repeat that we do not compromise with the reputation of the nation. For the products, which are certified as organic by the certification bodies, there are certain standards, which they have to adhere to.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that there are several certification bodies against which we have taken action. In 2013, there was

suspension of accreditation under NPOP for six months in the case of Natural Organic Certification Agro Private Limited. Similarly, in 2015, in the case of Bio-Cert India Private Limited, accreditation was terminated under NPOP and in 2019, in the case of Intertech India Private Limited, there was suspension under NPOP and penalty of Rs. 6 lakh for six months. There is a big list of certification bodies. We do not compromise at all. If there is any complaint of any malpractices, we take action. We never refrain from taking action against such bodies.

We have the whole operational structure which is functional to make sure that our products which are going into the global market are certified as organic products. They follow certain standards. We have made an operational structure under the NPOP programme. So, we have the National Steering Committee which is headed by Secretary (Commerce) and there are three other Committees which support this Committee. One of these Committees is the National Accreditation Board which is headed by the Additional Secretary and there is also a Technical Committee whose job is to look into and revive the standards as and when it is required. There is also an Evaluation Committee, which makes a regular periodic assessment of these bodies to make sure that no standards are done away with.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Sir, boosting of cultivation of organic products is very important, whether it is cotton or food items. That should be encouraged.

I congratulate the hon. Minister for giving a detailed reply on this point but there is an obstacle in organic farming and that is, genetically modified items. A lot of experimentation is needed for it. If they are used for cultivation without that kind of an experiment, it will become very dangerous. My apprehension is, without a proper certification of genetically modified food items, the farmers are distressed.

I humbly want to know from the hon. Minister, whether she is aware of the danger or not. If so, what steps are going to be taken to address this issue?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, it is really not related to the mandate of the Department of Commerce. As I said earlier, we only come into play when the certification of the organic products is required.

[Translation]

SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you.

Sir, most of the farmers of my Lok Sabha constituency, Chandrapur grow cotton crops. My question to the Hon. Minister is what steps are being taken by the Government to encourage the farmers to grow organic cotton?

[English]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, I think, there is a bit of a confusion.

[Translation] The Hon. Member asked the question in Hindi or English?.....*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You can answer in whichever language you like.

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, the incentive for organic cotton farming is given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Once again I am repeating that the Department of Commerce deals with the export of organic products. Our main role is to set its standards and make all the rules and regulations for its export.

HON. SPEAKER: Question no. 385, Shri Abdul Khaleque.

(Q. 385)

[English]

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE : Sir, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the Information Technology Act, 2000 say that the significant social media intermediary (SSMI) shall enable users to voluntarily verify their accounts by using any appropriate mechanism, including active Indian mobile number of such users, and any user who voluntarily verifies their account shall be provided with a demonstrable and visible mark of verification. How can this be a tool for verification?

How can a verification of this kind act as a deterrent who intends to do unlawful activities on social platforms when mobile SIM cards are easily cloned or people with ill intention use prepaid SIM cards bought using false documents?

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, as you are aware and as the House is aware, the Digital India Programme has very effectively harnessed the power of Internet and technology to transform the lives of citizens, transform governance and to create opportunities of investments and entrepreneurship in our country.

Today, there are over 80 crore Indians using online platforms and this number is expected to reach 120 crores in the next few years. Hon. Member was talking about deterrence. The Government's policies in rule making are aimed at ensuring that the internet is open, safe and trusted and also accountable to all its users.

To that effect, we have laid down, as the hon. Member has said, Intermediary Guidelines in February, 2021 and we will continue to expand the scope of this kind of rule making to ensure that the internet is safe and trusted.

In regard to his specific question, voluntary verification is not aimed to be a deterrent. It is aimed at encouraging the intermediaries to do due diligence on those who are using their platforms. Currently, there is no law or rule that allows for mandatory verification of users who use the social media platforms.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE: Hon. Speaker Sir, there is a need to make it mandatory. Social media operators have their own conditions, they get revenue from share, likes, scene, reach etc. Private operators do not have the same responsibility as government operators. I do not understand why the government does not make mandatory provisions.

There are also Aadhaar cards, voter cards, etc. Like, I have Facebook and Twitter accounts, I can do the mobile verification if I have your phone. In Karnataka, Mushtaq Ali posted a communal post against Hindus. When the police conducted the inquiry, they found that Mushtaq Ali's name is Siddharuddha Shrikant Nirale. He was a relative of an MLC, Shri D.L. Arun ... *(Interruptions)*.

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not elaborate it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE: Sir, I was just giving a reference*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No reference.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE: Sir, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that there are no issues regarding social disturbance, illegal activities and that the integrity of the country is protected. I would like to know from the Government as to why mandatory provision is not being made in this regard.

[English]

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I appreciate the hon. Member's concerns about the safety and trust of online platforms, especially the issue of misuse of social media to create public order problems, law and order problems etc. in the country.

Sir, it is true that while the internet and technology have empowered and transformed us and they have been good to us, the issues of user's harm, criminality and fake news are also on the rise. *[Translation]* I empathise with what you are saying but our approach is not to make it mandatory. If you look at the answer, *[English]* as per Rule 4(2) of the Intermediary Guidelines that were issued in February, 2021, a significant social media intermediary is required to identify the first originator of the information for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, public order or incitement of an offence.

[Translation]

It is in our rules that if someone misuses social media, it becomes the responsibility of the intermediary to identify the person who has done it and the place from where it has been done. This matter is sub judice as WhatsApp has

challenged this in the Delhi High Court and we have defended the issue very robustly.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shrikant Shinde - Not present.

Dr. D. Ravi Kumar.

[English]

DR. D. RAVIKUMAR : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has taken any steps to curb hate campaign in social media platforms, particularly to curb Apps like Sulli Deals and Bulli Bay. They are being used to harass women of a particular religious community. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken any serious steps to curb the hate campaign.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I thank the Member for asking that question. This is an issue that we are actively involved with and are actively responding to. The Ministry has the powers as does other Departments of the Government to direct intermediaries to take down content and take down accounts that infringe on integrity, sovereignty of India, public order etc. So, with regard to such app or content, we direct the app store and the intermediary to take down this content.

[Translation]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Hon. Speaker Sir, Thank you very much. Its name is social media but it does anti-social things...*(Interruptions)* *[English]* Today, social media has been weaponised by governments, by certain political parties, non-State actors, and everybody who has a pernicious agenda in this world.

Sir, the Ministers Mr. Ashwini Vaishnav and Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar were both Members of the Joint Committee on the Data Protection Bill. I had very strongly argued, if they would recall, that there must be mandatory verification of all social media accounts. At that point in time, from the Government it was said that since we have promulgated the Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, 2021, this should not find place in the Data Protection Bill.

My question to both the Ministers is this. What prevents the Government from making this verification mandatory? If your argument is going to be that we can do it in India's case, but this can happen globally, then the counter to that is, once the GDPR process has started off in California and became pervasive all across the world, why do you not take the first step and make verification of social media accounts mandatory?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please answer other wise in due time, the Hon. Member will also start giving your answer.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I think this is less of a question and more of a suggestion. I wish to state that I have no opposition to his particular view excepting to point out very respectfully that this is one way of approaching this problem. The Government is interested in balancing the issues of privacy as well as the interest of safety and trust.

This is not an easy balance to achieve and we believe that this issue of mandatory verification is an issue that is at the intersection of both privacy and the issue of safety and trust. We believe that the rules that were promulgated in February, 2021 very effectively cast an obligation on the intermediaries to be able to detect and identify the first originator of any criminal activity.

That is the obligation which has been cast through the subordinate legislation and while that matter has been challenged by some intermediaries, the Government is robustly defending its position that this anonymity cannot be a blanket one and first origination should be possible as an obligation on the intermediaries.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question no. 386, Shri Sanjay Bhatia.

(Q. 386)

SHRI SANJAY BHATIA: Hon. Speaker Sir, Karnal Railway Station, under my Lok Sabha constituency is a historic station. It is a 130 years old Railway Station. It has also been recognized as a national heritage, but most of the trains do not stop here. I have gone through the reply of the Hon. Minister. I regularly travel by train. Even today, I have come to Parliament by train. I am aware of the ground realities. The answer that has been served to me is not in line with my question.

SHRI ASHWANI VAISHNAW: Hon. Speaker Sir, Karnal is indeed an important place and I can understand the sentiments of the Hon. Member of Parliament. I will give a specific answer. A total of 109 trains pass through Karnal. Of these, 51

trains stop there. Out of which 46 are express trains and 5 are passenger trains. The capacity utilization of this section is about 138 percent. Apart from this, if the Hon. Member of Parliament has any other requests, he should come and meet me. We will definitely consider it.

SHRI SANJAY BHATIA: Sir, I thank the Hon. Minister very much. I would like to inform that Karnal which is also a textile hub under my Lok Sabha constituency has been selected for smart city. The place is well-known for its domestic market and export centre worth millions of rupees. Lakhs of labourers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar work there. The Garib Rath train does not stop at Panipat. I would like to give an example. Dadar Express which has been operating between Amritsar and Mumbai for over fifty years. The stoppage of this train at two places in my Lok Sabha constituency has been discontinued for no reason. When this train arrives from Amritsar, it stops at Gharaunda and Taraori, but when this train arrives from Mumbai, it does not stop at the said stations. These two stations have been ceased for train to stop without any reason. Moreover, the operation of the daily passenger trains of Panipat-Delhi which used to facilitate thousands of passengers every day to commute before Corona period have not resumed till date even after my repeated requests.

HON. SPEAKER: No, no, you should not speak for so long during the Question Hour.

SHRI SANJAY BHATIA: Hon. Minister, I would like to give you an example which will provide revenue benefit to the Government. There are three trains namely, Shram Shakti Express, Shivganga Express and Prayagraj Express which remains stationary at Delhi Station for 17 hours, 10 hours and 10 hours respectively. If they are extended to the Panipat Junction which is under my

Parliamentary Constituency, it will earn revenue benefits for the Government.
...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, through you, I request the Hon. Minister that in case, there is revenue loss at Panipat and Karnal Stations due to extension of the said trains services, I will surrender my emoluments what I get as an MP. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHWANI VAISHNAW: Sir, the subject of stoppages of trains is very important. On this subject, I would like to say with great responsibility that our senior Minister Shri Piyush Goyal Ji had conducted a scientific study during his tenure. If the trains have to reach on time, then all the stops and the entire timetable need to be adjusted in a rationalised and scientific manner.

Today, many Hon. Members of Parliament come to me and tell me that trains arrive on time now. One of the major reasons for trains reaching on time is the rational time table which has been prepared with the assistance of IIT Mumbai. Apart from this, as discussed at the time of demands for grants of the Railways, the suggestion of Hon. Subhash Baheria Ji will be considered on an experimental basis as and when required. We will move forward as per the outcomes of the experiment.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 387, Shri Raju Bisht.

(Q. 387)

SHRI RAJU BISTA: Sir, thank you, for giving me the opportunity to ask a question.

Sir, I have got a very exhaustive answer to my questions. I have a little difference of opinion on the issue of subsidies. It says that no subsidy is pending.

As far as I know, for the last two years, the Tea Board has stopped issuing the sanction letters that they used to issue earlier. There are no such guidelines issued by the Ministry in this regard. I want the Ministry to take a closer look at it. Sir, Darjeeling tea has its own grandeur in the tea industry which is declining today. Workers involved in the Tea industry are unhappy and tea garden owners are also entangled in a big trouble. The Labour Codes that were passed in the interest of workers under the leadership of Modi Ji in the year 2019 have not been implemented in West Bengal till date. Through you, I would like to know from the Ministry what steps they are taking in this regard.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, two issues have been raised in this question. The first issue is about subsidies. Regarding this issue, I would like to tell the House that the Tea Board has a Tea Development and Promotion Scheme (TDPS). When we started this scheme which was set to be implemented for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, we got an outlay of Rs. 967.78 crore, of which Rs 298.76 crore was released towards the clearance of pending subsidies. One of the operational modalities or the scheme guidelines stipulates that the cases for which a formal Sanction Order has been issued, where no or only one installment has been released, all the pending liabilities will be cleared in a sequence giving first priority to those cases for which one installment has been released and the next priority to those for which no any installments have been released despite issuing sanction order . We will clear all those pending liabilities through the released fund of Rs. 298.76 crore.

The Tea Board has informed that it has cleared all the pending dues of all the eligible cases. There is no pendency now.

The second question you have asked is related to the welfare of the tea garden workers. As far as the welfare of tea garden workers is concerned, our TDPS scheme also has a welfare component under which funds are provided and through which welfare measures like – education, health, hygiene, housing and medical facilities as well as many other necessary facilities are provided to the workers. But broadly speaking, the tea garden workers' welfare is governed under the Plantation Labour Act, 1951. It has been subsumed in our two labour codes. One is the Social Security Code and the other is the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code. Regarding these codes, I would like to tell that a Gazette Notification has been published in 2020.

But for implementing these codes, the state government has a major role to play in framing their own rules under the said codes, because, labour is a Concurrent Subject. As far as West Bengal is concerned, the rules under the Labour Code are to be framed by the State Government. Our Ministry has been continuously making efforts to ensure that the action required for implementation of the said codes be taken at the earliest.

SHRI RAJU BISTA: Hon. Speaker Sir, as this Labour Code Bill comes into force, it will guarantee minimum wages to our workers. Similarly, my second question to you is that the workers have been living in the tea garden for more than 200 years and they have their own houses. But, even after that, they do not have lease of the land in their names till date. As far as my knowledge is concerned, perhaps the Ministry has also taken some initiative on this issue. Through you, I would also like to know whether the Government proposes to take any steps on the *Praja Patta* Issue?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Speaker Sir, the matter regarding Praja Patta has been raised earlier also by Hon. Member Raju Bista ji. I would like to inform this House that Land is covered under State Subjects. There can't be direct intervention of the Centre in this subject. Based on the existing land laws of the particular State, the concerned State Government is to decide whether to grant ownership rights to the tea growers who are cultivating a land for a long time. We have approached the Government of West Bengal based on your request. We have sent two letters to the State Government on 26 February and 06 September, 2021. But the decision in this regard is to be taken by the Government of the particular State only. Land is a State subject.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, tea is a drink next accepted after water in the whole world. The Tea Board Headquarters is in Kolkata city under my Parliamentary constituency. I should rather say that India was the largest tea exporter. Now, it has come to the fourth position after Kenya, Sri Lanka, China and Indonesia. The Darjeeling tea is accepted as one of the best teas in the world. The conditions of the tea gardens mainly in the North Bengal area are very serious. A few tea gardens have also been closed down. The Ministry of Commerce has assured us that these tea gardens will be opened under its care but no step has been taken so far. I want to know from the Minister as to how many tea gardens have been closed in Darjeeling and Dooars areas uptill now and whether the Minister is in a keen mood to visit and order an on-spot inquiry about these tea gardens. It is because this tea is generating foreign money for the Government exchequer and we should not forget it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to put this subject in detail. There are 1569 Tea Estates in the entire country at present, out of which 12 have closed down.

Nine of those closed are in West Bengal and 03 are in Kerala. There are no specific reasons of a Tea Garden closing down. There are many reasons for this such as poor yield of the Tea Garden, disputes of management, ownership disputes, strained industrial relations or we are unable to modernise them. There may be any of all these reasons. When the Union Government declares a Tea Garden as closed, it is declared based on the report of the concerned State Government.

Apart from this, I would like to tell that the Tea Act has a provision that the Union Government may acquire a closed down Tea Garden if it finds suitable. In many of the instances, the Government does not take the decision to acquire because such a decision gets challenged in the Court of law or the Courts have some different opinion on the matter. The convention generally followed is that while the Ownership Rights remain vested in the State Government, it is offered on lease of 11 years to an interested new entrepreneur who attempts to revive it. This is the convention being followed by the Government.

[English]

DR. RAJDEEP ROY: Thank you, hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I come from Assam which happens to be the centre of tea activity in the country. Assam produces 70 per cent of tea in the country, and it has been going on for the last few decades. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has a plan to shift the Tea Board Office from Kolkata to Guwahati which happens to be the centre of tea activity...*(Interruptions)* May I finish my question? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I need your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What is your question?

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. RAJDEEP ROY: Sir, I would like to ask whether the Government of India has any plan to shift the Tea Board Office and the headquarters of other tea-trading Multi-National Companies from Kolkata to Guwahati. ...*(Interruptions)* That is my first question.

My second question is this. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Only one Supplementary Question is allowed to be asked and not two.

Hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, this is not related to the main question.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker Sir, the details of the huge package have been provided in the reply. Somewhere an amount of Rs. 250 crore has been mentioned, while at some other place an amount of Rs. 11 crore has been mentioned. But the biggest package of Rs. One Thousand crore was announced by the Minister of Finance in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister in her address last year i.e. 2021. But there is no mention of that package at present. That package has disappeared. Not even a single rupee has been granted to Darjeeling or Assam out of that package. The Hon. Minister may please tell about the plans of the Ministry regarding this scheme of the Ministry of Finance.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Gaurav ji hails from Assam. Through you, I would request him not to have any doubts regarding the policies and intentions of the Government. The Hon. Minister of Finance has announced a package of Rs. One thousand crores in the budget 2021-22. This announcement was made specifically keeping in mind the women work force in tea gardens and their children. Certainly, it has taken some time and I will give you full details regarding it.

HON. SPEAKER: You may give that in detail. But its about 12 noon. Isn't the time for the Question Hour getting over?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Speaker Sir, I will not be able to give complete reply to the question. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You say that the Government is working with all seriousness. That is sufficient.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Speaker Sir, a package of Rs. One thousand crore was announced for Tea Board following which the Prime Minister Chai Shramik Protsahan scheme was drafted and implemented. Then, an opinion developed that several schemes are being implemented by different Ministries regarding all welfare provisions such as education, health or other facilities and institutional mechanisms that already exist with the Ministries. So, we decided that the Tea Board will identify the beneficiaries and all the welfare schemes can be made available to the beneficiaries through these Ministries by allocating funds for these schemes to the concerned Ministries over and above their own budgets. One more opinion emerged that we can also develop a capital infrastructure in which amenities such as Anganwadi Centres, hospitals, Medical Centres, AYUSH and Wellness centres, schools, canteens, crèche etc. can be included.

12.00 hrs

At present, the Department of Commerce does not have the requisite expertise to develop capital infrastructure. But, we are making efforts to make available all these welfare provisions to the intended beneficiaries by creating a

capital expenditure for all these Ministries such as Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports etc. by allocating additional funds to them. But the proposal is still under consideration. This is a proposal from our side. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker Sir, this is a mere rhetoric. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Speaker Sir, this is no rhetoric. ...*(Interruptions)* Gaurav Ji, no, not all. ...*(Interruptions)* This is in no way a rhetoric. ...*(Interruptions)* This is quite an in-depth thinking and in-depth planning of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to pass on all the benefits to the intended beneficiaries in a well planned and systematic manner. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: She has briefed you about the complete planning. Now please be seated.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA APATEL: This is not a rhetoric. ...*(Interruptions)* You are not interested to understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Question. 388 – Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: You are not willing to accept that the Government is working in all honesty for the welfare of all the tea-garden workers, women and children of West Bengal and Assam. ...*(Interruptions)* You are not for their interests. That is why you are not interested to listen to all this. ...*(Interruptions)* If you support the interests of the tea-garden workforce, then please listen. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government is planning the utilisation of the package of Rs. 1000 crore in a very systematic way and is contemplating passing it on to the intended beneficiaries in a well planned way. ...*(Interruptions)* Gaurav ji, you are neither interested to listen nor understand. ... *(Interruptions)* We cannot make you understand when you are neither interested nor willing to accept. ...*(Interruptions)**[English]* You have to understand that the Government is deeply committed to the interests of the beneficiaries, the women workers in our workforce, in the tea gardens. We are deeply committed to their children's welfare. You must understand what I am trying to explain to you in great detail. Thank you, Sir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS*(Starred Question Nos.388 to 400****Unstarred Question Nos.4371 to 4600)**

* 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.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motion on different matters by the Hon. Members. I have not given permission for any notice of adjournment motion.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Hon. Speaker Sir.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kindly raise your issue in the Zero Hour.

... (Interruptions)

12.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now the papers will be laid on the Table.

Item No. 2 – Dr. Jitendra Singh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985:-

1. The Central Administrative Tribunal (Group 'A' and Group 'B' Library Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.512(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th July, 2021.
2. The Central Administrative Tribunal (Group 'B' and Group 'C' Miscellaneous Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.513(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th July, 2021.

3. The Central Administrative Tribunal (Group 'A' and Group 'B' Hindi Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2021 published in Notification No. G.S.R.773(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6840/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE) : I beg to lay on the table a copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the MSTC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6841/17/22]

2. Memorandum of Understanding between the NMDC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6842/17/22]

THE 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, on behalf of Shri Danve Raosahab Dadarao, I beg to lay on the Table the following Papers:-

1. A copy of the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 2022-2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6843/17/22]

2. A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957:-

1. The Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. G.S.R.137(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th February, 2022.

2.G.S.R.169(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2022, notifying the M/s Natural Resources Division-Tata Steel Limited under 'Category A Exploration Agencies' as defined in the guidelines for notification of accredited private exploration agencies for the purpose of the second proviso to sub-section (1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6844/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): : I beg to lay on the table:-

1. A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6845/17/22]

2. A copy of the Notification No. S.O.1262(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd March, 2022 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.371(E) dated 8th February, 2017 issued under Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6846/17/22]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council (including its Export Inspection Agencies), New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council (including its Export Inspection Agencies), New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council (including its Export Inspection Agencies), 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 6847/17/22]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the MEPZ Special Economic Zone, Chennai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Noida Special Economic Zone Authority, G. B. Nagar, for the year

2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the MEPZ Special Economic Zone, Chennai, and Noida Special Economic Zone Authority, G. B. Nagar, 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 6848/17/22]

- (5) A copy of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Rules, 2021 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.901(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th February, 2022 under sub-section (3) of Section 33 of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6849/17/22]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIMATI
DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, 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 Wool Development

Board, Jodhpur, 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 6850/17/22]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Industry Export Promotion Council, 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 Wool Industry Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, 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 6851/17/22]

- (5) 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 Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6852/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, 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 Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, 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 6853/17/22]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, 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 South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6854/17/22]

- (10) A copy of Notification No. S.O.5421(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 28th December, 2021, directing that the commodities specified in Column (2) of the notification shall be packed in Jute Packaging material for supply or distribution in such minimum

percentage as specified in column (3) of the notification with effect from the date of publication of the notification in the official Gazette upto 30th June, 2022, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Jute Packing Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6855/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SOM PRAKASH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council, 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 National Productivity Council, 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 6856/17/22]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 40 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016:-
 - i. The Safety Glass (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2022 published in Notification No. S.O.620(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th February, 2022.

- ii. The Bicycles-Retro Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021 published in Notification No. S.O.5400(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th December, 2021.
- iii. The Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021 published in Notification No. S.O.5339(E) in Gazette of India dated 22nd December, 2021.
- iv. The Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressors and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021 published in Notification No. S.O.5095(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th December, 2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6857/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

- i. Memorandum of Understanding between the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6858/17/22]

- ii. Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Broadband Network Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6859/17/22]

- (1) A copy of the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Communication, Ministry of Communication, for the year 2022-2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6860/17/22]

- (3) A copy of the Flight and Maritime Connectivity (Amendment) Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.154(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th February, 2022 under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6861/17/22]

12.04 hrs

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

- 1 “In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 2022, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th March, 2022 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.”
 - 2 “In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance Bill, 2022, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th March, 2022 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.”
-

12.05 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

4th Report

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH(SATNA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the fourth report(Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

12.05 ½ hrs

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

36th Report

[Translation]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR(THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Hon. Speaker Sir, I present the 36th report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology(2021-22) on action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in their 21st report (17th Lok sabha) on the subject 'India's Preparedness for 5G' relating to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications)

12.06 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 352nd Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in 342nd Report of the committee on Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Sir, I rise to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 352nd Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in 342nd Report of the committee on Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 6838/17/22.

12.06 ½ hrs

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 20th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development on ‘Functioning of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)’ pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH): Sir, I rise to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 20th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development on ‘Functioning of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)’ pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 6839/17/22..

12.07 hrs

MOTION RE: 32nd REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I rise to move the following:-

“That this House do agree with the Thirty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 29th March, 2022.”

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the 32nd report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 29th March, 2022.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND (VELLORE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very important matter.

Sir, the Union Government has a lot of dues towards the States, especially towards the State of Tamil Nadu. The Union Government owes money to the State of Tamil Nadu against 38 heads. The GST claim alone comes to around Rs.9842

crore. The custom milled rice subsidy comes to around Rs.2023 crore. An amount of about Rs.1360 crore is pending in terms of MGNREGA. Dues of about Rs.1086 crore are pending in terms of Jal Jeevan Mission. An amount of about Rs.964 crore is pending under PMAY scheme, and grants to the local bodies come to around Rs.799 crore. Even the funds under Post-Matric Scholarship are also pending. Like this, a lot of money is due with the Central Government towards the State Government of Tamil Nadu. If I total it up, it comes to around Rs.20,287 crore.

Sir, I want to know how a Government can run a State without the Union Government allocating any funds to it at all. Tamil Nadu is one of the States where the maximum GST revenue collection happens. If GST revenue does not happen, the individual organizations and corporates are punished and face all hell in the State. Therefore, through you, I request the Union Government to look into this matter and release the requisite funds as early as possible.

Sir, our hon. Chief Minister has also put in a request to the Union Government to extend the date of GST compensation period, which is coming to an end on June 30, 2022. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has urged the Union Government to extend it by another one financial year as the State could face a revenue loss of about Rs.20,000 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, through you, I request the Union Government to consider the demand of the State Government. Thank you.

SHRI ASIT KUMAR MAL (BOLPUR): Sir, with due respect, I would like to say that there is a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Prantik adjoining Shanti Niketen in the district of Birbhum, West Bengal. But this Kendriya Vidyalaya is up to class 10 only. After passing out class 10 exams, the students of that vidyalaya have to run to

distant places for admission to class 11. As a result of this, both the students and the guardians have to face a lot of trouble year after year.

It is a holy place of Kabeeguru Rabindranath Tagore. I humbly urge the Central Government that this vidyalaya should be upgraded to class 12 in honour of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore, and also in the interest of the students.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Education Minister, Government of India towards this issue of urgent public importance. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu – not present.

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I wish to register a strong protest on behalf of the people of Kerala over the decision of the Government to remove 387 leaders of Malabar Rebellion, including its brave leaders like Variyamkunnath Kunjahammad Haji and Ali Musaliyar, from the *Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle* jointly published by the Ministry of Culture and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

I condemn the move of the Government to portray the Malabar Rebellion just as a revolt between two religions, for the sake of narrow political gains. Kunjahammed Haji was such a fearless leader that even the British officers were shocked and on his request, they shot him sight-straight without blindfolding. It is a historically recorded fact that being afraid of his martyrdom and that his grave might be used as an inspiration for freedom fighters, the Britishers cremated his body and even his mortal ash was destroyed. But even then, the memories of leaders like Kunjahammed Haji and Ali Musaliyar could not be destroyed by the

Britishers and they are remembered even now by millions for their fearless fight against the Britishers.

India's freedom struggle is adorned by sacrifices of thousands of such valiant martyrs as recorded by our historians. Hence, removing a few names based only their religion is unacceptable. There is no logic in removing these 387 leaders as they have been officially recognized as freedom fighters by the Government of Kerala.

Hence, I once again request this Government not to distort the history and direct ICHR to revert its decision to remove the 387 leaders from the list of freedom fighters from the fifth volume of the *Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle*.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity to speak in the House on an important issue of my parliamentary constituency. The important historical road of the country passes through my parliamentary constituency, which was built by Emperor Ashoka and was known as GT Road. National Highway 2 has to be renovated. In my constituency, the work of six laning from Barvada to Maithon has been in progress for the last four-five years and still incomplete. Hon. Minister Gadkari ji has got the fame of development in the whole country. He is interested in the development of roads and is developing too. There always remain traffic jam on all the turns, be it Barvada, Gobindpur, Nirsa and all the intersections due to incomplete work and accidents occurs frequently.

Sir, I would like to request the Government to get that road constructed and every intersection should also be completed.

SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE (HATKANANGLE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour. I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter.

Flood like situation and Corona affected the whole country during the last year. There was heavy loss of life and property to the people, Government property and infrastructure of the country due to various natural calamities like rains, floods, cyclones. The compensation for the loss is given by the NDRF on behalf of the Government. The provision of compensation for the loss by NDRF was decided in the year 2015. The compensation amount for infrastructure or to the farmers under this, even today, is very less.

I would like to draw your attention to some statistics. The crop compensation of Rs 6,800 per hectare is given for non-irrigated land and up to Rs 18,500 per hectare for irrigated land.

This amount is meagre and can do no good to the farmers. If per hectare compensation is so small, definitely it cannot compensate the farmers. The damage has been caused to Government properties. Compensation of only 6 thousand rupees is given for mud house. If the house collapses completely, a compensation of Rs. 95,100 is given. Thousands of kilometers of roads have been damaged. An amount of Rs 1 lakh is given for every kilometer of damaged highway.

I would like to demand from the Government that it should be increased ten times so that the people of the country could utilize the amount. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR (SHAHJAHANPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of Shahjahanpur district. National Highway 24 passes through Shahjahanpur in my constituency. The construction work on National Highway Bareilly-Shahjahanpur-Sitapur is going on. The work had been stopped for almost 11 years.

I would like to thank and express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for sanctioning a road there. Also, I am sorry to submit that the companies involved in road construction are using substandard material in construction work with connivance of the engineers.

I personally met the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on 8th March also and placed the whole matter before him.

I would like to request you to conduct a high level inquiry and take action against the concerned engineers. Thank you very much.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (HOSHANGABAD): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a problem. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Jal Jeevan Mission, an ambitious plan to provide water to villages and kitchens of the poor under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

This is an ambitious scheme, in which the Government is making arrangements to provide water to the house of every poor for drinking, bathing and worship purposes. But I regret to say that the money being sent by the Government is not being fully utilized there. At some places sub-standard pipes are being used, at some places taps are not being supplied, at some places pipes were laid by

digging roads but the road was not repaired. Whereas the provision in the rule says that the roads have to be repaired.

Through you, I urge the Government that the way the Central Monitoring System has been put in place under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, due to which the quality of the roads is being maintained. Had there been no central monitoring, perhaps the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak could not have been made so good.

Through you, I would like to urge the Government that the Jal Jeevan Mission is a big project in the country, in which arrangements are made to provide water to every household. The Government should put in place a central monitoring system and the quality of the work should be checked in States and districts so that better construction can be done and clean water could be provided to the households. The Government should make arrangements for providing water to each and every village by corruption-free system and construction. I urge the Hon. Minister to appoint a central monitoring system.

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU): Hon. Speaker Sir, in my Lok Sabha constituency Churu, followers of Jainism live and mostly Jains belong to business class, who live in India and abroad for business. In the month of June this year Jain Dharm Guru Acharya Shri Mahashravan ji is visiting Chhapar city for Chaturmas. It is a matter of pride for all of us, ironically, Chhapar is a big city having a population of over 40,000 and many important trains pass through this place but they don't have halt here.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I, through you, also submitted the same request at the time of Rail Budget that a window of six months should be given, where trains do not stop at big stations and stop at small stations.

I request that the train number 22421/22482, which are Jodhpur bound trains, should be given stoppages at Chhapar and Batra.

Hon. Speaker Sir, a big programme is being organized in my constituency. I would like to request that a chance with a window of six months should be given and if there is no further revenue generation, the halt should be stopped. My only request is that one chance should be given.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, on February 17, 2014, in this Parliament, the UPA Government took a decision on the advice of Madam Sonia Ji and this decision was announced inside the House by Chidambaram ji and Manmohan ji that according to the recommendation of the Koshyari Committee, 'One Rank, One Pension' scheme is being introduced for the soldiers of India. The Government and the party obtained votes in the name of the sacrifice and bravery of the soldiers but when the actual time comes to help the soldiers, the Government not only back out but also opposes the move. ...*(Interruptions)* We have seen this contradiction.

Sir, more than 30 lakh brave soldiers spent their whole life protecting the country's borders. When repeated appeals were made in the Supreme Court for 'One Rank, One Pension', this Government protested strongly and due to this protest, it has proved that the Government does not stand with the soldiers. ...*(Interruptions)* To fulfill their vested interests, they get votes in the name of the soldiers and the sacrifices made by them. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Speaker, thank you very much. Today, I have also given a notice of adjournment motion and now I will try to club both the subjects.

Sir, the workers are very frustrated due to demonetization, lockdown, privatization and the law made for them. Unfortunately, some provisions have been made in the law such as working on the same salary throughout life. People do not have jobs and unemployment is increasing. There is a lot of chaos in the textile industry in Mumbai city. I have been saying this for seven years. The mill workers in that city are repeatedly requesting the Government to open the mills. On the other hand, there is also another demand. The buildings of mills are 100 years old and are likely to collapse. Those buildings are not being redeveloped or new mills are not opened. If we look at the issue of employment from both sides, employment opportunities will be created by redeveloping residential buildings and mills, but the Government is not taking a decision on this. The Government is neither redeveloping the residential buildings nor the closed mills. Few mills were functioning here. During the period of lockdown at the time of Corona they used to say there is no business. But, even though the business has started now, the mills are not open.

Sir, there was a strike for two days. Such bad days have not come that the laborers had to protest like the farmers. The laws that have been made have brought uncertainty in their lives. Through you, I request to revive the mills of National Textile Corporation and to redevelop the buildings that are likely to collapse. This is my request.

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, while speaking about sacrifice of our health workers to protect our nation from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have to address the exact issues they are facing now-a-days. I will tell you what they are getting as salaries or honorarium. The staff nurse is getting only Rs. 17,000 under NHM; it is Rs. 14,000 for lab Technician and pharmacist; especially in the case of ASHA workers, they are getting only Rs. 9,000 in Kerala - Rs. 6,000 is the State's share, and Rs. 3,000 is the Central share. Out of Rs. 3,000, Rs. 1,000 is given as COVID incentive. From the next month, it will not be there. It means that only Rs. 2,000 would be there from the Central part. It should be increased for the work that they are doing. They are doing PHC duty, palliative care, vaccination, immunization etc. they are doing everything.

Right to live with dignity is a Fundamental Right. We have to protect them. So, it should be increased by 100 per cent. It is absolutely necessary. We need the Central share to be enhanced to Rs. 5,000. That is necessary. I urge upon the Government to increase it. They should get at least Rs. 10,000 per month.

SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY (NANDYAL): Thank you, Sir. The Soil Health Card scheme has led to a decline of 8-10 per cent in the use of chemical fertilizers and also raised productivity by 5-6 per cent. The issuance of the Soil Health Cards has enabled the farmers to understand the soil health parameters and improve the productivity by judicious application of soil nutrients. But there are some issues attached to the applicability of the scheme.

Although the basic structure of Soil Health Cards is uniform, yet there is a need of provision for States to adopt changes as per their agro-climatic zones and needs. Indicators like cropping history, water resources, slope and depth of soil, and soil texture could be changed as per requirement for enhanced testing. There is

a need that the Soil Health Cards should also mention physical and microbiological indicators such as soil texture, water holding capacity, and bacterial content. ...
(Interruptions)

I would therefore request the Government to address the issues at the national level and ensure provision of necessary benefits of the scheme to the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious issue in Rajasthan. From Rajgarh in Alwar district of Rajasthan, the son of Congress...* has been accused of raping a minor girl student. The case has been registered at Mandwad police station in Dausa. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir,...* son and his friends gang-raped a class 10 student and after that, they blackmailed the girl for a long period of time by making an obscene video...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, what is your demand from the Centre?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Sir, I am making my demand. Rajasthan Police is saying that the inquiry is going on.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, what is your demand?

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, through the House, I request the Government to conduct the inquiry of this case through the CBI. As he is the son of* belonging to the ruling party, neither the Government nor any agency of the State Government will be able to conduct an inquiry on the said accusations. I appeal to the Central Commission to take a stringent action in this matter.

Hon. Speaker Sir, whether it is the case of Alwar Police Station or the case of deaf and dumb girl(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mitesh Patel.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, I will conclude my speech in one second.

HON. SPEAKER: Ok, continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Hon. Speaker Sir,...* it said that the reason for Rajasthan being number one in rape cases is because it is a land of men. This is the condition of the Government of Rajasthan.....(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan, I will look into this matter.

...(Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: A leader from this place says in Uttar Pradesh that 'I am a daughter, I can contest', then why doesn't she say this in Rajasthan? ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI MITESH PATEL (BAKABHAI) (ANAND): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. Anand Junction is a major junction located in the Anand district of Gujarat. It is on a railway line that connects Ahmedabad to Vadodara and Mumbai. It was built in 1901. During that time Anand Junction was not so developed. Anand city has developed a lot since then. Tourists from every part of the country come here as it is famous for Amul Dairy and as the Karma Sthal of Sardar Patel Sahib. You would know that apart from being a place with a stronghold of NRIs, Anand has also become a big hub of education. More than 40,000 students from outside Anand visit Vallabh Vidya Nagar for their educational future. Upgradation and beautification of Anand Junction is extremely necessary to increase Anand Kisan in view of the movement of people from abroad, areas of NRIs, education and tourism. Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I humbly request the Hon. Minister of Railway to sanction the upgradation and beautification of Anand Railway Station. Thank you.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. You have given me an opportunity to speak on a very important subject of my parliamentary constituency. Sir, there is an Inter State project named North Koel Irrigation Scheme. This project was started 45 years ago, but is still incomplete. This project is to irrigate 1.25 lakh land in two states, Palamu district of Jharkhand and Aurangabad and Gaya districts of Bihar. The foundation stone for the completion of the unfinished work of this project was laid by our Hon. Prime Minister on January 4, 2019. 30 months were fixed to complete that work. The

work is going on. The pace of the work should be in such way that it may complete within the stipulated time.

Sir, through you, I would like to convey this matter to the Government. This project is the lifeline of my parliamentary constituency and the support for the survival of the farmers here. These three districts are completely Naxalite and Extremist-affected areas. The Hon. Prime Minister has also placed Palamu of Jharkhand, Aurangabad and Gaya of Bihar on the list of aspirational districts because of the backwardness of these three districts. In every way, we have the right to complete this project so that the water of the North Koel Canal can reach the fields of our farmers. The economy and the means of livelihood of the farmers may be improved through the said project. The issue of unemployment and naxalism will be ended and the farmers can lead a happy life.

This project covers five parliamentary constituencies. Sir, therefore, through you, I once again request to complete the work related to the North Koel Irrigation Scheme at the earliest in a manner in which our Government has completed the work related to 'Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti Yojana' and old projects. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL (KHADOOR SAHIB): Hon. Speaker Sir, I rise to speak on a very big social evil. The Government will not have to make any expenditure and we all including the Government will also get blessings. Nowadays so many people gather and get invited to our weddings. I have a menu with me that includes 289 items. The cost of one plate on this menu is Rs.2,500.

HON. SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL: Hon. Sir, I am coming to that. My request is that we should make such a law that not more than 50 people from the bridegroom's side and bride's side should attend a wedding and no more than 11 dishes should be served at the wedding.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, if you initiate this practice, the country will follow your suit.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL: Sir, we have already initiated. If we have to save people, we have to formulate a law here.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, it will not be possible just by formulating a law but by the will of all of us.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL: Sir, you are absolutely right.

HON. SPEAKER: If all the Hon. Members of Parliament of the country start practicing this, the country will start following it. Because, we lead the people of the country.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL: Sir, Afghanistan and Pakistan have such a law. If we have to save people, we will have to formulate this law.

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU (MALDAHA UTTAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, today, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation towards the construction of an airport in Malda district.

Sir, Malda is an important city of West Bengal, where apart from the presence of Central Government Offices, Railway Division, BSF camp, two Kendriya Vidyalayas, NTPC and Power Grid, business activities are also carried out at a large scale. The biggest problem being faced by the citizens is the

unavailability of flight services. The nearest airports to Malda are, Bagdogra and Kolkata which are located at a distance of 250 Km and 350 Km respectively. There are very few areas in the country where an airport is located so far from any city. It is also very essential for meeting any medical emergencies.

Therefore, in such a situation, the construction of an airport for air transport services in Malda is necessary. For this, I would also like to suggest that the renovation of the old airport can also address this problem.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to connect Malda again to the network of Air Traffic.

***SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE (RAVER):** Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much. I would like to speak in Marathi.

Sir, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, our Hon. Prime Minister has envisioned Housing for All by 2022. It is also a very ambitious scheme of the Central government. But, in my constituency first phase was sanctioned and the beneficiaries did not receive the benefit of second and third installment in Nagar Palika Region. I am personally pursuing it at the central level. Central government has given the installments to the State government and the State government is doing politics in this matter. Many Members of Parliament have registered their complaints in this matter. In this way, the poor are deprived of their money.

So, I would like to request the Central government to look into it. The Central government should review the progress of the scheme and also check how many Nagar Palikas have received funds under this scheme. PLTC Committee has been constituted to monitor this and engineer and operators have

*English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Marathi

also been appointed. But they are not getting their salaries. If we pay them regularly, they will definitely ensure proper and speedy execution of this scheme.

This is my only request to you, thank you.

[English]

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): Sir, the retired employees of BSNL and other Central Government employees in my Ongole Parliamentary constituency are requesting for sanctioning of CGHS

wellness centre in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. There is a large number of Central Government serving and retired employees in my constituency. I have also written a letter to the hon. Health Minister for the same as the CGHS beneficiaries are facing a lot of problems in their treatment as there is no wellness centre in Prakasam district.

Another problem is that after bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, there is no Additional Director (Administration) and Director of CGHS Polyclinic in Andhra Pradesh which is also creating hurdles in their claim settlements. I request the hon. Health Minister through you, Sir, for sanctioning a CGHS wellness centre in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh and for sanctioning the post of Additional Director (Administration) and Director of CGHS Polyclinic in Andhra Pradesh for smooth functioning of CGHS centres in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA (UJJAIN): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise an important issue during Zero Hour.

Through you, I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister that he has ensured the right to education to the children from Class- I to VIII, but through you, I would like to make a humble request to the Hon. Prime Minister that the parents of those children are not able to afford their fees after Class-VIII, because of which these children have bleak future. I request you that if the Hon. Prime Minister makes Right to Education compulsory for children from class VIII to XII, then crores of children of this country will be greatly benefited.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Sir, sometimes credit for good works should also be given to the previous Governments.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ KOTAK (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST): Hon. Speaker Sir, Thank you. The people settled for the last 30 to 35 years have been served notices by the railways during the last few days. The Hon. Supreme Court gave its verdict on the petition of the Slum Development Board and ordered the Railways, State Government and local authorities to make plan for the rehabilitation of the people residing on railway's lands. Along with this, it was also stated in the clause that the rehabilitation plan should be slated first. The Railways has served them notices, but have not made any provisions for their rehabilitation. Through you, I would like to request the Government to constitute a Board comprising of the Central Government, State Government, Local Authority, SRA, BMC and MMRDA to formulate the scheme for rehabilitation of the people settled in all the said areas like, Ghatkopar, Vikhroli and Thane near the Central Railway.

A plan for their rehabilitation should be formulated first. After receiving the notice today, there is an atmosphere of fear among them. The Government in collaboration with the State Government and the local authorities, should formulate plan for their rehabilitation by actively participating in this process.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (BEHRAMPUR): Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency, National Highway 16 goes from Ichhapuram to Rambha Junction. One flyover near Haladiapadar new bus stand junction has been under construction since long and the company or the contractor who executes this work in Ichhapuram to Puintola section have not been maintaining standards of construction and not following the timeline fixed for completion due to which people of my Constituency have been facing a lot of difficulties. Similarly, on the portion from Puintola to Rambha junction many subways and flyovers are under construction. However, the progress of work as well as standard of work of almost all these subways and flyovers is very poor.

There has been no inspection of work by NHAI officials responsible for this project. As per my limited technical knowledge, material used in the construction is not as per the norms of NHAI. Moreover, officials of NHAI are also not taking any care of it. During my stay in my Constituency, I frequently use this section but I never see any of the NHAI officials checking the progress and quality of work of the project. The people have been facing a lot of problems due to which there has been unrest among the people in my Constituency. They are ready to draw the attention of the Government through democratic way of protests.

[Translation]

***SHRI MAHESH SAHOO (DHENKANAL):** Thank you Sir. I would like to draw kind attention of the Government and the concerned Minister to an important matter concerning my state Odisha.

As you are aware the retirement age for Doctors is 65, all over India, but in Coal India it is 60. During the pandemic the Doctors & Health Workers did a

challenging job and we called them Corona Warriors. But now they have retired and awaiting to get their pension. All the coal mine-workers and employees are facing a lot of hardship because of the absence of Doctors/medical facilities. It is very unfortunate that the 7th Pay Commission is yet to be implemented in their salary structure. Retired employees and Doctors are undergoing a lot of distress.

Sir my constituency produces the largest amount of coal in the whole of India. Through you I would like to request the Hon. Minister and the government to take the important and timely decision to implement 7th Pay Commission at the earliest, so that the pensioners and employees can benefit.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Baghel – Not present.

Shri Sunil Kumar Soni.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SONI (RAIPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, Thank you. Jal Jeevan Mission is an important scheme of the Hon. Prime Minister. The Chhattisgarh Government issued the tender after receiving the fund from the Central Government and later cancelled it after allegations were made against it. On seeking the data under the Jal Jeevan Mission, I came to know that the scheme has reached just 18 percent of the people so far.

This scheme of the Prime Minister is set to be completed by the year 2023.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister to review the works carried out by Chhattisgarh Government once so that our womenfolk could get rid of the problem of travelling upto two kilometers to fetch water. This is my only request to the Hon. Minister. Thank you.

*English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Odia

***SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL (BHADRAK):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak in Zero Hour. Through you I would like to request the Hon. Minister that the ICDS scheme which is running for the last 45 years from 1975 onwards is a Central government scheme entirely. This scheme is entrusted with the mandate to reduce female and child mortality which is such an important responsibility. Yet more than 25 lakh Anganwadi Workers and assistants are yet to get government recognition.

As per the 7th Pay Commission the minimum salary as fixed at Rs.18,000/- per month, but it has not been implemented in this case. During the Covid period they risked their own life to serve people. It is a matter of regret that the Central government is neglecting their demands even though this is entirely a centrally funded scheme. The Anganwadi workers have sat on Dharna/demonstrations on National Highways to voice their protest.

Hence Sir, through you I would urge upon the Union Minister of Women and Child Development to take cognizance of the plight of ICDS workers and mitigate their grievances at the earliest.

SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY (RAJAMPET): Thank you, Sir. This is a very important issue regarding my constituency, Rajampet. The road from Rajampet to Tirupati has to be taken up on priority. This is long pending. Even the land acquisition has been completed. Through you, I would request that this road is to be taken up on priority and the tenders are to be expedited.

Also, regarding the road from Rajampet to Kadiri, which is an important connectivity to Bangalore, we have put a request for conversion of this road from State Highway to National Highway. Even our Chief Minister has requested the

*English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Odia.

same. So, through you, I would request the Government to expedite taking up this road under National Highway and also to start the execution soon.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I would like to urge all the Hon. Members to conclude their speech within a minute and put up the matters keeping in mind the dignity and decorum of the House. We have to raise the standard of matters raised in the House.*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, about the gang rape that took place...

HON. SPEAKER: While speaking, at least keep in mind that we are in Parliament, that is all I have to say.

SHRI SYED IMTIYAZ JALEEL (AURANGABAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am happy that the Railway Minister was present here. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, through you, I seek this clarification from the Ministry of Railways because the Railway Minister has given in writing in the Rajya Sabha that the new pit line would be built in Aurangabad, whereas the Minister of State for Railways has given a statement that the new pit line would be laid in his constituency. I seek this clarification from him. In addition, there has been a persistent demand for construction of an ROB in Shivaji Nagar for the last several years. This issue was taken to the Hon. High Court. After the Hon. High Court passed the order, the State Government contributed its share, but because of non-receipt of the share from the Ministry of Railway, about five lakh people suffer every day because of the closure of the railway gates. Despite the very serious

intervention by the Hon. High Court to ensure this facility and in spite of raising this issue after every two sessions by me for the last three years, the issue could not be resolved yet.

Through you, I would like to request the Ministry of Railways to address these two issues at the earliest.

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI): Hon. Speaker Sir, India is an agricultural country. Agriculture plays an important role in the country's economy. About 70 per cent of the people of my constituency Sidhi have an agriculture-based livelihood. Today, every sector is growing at a fast pace due to technological development and skilled training. The present generation of farmers in my constituency is continuously withdrawing from agriculture due to lack of training and skills. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that there is a need to make the farmers of my constituency, Sidhi capable by imparting suitable training to them through skill development. I would like to request that the farmer community should be made skilled by imparting agricultural training in Sidhi and Singrauli districts and Beohari assembly seat of Shahdol district so that they could live their life with dignity.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Speaker Sir, Meerut is one of the biggest cantonments in the country. The condition of many roads in this cantonment area is very bad. The facilities of drinking water and sewer etc. are also not proper there. The resources have not expanded in proportion to the continuous increase in the population in the cantonments. The income that administration of the cantonment receives from various local sources is spent only on the payment of salaries and wages of their officers and employees. As a result, there remains a paucity of resources for local development works. The cantonment

area once had excellent civic amenities but is now facing difficulties due to lack of resources.

Through you, I request the Government to provide funds for repair of roads, construction of civic amenities like drinking water and sewer etc. A permanent mechanism should be set up to provide resources to carry out these works in cantonment areas.

[English]

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): Sir, Malabar rebellion leaders, Ali Musliyar, Variankunnath Kunjahammad Haji, and 387 other Moplah martyrs are reported to be removed from the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle. A three-Member panel, which reviewed the entries in the fifth volume of the Dictionary, brought out by the Indian Council for Historical Research, is understood to have recommended the deletion as it felt that the 1921 rebellion was never a part of the independence struggle but a fundamentalist movement focused on religious conversion.

The Malabar rebellion and Wagon tragedy are unforgettable events in the history of India's Freedom Struggle. The Wagon tragedy was the death of 70 prisoners on 10th November, 1921 in the Malabar region of Kerala. The prisoners had been taken into custody following the Mappila rebellion against British in various parts of Malappuram district. Their deaths through apparent negligence discredited the British Raj and generated sympathy for the Indian independence movement. The Government of India should advise the ICHR to refrain the attempted manipulation of history by deleting Malabar rebellion leaders, Ali Musliyar, Variankunnath Kunjahammad Haji, and 387 other Moplah martyrs from the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle.

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me the time to speak during Zero Hour.

Mallakhamb is an ancient traditional form of Indian culture. As a sport, it is not only present in all the States of our country, but has also reached almost 50 countries of the world. The first Mallakhamb World Championship was held in Mumbai in February, 2019. Miss Himani Parab of Maharashtra, who emerged as the world champion, was also presented with the first Arjuna Award in Mallakhamb sport by the Government. When she was looking for a job in the Indian Railways, she was told to her surprise that she could not be recruited in the Indian Railways as Mallakhamb was not in the list of sports recognised by the Railway Board.

This sport should be promoted, which is now known as the fastest growing sport in the world. On the one hand, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is honoring world champions of this sport with the prestigious Arjuna Award, on the other, they are denied jobs by the Ministry of Railways, is it not a mockery of the promotion of Indian sportspersons? When even the Hon. Prime Minister mentions Mallakhamb in his 'Mann Ki Baat' speech, it is high time that PSUs like Railways should amend their recruitment policies and recognize indigenous games like Mallakhamb. They should provide justice to world and National champions of this traditional game.

Therefore, I strongly appeal to the Hon. Minister of Railways to amend the list of recognised sports by the Ministry of Railways and encourage players like Himani Parab by including Mallakhamb in the said list.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member Shri Hanuman Beniwal, you talk a lot.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (SOUTH GOA): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. It is an important issue for the State of Goa.

Sir, as a representative of South Goa, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Central Government an important aspect relating to the postal department. The State of Goa does not have a postal circle. Presently, Goa is managed by the Maharashtra circle as far as India Post is concerned. We do not have a recruitment centre. A number of people have brought it to my notice that they are being employed on contract basis for five to six years, and after that they are being terminated and replaced by people coming from outside Goa.

My point is, charity begins at home. So, I would request the Government to set up a circle, with the Chief Postmaster General as its head, and also to have a recruitment centre in Goa.

DR. RAJASHREE MALLICK (JAGATSINGHPUR): Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. Various initiatives are being taken by the hon. Minister of Jal Shakti, and the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, for water conservation in our country.

The schemes aim at water conservation by way of construction of new water harvesting structures and preparation of geotagged inventory of all water bodies in the country, followed by detailed scientific plans for water conservation.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, there are large numbers of natural drains -- carrying huge amount of rain water -- which remain flooded during rainy season, and they become almost dry during the rest of the season. The shape and size of these channels are very large. Large spill over type water retaining structure is feasible in these channels to retain water by forming reservoirs in these channels itself.

I would like to request that, at least, two natural drains in my area, that is, Hansua and the Prachi River -- of over sixty to eighty kilometres in length -- may be included under such schemes for the creation of artificial reservoirs. The construction of water retaining structures at the intervals of ten to fifteen kilometres will be in the larger public interest. It will solve multi-dimensional problems. It will facilitate farmers to cultivate a variety of crops. It will also facilitate the pisciculturists. The water reservoirs will act as a source for water supply to iron-contaminated areas. It will also prevent the depletion of groundwater level.

[Translation]

SHRI BALAK NATH (ALWAR): Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker Sir. There is a huge forest area in Alwar. The fire erupted in this forest area on 27th. With the continuous efforts of the Central Government, the work of extinguishing the fire is being carried forward. Yesterday, two helicopters were sent there by the Central Government, which are still working continuously to extinguish the fire. This is a hilly area, where the peak of the hill is ablaze. There is no other means of extinguishing the fire. Neither the fire tender can go there nor water can be brought there by any other means.

Through you, therefore, I request the Hon. Prime Minister and the Central Government to send two more helicopters there, so that the fire could be controlled as soon as possible and the lives of wildlife can be saved. Appropriate provisions should also be made in future to ensure that such incidents do not happen in future. Thank you.

[English]

DR. DNV SENTHIL KUMAR S. (DHARMAPURI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the plight of the patients suffering from rare diseases and on the current gaps in providing lifesaving treatment to these patients.

It has almost been a year since the crowdfunding platform was established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, a meagre amount of only Rs. 1,16,000 has been raised so far. There are approximately 250 Group 3 patients registered on the portal for treatment or support.

Out of the same, fifty patients are in urgent need of support to start their treatments. According to conservative estimates, four of the children have already lost their lives in the last few months. In spite of several pleas to extend the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi -- as a special one-time provision for the treatment of these patients before March 31st -- these patients and their caregivers have been left with no option but to wait for the inevitable.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon the Government to immediately release the allotment for these Group 3 diseases, especially Gaucher disease, Pompe disease, Fabry disease, and MPS-I disease.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV (JAUNPUR): Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker Sir. *Ram Rajya* part two has started in Uttar PradeShri Earlier, only stray

animals used to roam in Uttar Pradesh, but now policemen are also roaming there. They trouble, whoever they want. No matter how respected a person is, they call him to the police station and make him sit and put him in lock-up. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What is your point?

SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, my point is that in Deoria village under Badlapur police station, the police stripped a dozen women, beat them, misbehaved and insulted them a lot. There is no question of registering an FIR against them in this regime, yet through you, I demand that action should be taken against all those policemen who have misbehaved with dalit women and insulted them. FIR should be registered against those policemen and strictest action should be taken against them. Thank you.

13.00 hrs

SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL (DURG): Hon. Speaker Sir, there are very promising sportspersons in our country and for their growth, several schemes have been launched by the Government of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for continuous promotion and upgradation. Players from the majority of States come from poor and middle class. Their percentage is high. There are sportspersons, who have immense ability but are unable to bear the expenses of their training and rail travel. Since the Ministry of Railways was earlier providing facilities for rail travel with fifty percent concession, the rail travel concession for the players was withdrawn during the Corona period, which was necessary also at that time. At present, the condition has become normal, so this facility should be resumed. Many National level competitions have started. Through you, I request the Hon. Minister of Railways to

resume the rail travel concession for the sportspersons, so that the sports persons can get financial relief.

[English]

SHRI VE. VAITHILINGAM (PUDUCHERRY): Sir, there are two minor ports in Puducherry called Puducherry Port and Karaikal Port.

The Puducherry Government minor port comes under the Sagarmala programme and it was sanctioned in 2018. The works are going on in three phases: (1) capital dredging and construction of container berth for about Rs. 75 crore; (2) the approach jetty and main jetty and other facilities for Rs. 50 crore; and (3) extension of container berth, approach road and bridges.

All the clearances like EC and CRZ are completed. An amount of Rs. 44 crore is sanctioned by the Centre. But the works are going on very slowly. Dredging is only going on. I request the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to speed up the programme. Then only, the container service can start in the port. It will also reduce the container traffic in Chennai and Ennore Ports.

There is already an agreement between the Ennore and the Puducherry port. The Ennore Port will operate the Puducherry Port.

There is another private port at Karaikal. A Sri Lankan party approached the Central Government to start a passenger service from Karaikal to Sri Lanka. The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways should take interest to clear the proposal and grant permission for this. If this happens, it will improve the trading activities in Karaikal. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into this.

[Translation]

SHRI C.P. JOSHI (CHITTORGARH): Hon. Speaker Sir, today is a very proud day. Today is the foundation day of Rajasthan. On this occasion, through you, I would like to request the Government to include Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. At present, there are 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

HON. SPEAKER: You should also tell that Rajasthan is a State of pride and prosperity, where there are immortal stories of bravery. Rajasthan is a state of might and devotion.

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Hon. Speaker Sir, the country and the world are well aware of the glorious history of Rajasthan. You also mentioned that many historical heritage sites are here. People from within the country and abroad come to see sand dunes, monuments, lakes, culture and the mountains there under the initiative 'Padharo Mharo Desh'. For the last many years, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi has continuously given awards and honors to the books written and published on Rajasthani literature. News and programmes are being broadcast on All India Radio and Doordarshan in Rajasthani language in Rajasthan. Along with this, the language is also in the syllabus in schools, colleges and universities.

Sir, according to the 2011 census, more than four crore people speak Rajasthani language. The Hon. Prime Minister is sensitive towards the language issue. The National Education Policy also has a provision that school education should be imparted in the mother tongue. Eight crore people of Rajasthan have been demanding for a long time that Rajasthani language should get Constitutional status and be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Rajasthan has its own glorious history and culture. Every year lakhs of tourists from India and abroad visit Rajasthan. They become overwhelmed by the culture here. I request

the Government to consider this matter and include Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule, in consideration of the sentiments of the people of Rajasthan.

[English]

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT (RAJAHMUNDRY): Thank you, Speaker Sir. I am standing in solidarity with a lady doctor. I would like to bring to the notice of this House that one pathetic incident has happened yesterday at Dausa, Rajasthan. Dr. Archana Sharma, a gold medallist and senior doctor committed suicide by writing a suicide note. The cops directly filed a case under Section 302, murder without any investigation, after the death of a pregnant lady due to serious maternal complication, namely, PPH.

Sir, one has to understand the difference between medical negligence and maternal complications. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to intervene in the matter and take action against the culprits and formulate stringent laws so that these kinds of incidences are not repeated and harassment of doctors are stopped.

Sir, I wanted to read out a few points. ... *(Interruptions)* It shall be an eye-opener for everybody. ... *(Interruptions)* In the note she mentioned ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Hon. Speaker Sir, first of all, on behalf of the people of the Baghpat Constituency and our Western Uttar Pradesh, I express my gratitude to the eminent Prime Minister Shri Modi and the Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Gadkari for the work done by them in this area. Many good roads have been constructed here. Through you, I want to inform you

that the road of about 20 kilometers from Delhi-Loni to my Constituency is so bad that vehicles break down there. People also get hurt on their backs while traveling on this road. For the last 3 years, all my requests have been unsuccessful. Therefore, through you, I would like to request Hon. Minister Shri Gadkari to reconstruct this road as soon as possible. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance. I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government with regard to the plight of the medical students who were pursuing medical education in foreign universities. The pandemic and also the present war between Russia and Ukraine have resulted in very severe consequences for a large number of students who were pursuing medical education in China, the Philippines and Ukraine. The war has put at stake and stalled the medical education of thousands of students with no indication of any resumption. Students who availed huge bank loans for this purpose are on the verge of a huge disaster as there is an indefinite ban on travel to China and the Philippines. The complete destruction of infrastructure in Ukraine have made the future prospects of these students uncertain.

Sir, I would not like to go into the details. The House is very much aware of this. I would like to request the Government, especially the Minister of External Affairs to give a clarification on what the Government proposes to do for these students. Last week, thousands of students and also parents demonstrated in Jantar Mantar.

[Translation]

DR. JAI SIDHESHWAR SHIVACHARYA SWAMIJI (SOLAPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the objective of holistic development of the identified pilgrimage sites. In October, 2017, the name of the scheme was changed to Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive, i.e. PRASAD National Mission. Under this, Central financial assistance is provided to the State Governments to promote tourism at the places identified by the Ministry of Tourism. The expanded form of PRASAD Yojana is 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive'. There are many ancient pilgrimage sites like Swami Samarth Temple, Shivayogi Siddha Rameshwar Temple and Vitthal Temple of Pandharpur etc in my Parliamentary Constituency. Through you, I humbly request the Hon. Minister of Tourism that many ancient pilgrimage sites situated in Solapur district and adjacent to Solapur should be included under the PRASAD Yojana. Thank you.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR (JHUNJHUNU): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to request regarding the opening of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Narhar Gram Panchayat of Chirawa Panchayat Samiti under Jhunjhunu Constituency of Rajasthan. Our popular Prime Minister Narendra Modi is paying special attention to doubling the income of the farmers. Rajasthan is a very big State of India in terms of area. There are Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district. There are 14 districts where there are two Krishi Vigyan Kendras each. I had sent a proposal for setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Narhar Gram Panchayat of Chirawa Panchayat Samiti in Jhunjhunu district on 92 hectares of land under Narhar Panchayat and sent it to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi through the Ministry of Agriculture in the year 2020.

We have NOC for 92 hectares of land from Gram Panchayat Narhar. Most of the time, the problem that arises is the non-availability of land to open a Krishi Vigyan Kendra, whereas Narhar Gram Panchayat has already given NOC for 92 hectares of land.

Sir, through you, I request the Government to open Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Narhar Gram Panchayat of Jhunjhunu district. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, normally hon. Members draw the attention of the Government through you. But I would like to draw your attention relating to this issue.

This issue relates to Parliament House Complex. 205 years ago, in 1817, a General, Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar, led an armed struggle against the British and it continued for not less than 15 years and that is termed as the First War of Independence. Of course, it is there in writing that 1857 is the First War of Independence and many people also accepted it but the First War of Independence against the British, I would say, or the continuous struggle against the British Government continued from the Battle of Plassey when the subjugation of East India Company started.

I would just like to mention here that in the 1990s of the last century, perhaps in 1996 or 1997, a resolution was made in the General Purpose Committee to instal major equestrian statues. One was of Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar and the second was of Rani of Jhansi, Laxmibai but subsequently, during the UPA regime, after 2004, these two equestrian statues have been installed.

My request to you, Sir, is to allow it because the State Government of Odisha has agreed to provide it. Already the statue has been prepared and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh also will be willing to provide the equestrian statue of Rani of Jhansi.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You are a senior member. On this matter, a committee already exists in the Parliament.

Prof. Sougata Ray.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to draw your attention. I just want to say one line. Presently, a serial called 'Vidrohi' is being telecast on a channel. If all the Hon. Members watch it, then the whole history will be understood... *(Interruptions)* It is in Hindi. It is based on history. Our historian will have to write in history books how the armed struggle took place in Odisha. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Today, in the adjournment motion, I mentioned that the Central Government is using its two agencies, the CBI and the ED, against the State Governments which are in opposition... *(Interruptions)* Our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written a letter... *(Interruptions)* Sir, this. ..* is. ...*(Interruptions)* This...* is. *(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair

HON. SPEAKER: Remove these words, these words are not appropriate.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are a senior Member, you should not use such a language.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, this is not correct. You are a senior Member; you should not use this language.

... *(Interruptions)*

**LIST OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH
THE ISSUES RAISED UNDER MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

Members, by whom matters of urgent public importance were raised.	Members who associated themselves with the matters raised.
Shri Manoj Kotak	Shri Shrirang Appa Barne Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale

	Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Sushil Kumar Singh	Shri C. P. Joshi Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Khagen Murmu	Shri C. P. Joshi Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shrimati Raksha Nikhil Khadse	Shri C. P. Joshi Dr. Pritam Gopinathrao Munde Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Anil Firojiya	Shri Uday Pratap Singh Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri D.M. Kathir Anand	Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury	Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
Shri Arvind Sawant	Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale Shri Shrirang Appa Barne Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane Dr. Pritam Gopinathrao Munde Shrimati Kalaben Mohanbhai Delkar
Shri Uday Pratap Singh	Shri Rodmal Nagar
Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane	Shri Sudhakar Tukaram

	Shrangare
Shri Sunil Kumar Soni	Shri C. P. Joshi Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Rajendra Agrawal	Shri C. P. Joshi Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel Shri Uday Pratap Singh
Shrimati Riti Pathak	Shri C. P. Joshi Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri C. P. Joshi	Shri Ramcharan Bohra Shri Bhagirath Choudhary Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati Shri Nihal Chand Chouhan
Shri Balak Nath	Shri C. P. Joshi
Shri Vijay Baghel	Shri C. P. Joshi
Dr. Satya Pal Singh	Shri C. P. Joshi Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Narendra Kumar	Shri C. P. Joshi Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	Shri Anubhav Mohanty

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Dr. Jai Sidheshwar Shivacharya Swamiji	Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy	Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Arun Kumar Sagar	Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Rahul Kaswan	Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Mitesh Patel (Bakabhai)	Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Jasbir Singh Gill	Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale	Shri Arvind Sawant Shri Shrirang Appa Barne Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde Shrimati Kalaben Mohanbhai Delkar Shri Girish Bhalchandra Bapat Shri Anubhav Mohanty
Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S.	Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
Shri Mahesh Sahoo	Shri Anubhav Mohanty

HON. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till fifteen minutes past two o'clock.

13.15 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen Minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.18 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Eighteen Minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

(Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members, who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes.

Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time and the rest will be treated as lapsed.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Regarding establishment of a Medical College in Aurangabad, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Education is the backbone of a country's development and progress and the study of medicine helps the country to achieve that. Recently, NITI Aayog has recommended the establishment of a medical college in Aurangabad. Aurangabad is a Left Wing Extremism-affected area and an aspirational district. Aurangabad located on NH-2 and NH-98 is connected to Rohtas, Arwal, Gaya in Bihar and Palamu, Chatra districts of Jharkhand. Aurangabad has a population of more than 20 lakhs and is LWE area and there is no government or private medical college in the district. Setting up medical colleges in this area will benefit a large number of people. There is an urgent need to increase the number of medical colleges in the country particularly in Bihar because every year thousands of students go to other States for medical studies. This medical college will be beneficial for the youth in Bihar and Jharkhand. I have offered to give 20 acres of my land free of cost to the state government as there is no suitable land for the said medical college. I request the central government to construct the college using the central budget.

(ii) Regarding expansion of the ESIC Hospital located in Bibvewadi, Pune, Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT (PUNE): The Employees State Insurance Hospital, run by the Union Ministry of Labour, is functioning for the health benefits of low-income workers in Bibvewadi, Pune, Maharashtra. This

hospital is situated in an area of 16.5 acres, with the facility of OPD department having a capacity of fifty beds. There is a dire need of expansion of this hospital.

In this regard, a proposal was sent by the public representatives to the Central Office of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) to build a medical college and a 500-bedded super speciality hospital and start an IPD facility along with OPD in the available area. The aforesaid proposal was approved by the ESIC on 16.10.2018 and construction work of First Phase 200 bedded hospital has been completed. There is an urgent need to implement a 200 bedded Super Speciality Hospital, and to construct remaining 300 beds and a medical college attached to the hospital.

I would request the Hon. Minister of Labour and Employment to instruct the concerned to do the needful urgently.

(iii) Regarding sustainable development of cities

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): I request the Hon. Urban Development Minister, Ambala Municipal Corporation, Yamuna Municipal Corporation, Panchkula Municipal Corporation and Panchkula for permanent solution to address the critical challenges like low-cost sensors for monitoring of air pollution and advance warning system for forecasting. I request for a dashboard for better preparedness for new infections, efficiency of public transport system and safety of pedestrians for better preparedness of pandemic. Being covered under Central Government Initiative for Sustainable Development of Ambala, Yamuna Nagar and Panchkula, there are some technology driven solutions. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that the Nagar Nigam and smart Cities may be made free

from slum encroachment, stray cattle , street dog, Drug, Pollution and Plastic. I request for the following projects: Developing low-cost sensors for air pollution monitoring, Pollution hot spot identification at municipal or neighbourhood level, and its management, Cleaning water bodies using low-cost technology, Studies to assess the water availability, Conversion of plastic waste into fuel, Extraction of precious metal from e-waste, Production of biogas from kitchen and horticultural waste, Using technology in transport management, including contactless ticketing system and bus timing, Improving battery swapping for electric vehicles. I request the Hon. Minister that steps may be undertaken for the beatification of the Nagar Nigam and Smart Cities.

(iv)Regarding opening of liquor vends in Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI (NORTH EAST DELHI): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the illegal opening of around half a dozen liquor vends roughly at a 50-meter distance on the National Highway no 709 B between Shastri Park Chowk and Karawal Nagar in violation of the orders of the Hon. Supreme Court under rule 377 by the Delhi Government against which the local people are continuously protesting and complaining.

In the given complaint, an order given by the Hon. Supreme Court on December 15, 2016 has been mentioned as a reference which includes a provision to ban the opening of liquor vends within 500 meters of any national highway. But many such liquor vends have been opened by the Excise Department of the Delhi Government disregarding the law and public sentiments.

I urge the concerned ministry and the Delhi Government to immediately close such liquor vends allegedly and illegally opened and fix the responsibility of the concerned officers of the department who flouted the law.

(v) Need to regularise Singrauli-Bhopal Express and increase the frequency of Singrauli-Nizamuddin Express

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI): I would like to request the Hon. Railway Minister to consider my parliamentary constituency which does not have railway facilities. I have repeatedly requested to regularize the Singrauli-Bhopal Express which is a weekly train and the only train for the residents of my parliamentary constituency and to run the Singrauli-Nizamuddin Express at least 3 days a week.

As Singrauli district of my parliamentary constituency is an industrial area, people from different parts of the country reside here and they have high hopes from me that I will be able to provide them with better rail services. When I remain available in the area, they ask when the trains will be regular and new trains will start and in fact, connectivity plays an important role in the development of any area. Once again it is requested that train number 22165/66 should be regularized as soon as possible and 22167/68 should be run 3 days a week.

(vi) Regarding railway related works in Amreli district, Gujarat

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): I would like to draw your attention towards some of the issues related to the Railways which are causing inconveniences to the residents of my Parliamentary Constituency, Amreli.

1. ROB has been constructed by RVNL over the railway track between Chital to Monpur under my parliamentary constituency Amreli. A waterway has been arranged under the bridge to drain the water, but the road under the bridge is in a very bad condition due to which all vehicles, especially two-wheelers have to face a lot of trouble. Sir, I have been corresponding with DRM, Western Railway, Bhavnagarpara and GM, Western Railway, Mumbai since 2009 regarding this, but till now no concrete action has been taken in this regard and because of that local people and farmers are facing a lot of problem.

2. The ongoing work related to the height and width of the platform in 1) Liliya Mota, 2) Savarkundla and 3) Dhasa Jn of my parliamentary constituency is of poor quality 4) platform is not available at Barpatana railway station. I have complained many times to DRM, Western Railway, Bhavnagarpara about this. But still, the work of the said three platforms being carried out is of poor quality and the construction of the fourth has not even started.

3. Due to lack of basic facilities like safe drinking water and lights at 1) Rajula Jn, 2) Savarkundla and 3) Liliya Mota stations in Amreli district, passengers are facing a lot of difficulties during night time and I have spoken about it many times to DRM, Western Railway, Bhavnagarpara, but still there is lack of basic facilities at these three railway stations.

Therefore, I would request the Hon. Minister that all the above-mentioned works related to the department should be completed as well as the issues should be resolved.

**(vii) Need to declare Margashirsha Shukla Diwas as
'International Gita Diwas'**

SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL (PHULPUR): Our country is a religious country. Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is a holy book of 700 verses written in this country about 5200 years ago. It is an invaluable Chintamani gem, Amrit Kumbh in the ocean of literature and Kalpataru in the garden of ideas and a beacon of light on the path of truth in religion. It contains the essence of the Vedas, the gist of the Upanishads, eternal quintessence of a historical text like the Mahabharata and the coordination of Sankhya. This is such a spiritual scripture through which a man can attain sublimity. This sacred book contains such a philosophy that encompasses not only the soul of India but of the whole world and this book remains undisputed scripture till date.

The founders of almost all sects have reiterated the truth of Gita in their regional language that is, "God is one".

There are problems all over the world. Every nation of the world is trying to find a solution to the environment of unrest, terrorism, racism, discrimination and many other issues but the comprehensive solution to all these issues is found only in Shrimad Bhagavadgita Bhashya Yatharth Gita.

In this context, I have a request and a valuable suggestion. According to our calendar, "Gita Jayanti Day" is celebrated on Margshirsh Shukla Ekadashi. According to our belief, this day is the symbolic birthday of Shrimad Bhagavad

Gita. On this day, before the Mahabharata war, Lord Krishna preached the teaching of Gita to Arjun. Therefore, in order to honor this great book in the world, efforts should be made to declare this day as "International Gita Day" so as to draw the attention of the world towards the teachings in Gita.

(viii) Need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Niwai Town in Tonk-Sawai Madhopur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (Tonk-Sawai Madhopur): I would like to raise an important matter under rule 377 before the House. There is a long pending demand of the people of Niwai assembly constituency under my parliamentary constituency Tonk Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan) that a new Kendriya Vidyalaya should be set up in Niwai. There is a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Tonk district of my parliamentary constituency but it is far away from Niwai which makes it impossible for the children in Niwai Legislative Assembly to come to Tonk city. During the Corona period, the private schools were not properly teaching and were charging fees at will due to which the poor people were unable to enroll their students in private schools even if they wanted to. About 75 panchayats and one municipality come under this Legislative Assembly and about 300000 people live here. The children of this area have a lot of interest in their studies. The children in this area also gave me representation to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in their area so that they can tell others that they have also studied in Kendriya Vidyalaya. In this regard, I request the Minister to make efforts to set up a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Niwai city of my parliamentary constituency so that the people of Niwai Legislative Assembly can benefit from this in the future.

(ix) Need to establish an AIIMS in Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR): Bundelkhand is an economically backward region and there is a dire need to develop health facilities on priority basis in this area. There is a lack of treatment facilities, especially for Cancer and Kidney related diseases. Most of the people of my constituency Hamirpur (U.P.) are poor and they have to go to Delhi, Lucknow or other big cities for treatment of severe diseases, like – Atrial Septal Defect (Hole in Heart), Kidney Cancer, Liver Cancer, Spinal Cord Injury etc. Although, all possible assistances are provided by the Central and the state governments for affording the cost of treatment yet the patients and their attendants also have to deal with the other practical problems and expenses apart from the cost of treatment in big cities, and if the patients are daily wage labourers or small businessmen, then even more problems arise before them. If the treatment of serious diseases is available at the local level, the patient will not only get quick treatment, but will also not have to face other problems caused by additional expenses. Hence, there is a dire need for the construction of AIIMS in Mahoba. With the establishment of AIIMS, not only the facility of treatment for incurable diseases would be available, but also the treatment of other diseases will be accessible, especially, the availability of treatment for Gynecological and Pediatric diseases at the local level will provide great relief to women and children patients. Anaemia among women in my area is a serious problem and needs special attention. According to some statistics, the number of anaemic women is more than 50% in my parliamentary constituency Hamirpur-Mahoba-Tindwari. With the establishment of AIIMS, not only will health facilities be developed and treatment

easily available at the local level, but also the public awareness about public health will increase significantly in this area.

Therefore, I request the welfare oriented Central Government to set up an AIIMS in Mahoba (UP) at the earliest for the treatment of cancer and other incurable diseases as well as for the treatment of all other diseases.

(x) Regarding rail connectivity of Morbi railway station

[English]

SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIYA (RAJKOT): I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister for Railways towards inadequate train services from Morbi.

Morbi district provides employment to around 10-12 lakh migrant work force from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in the ceramic watch, automobile, jewellery and food processing industries.

Despite huge population and contribution to the economy, Morbi Railway Station has been lying unutilised since many years. Only 2-3 demu trains are in daily operation.

Railways has never bothered to utilise Morbi railway station for providing rail connectivity to Mumbai, Delhi or any northern states due to which the business fraternity as well as migrant work force have been suffering due to the lack of train connectivity.

Hence, I request the Hon. Minister to instruct the concerned to provide rail connectivity to Mumbai, Delhi or any northern states from Morbi.

(xi) Regarding setting up of a Packaging House in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh to promote export of vegetables and fruits from region

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): The farmers of my constituency are mainly dependent on agriculture for their income. The farmers of Purvanchal, including my constituency Gorakhpur, have been cultivating fruits, vegetables and flowers at a large scale for many decades, but due to apathy of the previous Governments, the farmers had quit traditional farming. However, the farmers got motivation, right direction and adequate support from the Government after Hon. Modi Ji and Yogi Ji came to power in the Centre and in the State respectively which led the farmers once again to return to their traditional farming.

Vegetable cultivation is carried out in a very scientific manner in the other districts including Gorakhpur of Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Deoria, Ballia, Ghazipur, Kushinagar, Mau etc. This area is an important centre of vegetable production. At the local level, neither any packaging house nor any mechanism has been set up by the Centre for packaging and the procurement of their produce, consequently, farmers are restricted to the local markets only for selling their vegetables. I would like to demand from the Hon. Minister that the Central Government should set up a packaging house or an export office in Gorakhpur to promote exports so that the vegetables and fruits grown in this region could be exported abroad and the income of the farmers could increase and thus the Hon. Shri Narendra Modi Ji's dream of doubling the income of the farmers could get fulfilled.

(xii)Regarding establishment of a National University for Christian community

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): The National Commission for Minorities in its 2016-17 annual report has recommended to establish a National University fully funded by the Government of India for the minority Christian community. It was the 7 years action plan of National Minority Commission. It's like Aligarh Muslim University and Banaras Hindu University. However, no favourable decision has been taken so far. Creation of such University will provide the Christian minority a better chance for attaining education and hence contribute more to the country. I urge upon the Ministry of Minority Affairs to take an immediate decision to sanction such a University and allocate enough funds to begin its operation at the earliest.

(xiii)Regarding issue of appointment letters to left out CAPF exam candidates

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL (KHADOOR SAHIB): The test for 1.09 lakh vacancies in CAPCF was held in 2019 by SSC. 54000 candidates were issued appointment letters while 55000 candidates cleared their written, physical and medical exam but they have not been provided appointment letters. I request for issue of appointment letters to these candidates.

(xiv) Regarding making public hearings mandatory for grant of environmental clearance

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change towards a revision in the process for acquiring environmental clearance for 'legacy' industrial activities, i.e activities that were originally granted clearance in or prior to 1994.

According to an office memorandum dated 16.06.2021 issued by MoEFCC, public hearings are not required for environmental clearance if a project meets certain conditions. This memorandum alters the process laid out in the EIA Notification, 2006. Several experts over time have acknowledged public hearings as a critical tool for good governance. However, public hearings assume greater significance for mining-affected communities as they stand at a greater risk of suffering the consequences of non-compliance with mandatory environmental safeguards in mining projects.

As environmental crises become more frequent in number and dire in consequences, the role of industrial activity in exacerbation must be acknowledged. This can be evidenced by the landslides occurring due to mining activities, during the recent floods in Kerala. I, therefore, urge the Hon. Minister to make public hearings mandatory for grant of environmental clearance to ensure that industrial development does not come at the cost of the environment.

(xv) Regarding special scheme for distribution of lands to SCs and STs

DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM): According to Census 2011, the SCs constitute 16.6% of the total population and 17.91% of the rural population. The National Sample Survey Organisation or NSSO in its 66th round surveys found that the proportion of rural SC households who own land is just 17.1%. Nearly 60% of SC households do not own land for cultivation at all. There is a direct connection between atrocities and landlessness. So, a special scheme must be created to distribute lands to the landless SCs and STs.

**(xvi) Regarding resumption of services of train No. 56846, Erode-Jollarpettai
Passenger train**

SHRI S.R. PARTHIBAN (SALEM): The trains running in the Salem Zonal division are of perennial importance. I raise in this House the matter about the train which has been suspended since March 25th 2020, especially the Erode-Jollarpettai passenger Train Number: 56846. The train has the daily commuters of about 5000 in number. The passengers are of different categories ranging from Government employees, Business people, and Daily wagers. Since it passes through 7 districts, the livelihood and emergency services largely depended on this passenger train. Hence, On behalf of more than 10.000 passengers, I request the Hon. Minister of Railways to resume the train service i.e, Erode –Jollarpettai passenger (Train Number: 56846).

(xvii) Regarding reduction in interest rate charged by Banks on tractors

DR. TALARI RANGAIAH (ANANTAPUR): Since my childhood days I have been noticing that the Bankers of this country have been charging more interest rates on Farmers' tractors than luxury segment cars. Almost all the banks have been causing more or less this harm to the farmers.

Banks are charging 8 to 12 % on Farm tractors, whereas on luxury cars as little as 4% interest. On some special occasions the interest rate stands at 0%. Why these type of policies? Why farmers are forced to pay more? Why corporates pay less?

I don't know why bankers of this country are so sympathetic towards luxury cars.

I request the Minister to kindly look into the issue by obtaining information relating to all the interest charged by the banks on tractors and cars and reduce interest rates on tractors.

(xviii) Regarding increase in flights to Tirupati under RCS-UDAN scheme

SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY (TIRUPATI): Tirupati attracts more than 3.5 crores of devotees from across the globe annually for a darshan of Lord Venkateshwara. With the proposed conversion of NTPC-APIIC project in Mannavaram situated near Tirupati to an electronic equipment manufacturing zone, the footfall in Tirupati is going to increase enormously.

Already, passenger traffic at Tirupati international airport is gradually gaining momentum. At least 16 flights had reported a 30 percent increase in occupancy, coinciding with the overall decline in Covid-19 positive cases and easing of curbs by most States in July 2021. According to the Airports Authority of India, the Airport registered a 44 percent increase in domestic aircraft movement on a year-on-year basis. The passenger traffic rose steadily from 916 in May 2020 to 58,029 in January 2021 and reached a peak in March 2021 with 65,110 fliers and 855 flights. Once the third wave declines and with industrial activities picking up speed in the region, it would be a necessity to have more airlines operating on this route to deal with ever-growing footfall of passengers.

To adequately cater to this growing demand, I humbly request the Union Government to consider increasing number of flights to Tirupati under the RCS-UDAN scheme.

(xix) Regarding creation of an All-India Legislative Service

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): There are thousands of legislative bodies in India ranging from the panchayat, block panchayat, zilla parishad, municipal corporations, state legislatures and two houses of Parliament. Despite these mammoth law-making bodies, they lack their own common public recruiting and training agency at the national level. Parliament and State Legislative secretariats recruit their pool of bureaucrats separately. Robust legislative institutions demand having qualified and well-trained staff in place. The growth of modern government and expansion of governmental activities require a matching

development and laborious legislative exercise. Thus creating a common All-India Service cadre-an Indian Legislative Service- is a must. A common service can build a combined and experienced legislative staff cadre, enabling them to serve from across local bodies to Union Parliament. In United Kingdom, the Clerk of the House of Commons has always been appointed from the legislative staff pool created to serve Parliament. It is high time that India adapts and adopts such democratic institutional practice. I urge upon the government to create an All-India Legislative Service to maintain the independence of the governance of Indian Legislative System.

(xx) Regarding construction of Railway overbridge at Baharu near Dakshin Barasat Railway Station

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon. Railway Minister that the absence of Railway over-bridge at Baharu near Dakshin Barasat Railway station is a cause of great distress for the commuters. The absence of a proper crossing poses immense threat to the safety of the people. Since the station is one among the busiest stations in the rural (1 suburban) area, it needs an over bridge at the earliest.

Thus, I request the Hon. Minister to make way for building an over bridge at Baharu which is near Dakshin Barasat railway station on Sealdah-Namkhana line.

(xxi) Regarding revival plan for Mumbai Port

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Mumbai was vibrant because of the vibrancy at Mumbai Port and Textile Mills. Today, both these industries have almost been on ventilator because of the Govt's inactiveness to revive them. When Shri Nitin Gadkariji, Hon. Minister, was in charge of Shipping Ministry, he had announced the revival of Mumbai Port. While doing so, all the hutment dwellers on the land of Mumbai Port Trust were to be rehabilitated as per the SRA policy of Govt of Maharashtra by granting free houses so that maximum area of MbPT will become vacant for developing it into a Marina as well as Convention Centres of the International Standard. He not only announced it in public but also committed it on the floor of the house of the Parliament. DPR of the same was prepared/submitted to the Govt of India nearly five years back but no action has been taken till now for the revival. Even dredging is not being done at the port to increase the draft. I request the Hon. Prime Minister of India to expedite the long pending revival plan of Mumbai Port making it of International standard which will not only beautify the port but also generate huge employment at the earliest.

**(xxii) Regarding protocol pertaining to unfurling and hoisting
of National flag**

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an issue regarding provision/protocol for unfurling and hoisting the national flag at district level/district headquarters. My

submissions pertaining to protocol for unfurling and hoisting national flag at district headquarters are as under:

- Hon. President unfurls the national flag on Republic Day and Hon. Prime Minister hoists the national flag on Independence day every year at the Centre and similar precedence is followed at state level by Governor and Chief Minister respectively. Clear clarification on this matter may kindly be provided.
- Whether there is any provision/protocol for unfurling and hoisting national flag at districts level/district headquarters. If so, guidelines – instructions may be issued and provided.
- Details of protocol among MPs, MLAs and District Magistrate/Collector regarding unfurling and hoisting of National flag on 26 January and 15 August at the district level/Headquarters.
- Whether MPs, MLAs/MLCs are not entitled to unfurl or hoist national flag at district level/Headquarters.

I request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make provision to include Hon. Members of Parliament in protocol for unfurling and hoisting national flag on the Republic and Independence Day at District level/Headquarters.

**(xxiii) Regarding payment of wages to Scheduled Caste workers under
MGNREGS in Kerala**

ADV. A. M. ARIFF (Alappuzha): The workers belonging to Scheduled Caste are not getting their wages under MGNREGS in Kerala. It has been learnt that in most

of the districts in Kerala, the SC workers have not been paid their wages for the past three months, making it difficult in these pressing periods of COVID-19. It is pertinent to note here that the problems related to wage disbursement arose due to the change in the Union Government's policy to split the labour budget for MGNREGS to three, viz. SCs, STs and others. With this, if the already allotted funds in one category is exhausted, only workers in that category are denied the wages, while others get the same. This has only helped to create un-intended but serious division and resentment among workers. In this context I request the Central Government to approve the revised budget for SC workers and reflect the same in the MIS so as to clear the pending wages with out further delay. The Government should also revert to the earlier system of common labour budget for all categories of workers, so that such kinds of problems could be avoided in future.

(xxiv) Need to take steps to check arsenic pollution

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): In India, the states of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam, Manipur, and Chhattisgarh are reported to be most affected by arsenic contamination of groundwater above the permissible level. Arsenic has been shown to cause widespread health effects in humans as a consequence of exposure to drinking water when present in excessive quantities.

Long-term exposure to arsenic in drinking water is causally related to increased risks of cancer in the skin, lungs, bladder, and kidney, as well as other skin changes such as hyperkeratosis and pigmentation changes. Soluble inorganic

arsenic is acutely toxic, and ingestion of large doses leads to gastrointestinal symptoms, disturbances of cardiovascular and nervous system functions, and eventually death. In survivors, bone marrow depression, haemolysis, hepatomegaly, melanosis, polyneuropathy, and encephalopathy may be observed.

It becomes imperative to have a detailed and comprehensive discussion on “Effects of Arsenic Contamination on public health in India,” and the most important action in affected communities is the prevention of further exposure to arsenic by the provision of a safe water supply for drinking, food preparation and irrigation of food crops. Hence, I request the Government to look into this matter, particularly in my Parliamentary Constituency Siddarthnagar.

**(xxv) Need to declare the road connecting Siwan to NH-102 in Bihar as
National Highway**

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): The road from Siwan to Siktia, Janata Bazar, Paigambarpur, NH-331 and upto Garkha NH-102 via SH-90 passing through my Lok Sabha constituency Maharajganj, Bihar is a very important and busy road. This road directly facilitates the people of our parliamentary constituency to travel to the State Capital, Patna and to the most important business centre of North Bihar, Muzaffarpur. Thousands of businessmen, students and employees working in government institutions of our

constituency travel through this road every day. Similarly, various heavy vehicles transport goods from one place to another through this road.

So, it is absolutely necessary to reconstruct such an important road by upgrading it to a National Highway. Therefore, I demand from the Minister of Road Transport and Highways that the said road should be declared as a National Highway.

[English]

(xxvi) Regarding attacks on Tamil fisherman by Sri Lankan Navy

SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH (THENI): I wish to highlight the incidents of regular attacks on Tamil Fishermen by Srilankan Navy, and the recent cases of unidentified assailants robbing our fishermen. Several incidents of attacks were reported in the month of February 2022 itself. I request the Government to pursue proactive policies for the retrieval of Kachchatheevu island and restore the traditional fishing rights of Indian fishermen. Simultaneously, Government should propose to Colombo to permit licensed Indian fishermen to fish within a designated area of Sri Lankan waters. To compensate for the losses of our fishermen, the central and state government combined should set aside an indemnity fund and measures should be taken to rehabilitate those fishermen who wish to choose alternative means of livelihood. If the underlying issues of fishing dispute are not addressed soon, relations of our fishermen and government with Colombo would worsen and reach a crisis point. Hence, I appeal to the government to bring about a lasting solution to this issue which will bring about enrichment of marine resources and a qualitative improvement in the lives of coastal people especially those along the Tamil Nadu coast.

14.19 hrs

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, THE COST AND WORKS
ACCOUNTANTS AND COMPANY SECRETARIES (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2021* – Contd.**

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the hon. Minister may reply.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Thank you very much, Sir. Yesterday, we had the discussion on the Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The Minister of State was present in the House and he was following the debates. Unfortunately, I could not be here as I had to give the reply on the Finance Bill debate in the Rajya Sabha.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It was a longish reply in Rajya Sabha.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Is that so?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: But there was also a very interesting and detailed discussion. So, I thought it only right that I give reply for the issues

*Further discussion on the Motion for consideration of the Bill moved by Rao Inderjit Singh.

raised by the hon. Members and so is the spirit of the discussion on this Bill here since yesterday. I will seek your indulgence for giving an elaborate reply because many issues have been raised in great detail and calibration. So, please permit me to be a bit elaborate in my reply.

Sir, the current set of amendments are not just for one of the Institutes, but for three Institutes, the Chartered Accountants Institute, the Cost and Works Accountants Institute, and also the Institute of Company Secretaries. These amendments are being brought in as a consolidated set of amendments, as one Amendment Bill.

Let me start by addressing the concern which was voiced by one of the Members that how come you are bringing all the three together, are they going to be governed together by one Act? No, Sir; there is no proposal at all to have a single legislation for all the three Institutes. They will be governed as they are governed now by their respective Acts. There are three separate Acts and they will be governed by their respective separate Acts.

This is just a consolidated Amendment Bill. Why should it be in one Bill? It is because while there are three different Acts, largely their wordings and the spirit of the flow of the Acts are comparable and, therefore, the amendments have been brought in to make sure that there is a greater comparability between the functioning of the three institutes. But the amendments are being brought in as one integrated Bill.

These amendments have not been brought in as it is without much work. For quite some time, different committees have gone into them, the recent one being the Meenakshi Datta Ghosh Committee which had come up with several recommendations. It was formed in April, 2017 and it had given its

recommendations in September, 2017. Many of the recommendations given by the Meenakshi Datta Ghosh Committee, with minor tweaking, have been brought in through this Bill.

Sir, the reason why we are bringing it now - and, of course, after quite a lot of consultation – is, in the last eight years, we have witnessed considerable change, progress, growth, and also economic development with a lot of legislative support coming in to make it easy for companies both for entry and for exit. We have passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and, this House is quite aware, we have come here periodically to amend the IBC. The Companies Act also went through quite a few amendments. The IBC, the Companies Act, and the LLP Act, all of them represent the rapidly changing economic profile and we are also making sure that there is more space given for LLPs under which come the start-ups and so on.

So, since the LLPs are also gaining a good space in the economy, it was necessary for us to have a robust audit certification from the professionals. It is also important that the audit certification and also the quality of audit will have to be kept in mind and improved so that there is a favourable investment climate in the country. Above all, when all of us are looking towards greater transparency, better board-managed companies, and so on, the sanctity of an audited financial statement gains so much importance that we need all the stakeholders – whether they are promoters, whether they are investors, whether they are employees – to have greater confidence in the kind of statements which are certified by the professionals.

Therefore, at this time, if there is a necessity for reviewing the SR, the self-regulatory kind of a mechanism with which most of these institutes function, we

are only doing it because we will be globally aligning ourselves. Most of the countries whether it is the US, the UK, Australia, Canada, or South Africa, all of them have such systems. In fact, in the United States of America, every State has its own body; and not just one, there are many bodies within that, and the Government of the State appoints many of these Members who regulate these bodies and so on.

So, the world has moved further and further away to have a greater, transparent and accountable way and a process in which everybody sits in to judge and also to see how the functioning happens. Therefore, at this time, for India these three institutions are very important pillars of corporate governance. Especially together with the Board of the Company, and the Management of the Company, this would be the third most important pillar for greater professionally managed and efficiently managed companies. That is why we need to have these amendments brought in. They are brought in because the International Forum of big regulators is also now coming to say what are the guidance that globally we can give to each other, which are the best practices which can be adopted. Therefore, we have thought it fit that at this stage we come up with this consolidated Amendment Bill.

I also understand that concerns have been expressed by some hon. Members: If this is going to compromise the autonomy of these institutions, and in particular, if the Coordination Committee which is coming in, will it change the way in which the independent functioning has been effected all these years? Will that get affected or will that get compromised?

I want to state upfront, Sir, that there is no proposal here or no intention here, to impinge upon the autonomy of these three institutions. Not at all. There is

no proposal; nor even a faint intent to dilute the autonomy of these three institutions. The three institutions, at present, are responsible for all the functions concerning the qualification, licencing, and regulation of their conduct. They will continue to perform those functions. Let this be recorded: They will continue to perform those functions.

As regards the fee from the students, the institutes earlier also had the full powers. That is also not being touched. So, even that will continue. In fact, the Council is being given full autonomy to decide the fee as regards registration of Members and certificate of practice. At present, to increase the fee for registration of Members and certificate of practice beyond a limit prescribed in the Act, the approval of the Government is required. But this is being dispensed with. The Council will have full powers to fix even such fees. In fact, that is being given, and the Government which had an indirect role in it wherein after a point, the Council had to come back, that is also being given back to the Council.

The Council will also be continuing to administer the funds as per the provisions of Section 18, and there will be no Government role in that as well. So, there is actually no change even in the composition of the Council responsible for the management of the affairs of the institutes ... *(Interruptions)*

In the proposed amendment, the Council shall continue to constitute these bodies -- the Board of Discipline and the Disciplinary Committee -- as per the existing practice. The Government will not constitute them. I would like to reiterate that the Government will not constitute them. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, there will also be no change in the number of members in these bodies. However, majority will be of non-members of the Institute which is the global best practice that we want to bring in here. Being elected members, President and Vice-President shall not be heading the Disciplinary Committees and the Council Members shall not head the Board of Discipline to avoid conflict of interest. That probably replies or responds to some of the questions which have been raised even before I have started speaking.

The collaboration and the greater responsibility to the council of the institutes for nomination of experts and persons of eminence has been proposed and that is through these amendments rather than taking away their powers. So, in a way, it is they who give the names and it is they who get appointed.

Very quickly, just to get a picture of what we are talking about, I would like to mention certain things. In the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Board of Discipline, the BoD, the existing position since 2006 is that the BoD is a three-member body. There is a Presiding Officer who is a Council Member. There is one member nominated by the Government and there is one member nominated by the Council. What we propose in this set of amendments is, for the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Presiding Officer shall be a non-CA nominated by the Government from out of the panel prepared and provided by the Council itself. One member, who will be a non-CA will be nominated by the Government again from out of the panel prepared and provided by the Council itself. The other member will be nominated by the Council from out of a panel of members of the Institute to be prepared by the Council. Now, this is

*Not recorded

the proposal and this again falls back on the Council itself to propose the names, give the panel from which the Government appoints somebody. Having a non-CA as Presiding Officer is very much inline with the global best practice. If people have asked a question saying: “How will a non-CA understand what the whole thing is about? It is a technical thing. They may not be able to understand.” Sir, these doubts do not have the basis because everywhere else in the world a lay person sits as a Chair while the other members are all CAs and they can always guide the Council or the BoD to take a call. This brings in greater transparency and a greater fresh outsider’s approach to the issue.

The Disciplinary Committee, which is a five-member body, the existing composition since 2006 is that the Presiding Officer is a President or Vice-President of the Council itself, two Members are nominated by the Council and two members, otherwise, are nominated by the Government. Now, what we have proposed in this set of amendments is that the Presiding Officer shall be a non-CA nominated by the Government but from out of the panel prepared and provided by the Council. Then, two other members are non-CAs nominated by the Government again from out of the panel which is prepared and provided by the Council. Then again, two members are nominated by the Council from out of the panel of members; the institute shall prepare this panel of names. Similar is the structure for the Company Secretaries and the Cost Accountants Institutes also.

I very quickly move to another related issue. Hon. Chair, you, from there, asked: “Would it not defeat the purpose of avoiding the conflict of interest between the administrative and the disciplinary arm of the Institute?”

It is a very relevant question. I want to answer this by saying that the panel of the Presiding Officers and the members will be prepared by the Council in

accordance with the regulations which will be framed. So, they will have to go by that. There will be experts in different fields, as mentioned in the Bill. So, it is not going to result in conflict of interest because the regulations will guide them. The proposed amendments in the three Acts, governing the three professional Institutes, without comprising the autonomy, seek to make the Councils or the Institutes more responsive and accountable. Therefore, these steps are being taken with a conscious attempt to make sure that we are neither undermining the autonomy nor are we bringing in a situation of conflict of interest. This was with regard to the question which you very rightly raised.

Sir, as regards the Coordination Committee, Professor Sougata Ray has been very concerned about it from the minute I started speaking. As per the proposed Bill, the Coordination Committee will comprise of the President, the Vice President, and the Secretaries of the three Institutes, quarterly meeting of which shall be held under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It is the administrative Ministry of all the three Institutes. It may be noted here, and I think, it is very important for us to seize this fact that the other two Institutes, that are, the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and the ICSI have not objected to the constitution of such a Committee. After all, when we did the stakeholders' consultation, all the Institutes gave their respective inputs. The ICSI and the Institute of Cost Accountants did not have any objection. The ICAI, in a meeting dated 23rd September, 2019, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs had also agreed for the constitution of a Coordination Committee.

Sir, the constitution of a Coordination Committee has been proposed for the development and harmonisation of the three professions. Therefore, this is not

going to undermine them. In fact, if I can move quickly to give comparable examples, IIMs among themselves have a Coordination Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

I am talking about the Indian Institute of Management....*(Interruptions)*The IIMs have a Coordination Committee among themselves. The IITs also have a Coordination Committee among themselves. These have actually been very effective in having greater synergy among these Institutes. In fact, if I may highlight, the Coordination Committee of the IITs is headed by the Minister himself. So, this worry that only the person with expertise and experience in that field can sit as a Chairman is completely disproved by the fact that the Chairman of the Coordination Committee of the IITs is the Minister himself.

Similarly, Sir, the point that I would like to highlight here is this. In the year 2000, the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, among themselves, formed a Coordination Committee through an MoU. So, it is not as if this is the first time we are bringing in a Coordination Committee. In the year 2000, through an MoU, these three Institutes formed a Coordination Committee but it has not just taken off. Actually, the absence of coordination is what is standing out despite this having been formed in the year 2000 through an MoU. Again, to highlight, for the reference of the hon. Members, the Coordination Committee will not be issuing directives at all. It is more to manage the funds of the Institute and other things. People tend to doubt that there will be a direction given by the Coordination Committee about how the resources will have to be used. No, not at all; it is not going to be doing that. Therefore, that aspect of the

governance and the management of the resources of the Institutes are going to be governed by Section 18 which is a practice that is existing now.

Also, a Non-Standing Committee has been proposed. For us, who are constantly referring to the Standing Committee in the Parliament, this expression was a bit of a discomfoting one for me but that is it. It is called the Non-Standing Committee of a particular institute, which has been proposed by the ICAI, saying you can have a particular institute having a Non-Standing Committee, and have this taken care of. When we started talking about the absence of a statutory backing for this kind of a thing, this was suggested saying a Non-Standing Committee could work in that place.

Sir, in order to make the co-ordination effective, I think it is important that periodic meetings with the given structure are held, and that is only possible through a very institutionalised framework. That is why, we thought we should go through this route.

Sir, I move slightly to a different issue. Again, the composition of the BoD and the BC has been repeatedly raised by all the Members. I think the global best practice is something which I have already mentioned. Globally, the conduct of Chartered Accountants, particularly those who are auditors of public interest entities, is regulated. Public interest entities are those which have a certain stipulation. If I can just go to state them in specifics, what are public interest entities? They are, first of all, listed companies. Sometimes, they are even unlisted companies but which have over Rs.500 crore paid-up capital or which have over Rs.1,000 crore of annual turnover or those which have over Rs.500 crore in terms of loans, debentures and deposits. So, these are the public interest entities.

So, globally, the auditors, who deal with public interest entities, are regulated by independent regulators. I will just name a few for this. In the United States of America, it is PCAOB. It is the FRC in UK. It is the ASCI in Australia. It is the IRBA in South Africa. It is the CPAB in Canada. All of whom are independent regulators. So, even in India, on similar lines we set up, I think, in 2018 the NFRA, the National Financial Reporting Authority. The fulltime members of NFRA at present are not members of the institute. So, if NFRA, which deals with the auditors of public interest entities, both listed and unlisted because of the size of their operations, by the proposed amendments, which aim to bring that independence and autonomy with members who are not members of those institutes also becoming a part of the Disciplinary Committee, I think, we are only matching ourselves with the global best practices. There is nothing to worry if we are undermining our institutions. On the contrary, we will be strengthening them because there is greater independence, greater transparency and greater outsider looking into the affairs of the bodies.

As I said earlier, the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators, which is a body, which had come into existence sometime in 2006, has been suggesting these and we are only aligning ourselves with the global best practice.

Also, we are taking on board the guiding principles which have been given by the International Federation of Accountants, which is an international NGO and a global advocacy organisation. In fact, the ICAI, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, is a member of this International Federation of Accountants, and they have given these guidelines. So, we are taking them on board.

Again, coming to the good work which the Standing Committees of our Parliament do in these regards, in 2003, the Standing Committee on Finance,

whose tenure was between 2004 and 2005, in its Eleventh Report discussed a lot of these amendments. I would like to quote a few sentences from that.

“The Committee recommend that such a body should be headed by a person not below the rank of a Joint Secretary belonging to the legislative service. Two members should be from the Council, and two shall be outside experts from the field of law and accountancy.”

So, the Standing Committee of this House some time in 2005 mentioned the same thing, and it has taken us nearly 15 years to arrive at that step now. As I said, the UK, the US, South Africa have all adopted this, and it is not something which we are doing for the first time.

14.45 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

Sir, there were questions raised about why a complaint pending completion of enquiry is being kept in public domain, which is also going to be enabled now. This is a question which the hon. Members, Bhartruhari Mahtab ji and Adhir Ranjan ji raised, saying, putting status of actionable complaints in public domain or entering them into the Register of Members, would raise doubts about how the members are being treated. Will it be victimising him? Will there be an element of harassment and so on? That is not the intent at all, and it does not intend to victimise the member. The manner and the interval of putting such information out in public domain and also entering in the register of members shall be in accordance with the regulations framed by the Council itself. There cannot be an

element of discretion, saying, I do not like somebody and so I want to put them there, publicly shame them and victimise them. It cannot happen.

It may be noted that two other institutes, which are the Cost Accountants and also the Company Secretaries have not at all objected to this proposal. So, mind application has happened from the different institutes and we have gone only in the direction in which majority opinion has emerged. Sir, the rationale for provision of audit by a panel of auditors maintained by C&AG was raised by the hon. Member, Supriya Sule ji. She questioned us why this should happen. At present, as per the provisions of the existing Chartered Accountants Act, the Council may appoint any auditor to audit its own annual accounts. In this proposed amendment, that we are bringing now, we have provided that the institute will appoint an auditor from a panel of auditors which is maintained by the constitutional authority, which is the C&AG. So, you can always pick up an auditor. Maybe that auditor is already in the list of C&AG. That is fine. But now we are saying – turn it this way around. Please do pick it up from that panel of auditors, which is listed by the C&AG, and which is a constitutional body. It just gives a greater heft to the audit of the institutes, and therefore, it is, I think, a progressive step towards bringing greater transparency. Again, on this matter, as well, the Company Secretaries Institute, as a matter of practice, is already getting audit done through a panel of auditors maintained by the C&AG. So, if one of them is doing it, it might be the best practice for others also to adopt.

Sir, there were legitimate concerns about why the term of the Members in the Chartered Accountants Council is being reduced, and whether it would limit the chances of others and so on. Just for the clarity, Sir, at present, the term of the Council of the Chartered Accountants, ICAI is for three years, and a member can

remain a member for another three consecutive terms, which means a total period of nine years. The ICAI has been demanding to increase the term of the Council for a long time. Further, the term of the Council in the ICAI and the ICSI is already four years.

The provision in the CA Act for the ICAI is being aligned with the rest two. So, while the term of the Council is being enhanced to four years from three years, the term of a member is being restricted from three terms to two terms. So, in the place of nine years, which he was otherwise entitled to in the present dispensation, a member can remain in the Council only for eight consecutive years, that is, two 4-year terms. It is a substantial time for doing a great service and reform.

Sir, there was this distinction made between an auditor, an individual and an audit firm. Currently, there is no provision for a separate register of firms and proceedings against the misconduct of firms in the three Acts. And, in this consolidated Amendment Bill, that we have placed before the House, this is now being brought in. So, auditors could have been acted upon till now and they can continue to be acted upon even now for the individual acts, but firms could not be touched whereas what we are bringing in here is that provision which would give them the ability to be able to touch the firms as well, not just the individual auditors in case of gross omission and commission, which they may want to take up.

Now, I come to the last few inputs. On the issue of Quality Review Board, questions were raised as to why it should recommend cases to the Disciplinary Directorate. I think, it was Rahul Shewaleji who raised the question and I cannot see him here. During consultations, ICAI wanted this provision. In course of review of Quality Audit Reports, sometimes the QRB comes across irregularities

in audit reports. Through this amendment, the QRB may refer such matters to the Disciplinary Directorate to proceed against members of such auditors. So, it is a provision which gives one more window for recommendation from the QRB for action to be taken.

Sir, hon. Member Shri Thomas Chazhikadan had raised the question about bar councils and also these institutions which have now become regulated. Is there a comparison of the disciplinary mechanisms of the institutes like the Bar Council, Council of Architecture, NMC and so on? Sir, bar councils are not monolith bodies. Since there are multiple State Bar Councils having disciplinary committees in each State, unlike the chartered accountants, cost accountants and the CS institutes, multiple bodies already exist there, not here. Moreover, these three institutes are performing all the functions together, including students' registration and enrolment, conduct of examinations, registration of members, licensing and regulation of their conduct, unlike the legal profession where multiple colleges exist; they can recruit and enrol students, train them, put them on and then, they become the members of the bar councils whereas here, that function, inclusive of profession, inclusive of discipline and everything, is done by this one monolith. That is the essential difference other than ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): The Bar Council of India is controlling the profession all over India. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, keep replying.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance to speak at the time of clarification.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, the Council of Architecture is constituted by the Central Government and the disciplinary committee to enquire into the misconduct of architects has two non-elected representatives in it as members and one elected member, unlike the Council of CA, the cost accountants and so on. So, it already has the provision.

Further, the NMC Act, which I have explained earlier, prescribes for State regulation and constitution of SMCs, and the Ethics and Medical Registration Board to regulate the medical profession by the Government, whereas the CA, CWA, and CS Act prescribes for statutory self-regulation. This is the point which I mentioned at the very beginning. The SRO, Self-Regulatory Organisation's format itself has gone through a rapid change globally.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You can explain a few things during clarification.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: There is a very legitimate question regarding CA firms to aspire to be in the global Big Four, and whether India can have something equivalent of global Big Four. The hon. Prime Minister himself while discussing with the institutions and engaging with them said, 'is it not possible for India to aspire to have one firm in the Big Four'? So, the Government has enabled institutes to enter into Mutual Recognition Agreements and MoUs of institutes from various, different countries through various Cabinet-approved approvals. The amendments like registration of firms will allow the audit firm to grow. So, we have enough facilities and provisions which we have brought in

wherein the big global firms can also be matched up with Indian firms which can come into play. ... *(Interruptions)*

Now, you cannot. You have not seen it. At least, in the last 70 years we have not even found one such large firm which can compete. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): “*Modi hai to Mumkin hai.*” Everything is possible through Modi*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Yes, of course. Adhir ji, I am congratulating you. ...*(Interruptions)*No, no, it will happen through this amendment, that is why I am congratulating you. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: They keep pronouncing Modi Ji's name. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do not respond to what he says. You just put up your point.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I am very happy that the leaders of the opposition have understood the summary of the debate through this amendment and through all the facilitations that the Government has made towards the ease of doing business during the last seven years. They are saying that *Modi hai to Mumkin hai.* It is absolutely possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please make your point. Why are you listening to his statement? I have not allowed him to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Sir, kindly get the mic turned on.

HON. SPEAKER: Do I need your advice?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: There is no need for a mic for Adhir Ji's voice. ... *(Interruptions)* I sit down again and again because of your interruptions, then I take permission from the Chair to speak.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, I have given you permission. You keep speaking.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN : Sir, I am still quiet. This sort of heated exchange is not required. Running commentary is there but I do not care about them...*(Interruptions)**[English]* I have tried answering the issues raised by hon. Members. Very critical and very crucial points have been raised.

[Translation]

Sir, I have elaborated `a little further with your permission. I believe that this is an appropriate amendment and in sync with time. With this amendment, Chartered accountancy, Cost accountancy and Company Secretary will come together on one platform. With all these services becoming better professionally, it will give boost to development.

[English]

15.00 hrs

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): I was referring to the Chairman or the member who is heading the Disciplinary Committee. I was

referring to the fact that in all the other professional bodies, be it Bar Council, Council of Architecture and the Medical Council, the Disciplinary Committee is headed by a member of the same profession. But here, the proposal is to have somebody else nominated by the Government to head the Disciplinary Committee. That is where we differ, and that is where the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India differs.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): The Minister gave a very cool and reasoned reply for which I must thank her. But she did not mention why in the past so many years, chartered accountancy firms, some with global reputation, botched up the accounting in case of Satyam Computers, and later in the case of IL&FS. The Minister has proposed some steps to discipline the Chartered Accountants. The Minister has also stated clearly that we shall never be able to produce a Deloitte or a KPMG or a PwC. That is beyond our capacity. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the specific steps that she is going to take to prevent Chartered Accountants from bloating the figures of companies, so that they can cheat a trusting public. This law is not sufficient. The law was there earlier also. That harshness towards erring auditors was not audible in the Minister's reply, but otherwise she gave a very cool and reasoned reply for which I must thank her again.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): I appreciate you talking about the Coordination Committee, but my only question and concern is about the autonomy of this. You gave the examples of IITs and IIMs. IITs and IIMs are institutions which are funded by the Government, while the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Institute of Company Secretaries are not funded by the Government. It is their own money. So, does it not take away their autonomy?

How can you compare this to IITs or IIMs? This is my only request, and I still feel that their autonomy is being taken away and you should re-consider this.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, the basic point which we have raised yesterday regarding the opposition to the Bill pertains to the autonomy. The conduct of a professional should be judged by the professionals only.

This is the principle which is being followed in almost all the independent professional bodies. You have changed the National Medical Commission Act of 2019. There also the majority of the Disciplinary Committee belongs to the medical profession. Similarly, in the case of legal profession as well as in the case of architectural profession, everywhere the professionals are judged by the professionals only. Their conduct is being judged by the professionals only. Why in the case of Institute of Cost and Works Accountants (ICWA) as well as in the case of Institute of Company Secretaries, somebody who is being appointed by the Ministry or the Government of India are there? I am an advocate. Suppose my conduct or my qualification to be a member of the Bar Council is being determined by the Ministry officials, then what is the meaning of independence and autonomy of an institution? Also, I fully support the observations made by Supriya Sule Ji that all other organizations which hon. Minister has mentioned are funded by the Government of India, but this is absolutely the fund maintained by them in which the Ministry of Corporate Affairs or other officials who are being nominated by the Government of India issue. Autonomy has to be protected. This is the suggestion which I would like to make are coming into play. That is why, the question of autonomy is the main issue which we are raising. Kindly respond to that

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Ji, will you also speak? You have already spoken earlier.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, the hon. Minister was referring to the examples of US, UK, South Africa etc. but the other aspects and positive aspects being followed by those countries are not being abided by you in this legislative document.

We have been arguing since yesterday that through this Bill the Government has been making a subtle and deliberate attempt to consolidate power and to snatch away the independence of the Institutions by dismantling the autonomous framework of those Institutions concerned.

I am also flagging the attention of the Minister that there is an inherent flaw in this legislative document. The Bill empowers the three Councils to constitute multiple Boards of Discipline and Disciplinary Committees. However, the Bill allows the Central Government to nominate the same person as Presiding Officer or Member across different Boards of Discipline and Disciplinary Committees.

This may be incompatible with the objective of speedy disposal of cases against a Member. Appointing the same set of people on multiple Boards of Discipline or Disciplinary Committees may prevent these entities from hearing cases of misconduct simultaneously. Thereby, it would lead to delay in disposal of cases.

Madam, at least you should pay heed to us. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Should I repeat all that you said? I did hear you. Do not worry. Nothing can distract me from Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: You were listening to the hon. Home Minister. He is a senior and respected person. I know this thing. ... *(Interruptions)*
We are entitled of enjoying the privilege that our contention will be heard by the Minister concerned instead of lending your ear to the hon. Home Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to assure since he was so careful to watch me talking with the hon. Home Minister. The Home Minister was saying: “You must address all their concerns. Have you not done it already in the reply that you gave? Please do it now”. He has taken it up in your favour. So, do not worry. I am going to answer. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I was only talking about the order in the House with the Hon. Finance Minister. I said that if so many Members are discussing the provisions of the bill after the conclusion of the discussion, so have you not given its reply, then she said that she has given a reply, but perhaps they have not heard, so I am replying again....*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Sir, the reply has not been given yet. ...*(Interruptions)* These bodies are turning pro-Government, its reply has not been received....*(Interruptions)*.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not speak while sitting. You are getting into a very bad habit of speaking in between. I have told you many times.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, let me answer everyone's questions in brief.

[English]

Sir, Shri Thomas Chazhikadan asked why it should be a non-professional heading it as it is not the case in any other. But I think that you also drew the difference. I think the amendment of the National Medical Council was done in 2019 ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: It is the National Medical Commission.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Yes, National Medical Commission. Thank you, Professor. The National Medical Commission has a non-Member. So, that is not a worry at all, and non-Member is not going to undermine the professionalism. But certainly, through this amendment, we are matching up with the global best practices, which I have explained during my answer.

Prof. Sougata Ray in his typical style said that IL&FS happened. What is the experience of IL&FS? ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Satyam.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Yes, Satyam. You name it, and I will give you as many examples. Action in a slow and steady fashion has been taken where some of the big companies have been involved, but even there a lot is left to be desired for all of us are thinking that it is not up to the mark and more should

have happened. Actually, that the regulatory bodies have not taken enough steps is a point that all of us share.

Now, by not just the auditor, who I said for the public interest and enterprises, where the NFRA can do it, now, the firms are also getting listed into it so that if such a thing repeats, this provision and amendment, which all of you hopefully will pass, will empower these bodies to be able to bring these firms to be answerable. That is why, this step is being taken. We are not letting firms do outside the realm of regulation; this will bring them on board. So, no such IL&FS like repetitions will happen. But in case, unfortunately, it happens, action on those who are certifying the accounts - be it the firm, be it an auditor - will be taken. This is the provision here.

I don't know whether it was deliberate or if I have heard him wrong, I said, we shall never or something of that kind. I have never said any of that – we shall never give autonomy or some statement which Prof. Sougata Ray in his usual style... ..*(Interruptions)* We shall never, that is, we, as the Government of India and Prime Minister Modi, have given up saying India can never, we shall never have a big-4 equivalent, something of that kind. I am sorry, Sir, this kind of cynicism, negativity never governs us. We are hopeful that India will certainly have a big-4 equivalent company, and these kinds of amendments that we are bringing, are going to facilitate that.

And I am sure, Prof. Sougata Ray will make sure that in Bengal, there will be good set of auditors who will have firms enough to grow to that size and that quality. I think, your energies will be very much required in that direction.

Hon. Member, Shrimat Supriya Sule, again, questioned about autonomy but I think that comparison is not right. It is after all their money....*(Interruptions)* No,

Madam, if Parliament of India had not passed the Chartered Accountancy Act and given them the autonomy like the way the Indian Institutes of Management, the Indian Institutes of Technology, how were they all given the authority with autonomy. Unless that is given to them, they would not be enrolling students through which, and through the fees that they earn, they have the corpus building up. So, what is theirs? They have not put any equity capital into this firm. The Chartered Accountancy institution is a result of an Act of Parliament. That has given them all in one basket to enrol students, to train them, to certify them, and then to keep them as a member to practice. All this has been enabled by this House. So, the money, like the IITs are raised, is the money enabled because of an Act of Parliament. ... *(Interruptions)* Otherwise, you would not have the ability to run the place. ...*(Interruptions)* If you want me to quieten down, I will quieten down. But if you are raising a conflict and also an argument. ...*(Interruptions)* One minute, Thomas ji. If you are raising a point on which you think I am wrong, I want to ask them. So, is it that the Institute of Chartered Accountancy a franchise which is given by Parliament? Not at all. ...*(Interruptions)* Alright, Sir. But I still say, without the Act of Parliament giving them the autonomy and the authority... ...*(Interruptions)* What is wrong if more people come into the business? Do you have a problem with that? ...*(Interruptions)* Of course, it is there. ...*(Interruptions)* So, it is their money; they are running it. Why do you come into it? These are the questions being asked. I want more such companies to come; more such companies to regulate; more such companies to train students. What is the objection here?

There is no control. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Why do you sit?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am sorry, Sir.

Even here, the anxiety is that the disciplinary committee and the board of discipline is getting outsiders come into it. I have already read out details of how we are not getting into fees, management of their resources, enrolments or even the way in which the elections and the governing body is run? The Government is not getting into that.

So, just where we want to get in is for the discipline. Having given the example for the point Prof. Sougata Ray raised on IL&FS, you did not have any number; on Satyam, you did not have any number of people being punished under self-regulation.

So, if that body is getting people from outside so that there can be a better transparent accountability on possible misdeeds, why is there such an agitation? You should welcome it actually. Adhir Ranjan ji and N. K. Premachandran ji also spoke about autonomy. To reply to their statement that judgment is being made on the conduct of the members by outsiders, the body also has chartered accountants. The body also has cost accountants and two laypersons in it. Where is the conflict here? It is not a complete group of laypersons sitting and judging a technical body. Just the entry of one or two is so agitating. Why should it be? So, 'judgment' is first of all a wrong word there. It is a question of deciding on discipline. In that, laypersons are also being brought in who are professionals in their own areas of activity. There is a suspicion that it may lead to a regulatory capture because the Secretary of the Corporate Affairs Ministry itself is sitting there. They can always

think for many things out of everything. Total autonomy was given for self-regulation, and we have the hon. Members themselves saying that after IL&FS, no action was taken; after Satyam, no action was taken; and after every big collapse, no action was taken. So, has the self-regulation worked? It has not. The global best practices say that it has not.(Interruptions)I think RBI is doing a good job. It is the regulator for the bank. ... (Interruptions)Back again, they have come to their own pals for whom they gave loans. ... (Interruptions)In UPA's time, loans were given to all these people – Choksis and Modis. ... (Interruptions)Who are we chasing and bringing back today? So, Adhir ji, do not talk about it. ... (Interruptions)I will be tempted to talk about the *damaads* and *jija jis* to whom you have given loans. ... (Interruptions)So, please do not tempt me to get back to that.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is that:

“That the Bill to further amend the Chartered Accountant Act,1949, Cost and Works Accountants Act,1959 and Company Secretaries Act,1980 be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: Now this House will take up clause-wise consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

“That Clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 9 Insertion of New Section 9A

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K.Premchandran Ji, would you like to move Amendment No.3?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3, lines 42 and 43,-

for "the Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs"

substitute "the President of the Council of each of the Institutes
on a rotational basis". (3)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Amendment No.3 moved in Clause 9 by Shri N.K. Premchandran to the vote of the House.

Amendment No.3 was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is :

“That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 16 Amendment of Section 16

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K.Premchandran Ji, would you like to move Amendment No.4?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN(KOLLAM): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 6, lines 11 and 12,-

for “with the previous approval”

substitute “in consultation with”. (4)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Amendment No.4 moved in Clause 16 by Shri N. K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

Amendment No.4 was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 17 to 19 were added to the Bill.

Clause 20 Insertion of New Chapter IVA

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N. K. Premachandran Ji, would you like to move Amendment No.5 and 6?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN(KOLLAM) : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 7, *after* line 43,-

insert “only after giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard”. (5)

Page 8, line 3,-

after “after”

insert “giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard and”.
(6)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Amendment No. 5 and 6 moved in Clause 20 by Shri N. K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The Amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Clause 20 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 21 and 22 were added to the Bill.

Clause 23 Substitution of Section 21B

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K.Premchandran Ji, would you like to move Amendment No.7 to 11?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN(KOLLAM) : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 10, line 21,-

after “experience”
insert “of not less than ten years”. (7)

Page 10, line 25,-

after “experience”
insert “of not less than seven years”. (8)

Page 10, *for* line 42,-

substitute “within seven days which may further be extended for another seven days”. (9)

Page 10, lines 44 and 45,-

for “one hundred and eighty days”
substitute “three months” (10)

Page 11, line 4,-

for “an opportunity”
substitute “a reasonable opportunity”. (11)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Amendment No.7 to 11 moved in Clause 23 by Shri N. K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The Amendments were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Clause 23 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 24 to 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29 Amendment of Section 24A

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K.Premchandran Ji, would you like to move Amendment No.12 and 13?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN(KOLLAM) : Sir, I am not moving my amendments No.12 and 13.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Clause 29 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 30 to 106 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short Title and Commencement

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister Sir, please move Amendment No.2 .

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 6,-

<i>for</i>	“2021”	
<i>substitute</i>	“2022”.	(2)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister Sir, please move Amendment No.1 .

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,-

for "Seventy-second"

substitute "Seventy-third". (1)

(Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula ,as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The long title was added to the Bill .

HON. SPEAKER: Hon.Minister, now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is that:

"That the bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

15.24 hrs

DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item Number-18, Shri Amit Shah.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to further amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 be taken into consideration.”

Sir, today I have appeared before the esteemed House with an important bill. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi takes care of the civic services of 95 percent of the entire capital region. About 1,20,000 crore employees of all the three corporations work under it. The Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Parliament House, the Prime Minister's residence, all the central secretariat offices and many embassies are situated in the capital region. Important international meetings also take place here. It is very natural to see our capital city, when Heads of States from all over the world come here. Keeping this in view, it is very important that all the three Corporations of Delhi should be able to discharge the responsibility of civic services. Earlier there used to be only one Municipal Corporation here. Later, three separate Municipal Corporations were formed by dividing it.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to take the House a little back in time. From the year 1883, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi was running under the Punjab District Board Act. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi was established by an Act in the year 1957. Amendments were made in this Act in the year 1993 and 2011. Ultimately, it was divided into three Corporations namely North Municipal Corporation of Delhi, South Municipal Corporation of Delhi and East Municipal Corporation of Delhi. I went through the files of the entire department to find out the reason and intention behind this partition. However, I could not clearly understand the reason. That's why, I put my limitation in front of the House. I should tell the House, why and with what purpose the Corporation was divided or with what objective it was done... (*Interruptions*) Dada, you were not a Minister at that time. I have seen the files and it is not even written in it.

Sir, today, without knowing the intention of the legislature at that time, I am going to analyze the ten years of experience from the year 2012 to 2022. According to the facts that have come to the fore, the Government has come to the decision that once again the situation should be restored by uniting all the three Corporations. The partition was done in a hurry. Since, I do not have any such proof, I do not say that there must have been any political motive behind doing this. When no other purpose is visible, then the thought comes that it must have been done with a political purpose.

Today, the Government has come before this esteemed House with the intention of uniting these three Corporations. I want to clearly explain; why we have brought this Bill. The things that have come to the fore after ten years of running of all the three Corporations are that there is no uniformity regarding the policies among these Corporations. These Corporations run with different policies

in three parts of the same city because the power to set policies lies with each Corporation independently.

The board of every Corporation has the right to decide the policies for itself. There has also been no uniformity in the conditions of the service of the personnel. Due to this anomaly, a lot of discontent has also been seen among the personnel. Resources and responsibilities were not distributed very thoughtfully when the Corporations were divided. Out of the three Corporations, one Corporation will be having surplus funds and the remaining two Corporations will have more liability than their income. While dividing the Corporation, even the system of balance between resource receipt and expenditure was not observed at that time.

Due to this, a lot of difficulty is being faced in running the Corporation by those who get elected. I want to say this in definite terms and with full responsibility; because my friends from the opposition will raise questions on this and will ask me. Later, I will have to answer it. I also want to say with responsibility that the Delhi Government has a 'stepmother attitude' towards the Municipal Corporations. These are getting step motherly treatment. Due to this, all the Municipal Corporations are not able to equip themselves with sufficient resources to discharge their responsibilities. Therefore, the objective of this Bill, put before the House is to unite the three Municipal Corporations once again to form one Municipal Corporation of Delhi. It would be appropriate from the point of view of resources, co-operation and strategic planning, if only one Corporation takes care of all the civic services of the Delhi region. Sir, in order to run the services of Municipal Corporation with more efficiency and transparency, some amendments are also included in this Bill. It also includes a proposal to reduce the number of councilors in Delhi from 272 to a maximum of 250. I would like to

repeat that the civil services would be organized on the basis of the 'anywhere and anytime' principle. When my fellow Minister tabled the Bill in the House, some objections were raised by my friends in the opposition. There were some constitutional objections and some comments were made with political objectives. I have read them carefully. Nevertheless, if they want more clarity, I am ready to clarify. I request all of you that we should consider the Bill seriously by rising above party politics as it is a matter of administration of the capital of the country.

After the passing of the bill, I am sure that the present situation will improve a lot. Apart from this, the Government has no other intention behind it. I am sitting in this discussion to hear your views.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I also request you that the discussion should take place on merits. You are also requested to guide us on this matter. Thank you
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Sougata Dada, I will give you ample opportunity to speak. Even if your party will not give you a chance, I will give you a chance.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs said an important thing while placing the Bill before the House today that when there is no particular intention, there could be political intention behind it. This Bill also has such a background but I will talk about it later. In 1991, the then Congress Government started the process to provide political autonomy to the citizens of Delhi. Late Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister at that time. From 1991 to 1997, there used to be a metropolitan council in Delhi. But, the Centre's control on Delhi was completely

constricted and there was a long pending demand that there is a need to provide political autonomy to Delhi. In 1991, Article 239 (A)(A) was added to the constitution which is the law regarding the National Capital Territory of Delhi and it was passed.

A Legislative Assembly was made in Delhi and a step was taken to fulfill the hopes and expectations of the people in Delhi. Sir, the Central Government amended the law of the National Capital Territory last year and once again tried to take back its power or capacity to control Delhi. Today, a Bill has been moved in the House to once again merge Delhi MCD. It is another step in the process. I will try to talk about it in detail when I mention the merits of the Bill in my statement.

Sir, I raised some questions about the legislative competence of the Government when this Bill was being introduced. Today, I would like to ask those questions in detail in this House. On behalf of the Government, it was argued that under the second proviso of section 'C' of section 239AA of the constitution of India, the Government has the legislative competence to introduce this Bill in this House. I would like to read the second proviso of section 239 AA before the House: *[English]* 'Provided further that nothing in this sub-clause shall prevent Parliament from enacting at any time any law with respect to the same matter including a law adding to, amending, varying or repealing the law so made by the Legislative Assembly'.

[Translation]

If we consider the words in the provision, what the Government is saying is correct but if we take into account the entire section 239 AA, then we can understand that its intention is not so. There was only one purpose in inserting this proviso in this section and that purpose was that if the Delhi Legislative Assembly or the Delhi Government enacts such an obnoxious law that causes serious problems to the system of the National Capital, then this House was empowered to rectify that emergency situation. It was never the intention of this proviso that this House should make law over a matter which is under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi. I would like to tell why was the Delhi Legislative Assembly given this authority.

Sir, in 1993, part 9 and 9 A which deals with Panchayats and Municipalities were added to the Constitution of India ; and Panchayats and Municipalities were given constitutional power. At that time, it was ensured that the State Government would have the power to constitute Municipalities. If we take Article 243 P and Article 243 Q into account, we can see that the word used in these articles is 'Governor'. Now, it can be said that in the context of Delhi, the Governor has many such powers that are exercised on the instructions of the Central Government. But, if you read that Section carefully, you will find that the legislative intent is clearly written there that the power over local bodies should remain with the State Government.

Hon. Speaker Sir, along with this, Articles of the constitution should not be read in isolation. Article 239 AA should be read with Entry 5 of the 7th Schedule of the Article 246 of the Constitution. The entry clearly says [*English*] that the power to constitute a municipal corporation lies with the State Government. [*Translation*] It comes under the jurisdiction of the States. Along with this, if you

take entry 1, Rule 8 of the Transaction of Business Rules which has been implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the context of NCT of Delhi into account, it is clear that the intention was that the local bodies should be governed by the Government of Delhi. The Allocation of Business Rules of NCT of Delhi was notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 1, 1993. Its entry 26 which is about the Local Self Government was placed under the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Delhi. This was the reason behind the amendment made in the Delhi MCD law which was enacted in 1997. It was not amended by this House in 2011 but the Delhi Legislative Assembly amended it. Therefore, I would like to say with great respect that if any House has the legislative competency to amend this law, it is the Delhi Legislative Assembly not the Parliament of India. I would like to clearly express my objection to this Bill.

Now, let me come to its merits. It has been said said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, and also told by the Minister of Home Affairs mentioned that there is a huge resource gap in all the three corporations that were constituted. The corporation of South Delhi is commonly considered as an affluent area maybe because it has more resources. The other two corporations – East Delhi Corporation and North Delhi Corporation have fewer resources. If you look at the public data, in 2014-15, when Delhi was under the President's Rule, Rs. 4,380 crore was transferred to the three corporations by the Government of Delhi. This amount increased to Rs. 6,172 crore in the year 2021-22.

I humbly want to ask you something, if it was about capital or resources, the Central Government could have easily fulfilled the resource gap of the corporations by transferring the amount to the Government of Delhi as a grant as Delhi is the capital of India but what was the need to merge the three corporations?

I am afraid I cannot agree. Were we trying to address the resource constraint? I wonder whether that's the case.

Secondly, if you take into account Clause 5(c)(vi) of this Bill which amends Section 3, there is no clarity regarding the delimitation or referendum after which this new corporation will be formed. Because the word 'after the delimitation' is written there. As far as I know, the delimitation of 2011 was suspended due to Covid-19. Till now, there is no clarity regarding the date of the delimitation of 2021. There is no clarity as to whether the delimitation process will be done this year or next year or whether the Government will use the delimitation of 2011 to constitute these constituencies and a new corporation of Delhi.

Absolutely, there is no clarity. So, I would like a clarification from the Minister of Home Affairs about the delimitation mentioned. If the delimitation of 2021 is not completed by 2023, whether the Municipal Corporation will not be formed in Delhi for the next two years? It needs to be clarified. Apart from this, Clause 13 in the Bill which adds Section 514 'A' states that the Central Government may appoint a Special Officer until a new corporation is constituted. So, from this it seems that the manner in which all the powers were transferred to the Lieutenant Governor by amending the law of NCT Delhi last year. Similarly, by amending the law of this MCD, the Central Government wants to run the Municipal Corporation of Delhi through the Special Officer till the delimitation is done which may take one year or two years. I would like to ask this with great respect and courtesy whether this type of setup is right in a democratic system where the Central Government tries to run the Municipalities, whether it is of the National Capital or of any other Union territory of country, they want to run

their administration directly and whether this is not a contempt of the Part 9 and 9' A' of the Constitution of India.

When the discussion was going on over this Bill, then it was hoped that the Bill would introduce some very fundamental changes in the Civic Governance structure of Delhi. If the elections are conducted for the post of Mayor in Delhi on direct basis, if any transfer is made of the funds of the Local Bodies which exists there, by the Central Government on direct basis, if new structure of the executive decision making is re-established, then it becomes a model and this is not only for Delhi , but for all the remaining big cities, all the metrocities.

HON. SPEAKER Sir, if you look outside, if you look at the many countries of the world, then the big cities and the Metropolitan councils , they are directly run by the Mayor in Council.

The elections to the post of Mayor are conducted directly in many of our cities. Therefore, if any such change is brought by the Government , then certainly there is some justification to this Bill. Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to say one thing at the end and I am not leveling any accusation or criticism against anyone but as per the ongoing general discussion and the things which have gone public that the State Election Commission of Delhi convened a Press Conference on 9 March,2022 to fix the dates of the next election of Municipality. At the last moment, may be any letter had been written by the Ministry of Home Affairs to them that they are merging these three corporations. This may kindly be postponed ,if it is so, then there is a big question mark on the autonomy of the institutions , such as Election Commission which will have long-lasting consequences on the democracy and the democratic system of India.

Therefore, with great respect and courtesy I would like to conclude my speech .Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to say and reiterate that this bill is outside the legislative competence of this House and if any House has the authority to amend the Bill or to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, then it is vested with the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI) : Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would also like to speak with great humility. Although, Hon. Home Minister will reply to what hon. Manish ji has observed, I can answer some of his points .

Sir, the provisions were made for the establishment of Municipal bodies through the 74th amendment in the Constitution of India in the year 1992. The purpose was to strengthen democracy at the grassroot level. This would strengthen the Government, but no one ever imagined that a dynasty, a family, a party would weaken such bodies just to keep their party in power. Hon. Home Minister had said that he did not read the file and he did not have any such facts, what could he say, but at that time I was a sitting MLA in Delhi, when this misdeed was done by the Congress. There are people in Congress who praise one family. The then Chief Minister used to praise a family. At that time, the children of the poor or of the lower stratas started becoming leaders under the ideals of democracy. A Party had gained complete dominance of the Corporation. Their people became dominant in a Corporation. The power of the agents from '10, Janpath' started decreasing. In the democratic system, poor people got elected to the corporation and became Mayors.

They also wanted to work in a democratic manner. It was done in a hurry to curtail their rights, to divide their power. They didn't bother from where will the revenue resources be mobilised in North MCD, and in East MCD. It was not taken care of. Delhi was ruined. It was not taken care of. Just to reduce the power of the corporation, to underplay the power of the Mayor to reduce the power of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, the Corporation was divided into three parts so that three mayors could be made. In this situation, that leader would be ostracized, it was the intention. Manish ji, it was the intention to trifurcate the corporations.

Hon. Speaker Sir, when MCD was trifurcated in the year 2011-12, then the Congress Government was in the state as well as in the Centre. Manish ji was repeatedly citing this, he is an advocate, a learned person, a very senior leader, but he is misleading the country through the House. He is referring to the rights given to the corporations in the full state as per the meaning of full state. Delhi is the national capital. In the year 1991, when the law for the National Capital was made, it was the Congress that made it. At that time, the Congress itself had made this provision. The powers of the Lieutenant Governor, about which they are alleging the Central Government that they want to freeze their powers through the Central Government, have been conferred upon the Lieutenant Governor from the time when the Congress was in power in the year 1991 by the the law made by Congress itself .

Today, the rights that have been given again to the LG after review have not been given by the Central Government, but by the Court. The Supreme Court has given these rights under the Amendment Act of the year 1991. The said rights have not been given by the Central Government. They want to mislead.

Hon. Speaker Sir, when three MCDs were formed, then regarding the source of income, I had told earlier about what was the intention of the Congress, due to which these three corporations were formed.

Now take the speech of another well-known person, who is the Chief Minister of Delhi today. Listen to their misdeeds. It would have been better if Manish ji had mentioned that in the year 1991 when the act was passed, it was decided that Delhi Finance Commission would decide how much funding is to be done to run the corporation. The Government that is sitting in Delhi today, when it came to power, the Delhi Finance Commission said at that time that around Rs 40,500 crore should be given to the civic bodies to run them. Today the people crying on the pretext of democracy are in power and they are preaching the same to the country, they are talking about killing democracy, they have passed inside their House that they will not accept the advice of the Delhi Finance Commission, they will give only Rs 17,000 crore to run the MCD. They deducted one-third of its money. You see the bigger irony than this. They assumed inside the House that they will provide this Rs 17,000 crore, but gave only Rs 6,129 crore. They did not even give Rs 17,000 crore. Why did they do this? It was done to defunct MCD. Different corporations were also formed. I will also table the order of Hon. High Court. The Hon. High Court had also ordered that the money fixed by the Delhi Government for the corporation should be returned to them. Sir, this is the ruling of the High Court –

“We accordingly allow this application and direct the GNCT to release in the current financial year the remaining amount due towards BTA to the three Corporations on the basis of their own revised estimate presented in the budget for the year, 2021-22.”

[Translation]

Even after the order of the High Court, this Chief Minister only ruined 2.5 crore people of Delhi. ...*Sir, you may have a conflict with B.J.P. You may be running an NGO....*collectin

g money in Delhi by doing. The people of Delhi have made you the Chief Minister, made you the Caretaker, but you are taking revenge from the people of Delhi. If you have a conflict with B.J.P., then you conflict with them. Why do you want to take away the rights of 2.5 crore people of Delhi?

Hon. Speaker Sir, that money was not given even after the order of the High Court. Injustice has been done in this. After this... *What else happens through *Saheb*, in Delhi let me tell about the fund of SDMC. I only talk about SDMC, from where I am the MP. Their actual budget estimate was Rs 1,005 crore. But, after that they gave Rs 741 crore. 1,052 crore was the Actual budget estimate for the year 2021-22, but only 674 crore was given against it.

Rupees 600 crore were withdrawn from that amount also. Even after that rupees 600 crore, the balance was withheld. Because,* they could not fulfill any of their promises in seven years. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do not take anyone's name.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Sir, there are many more things. Sorry, I will not take anyone's name from now on. ... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Hon. Speaker Sir, he said...* to a sitting Chief Minister... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: You are also an ... *

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, please remove the name from the record. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will see to it.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Sir, they have not fulfilled any promise...
(Interruptions)

Sougata ji, please listen once. ... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: This is the House, but you say ...*, say ...*
...*(Interruptions)*. This is the House of the whole of India. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Please sit down... *(Interruptions)* sit down, the matter is done. To cover up their failure, they kept alleging that LG is not letting them work. To hide their fault, they kept blaming others; this is the method of the working by the Chief Minister of Delhi. They narrated that MCD is a failure in Delhi, MCD is corrupt; MCD is having all these things. Today, Hindus are not safe in Kashmir and Bengal.

In the same way, Delhi is also being turned into Bengal. Although this topic is not related to you, but I want to give information. There is an attempt to turn Delhi into Bengal. Infiltrators are being given land, tents and electricity free of cost.

*Not recorded

Hon. Speaker Sir, you can go to Okhla and see it. Things are being given free of cost by this Chief Minister. Where Hindus are safe,... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, Delhi is the capital of the country. To save from this Chief Minister, you can do survey in Okhla area. MCD tries to stop it. When MCD tries to stop them distributing freebies; it pinches them.

Hon. Speaker Sir, on the other hand, there are three Corporations. These three Corporations have given three proposals to the Delhi Government to increase their revenue. The first proposal was about the commercial tax for the year 2020. It was proposed to increase revenue by increasing commercial tax. But, the Delhi Government did not give permission. Hon. Manish ji was speaking just now. We could have increased our income through parking charges. A proposal was sent to the Delhi Government to this effect; but the Delhi Government did not give permission. Then, the three Corporations asked the permission for issuing bonds but Delhi Government has kept it pending. If the Corporations want to demand their share of revenue then the Chief Minister of Delhi does not want to give that also.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to ask what the crime of those sweepers is, what is the crime of teachers who teach in the schools? What is the crime of those retired officers who do not get pension? They do not get salary on time. The teachers have not received their salaries for six months. Hon. Speaker Sir, what is the crime of those people living in Delhi? This Chief Minister wants to do his politics at the cost of widows and the persons living in old age homes. Sir, on such a...^{*} Chief Minister of Delhi who does such a disgusting politics. He stops the money of the poor. ...*(Interruptions)*

^{*} Not recorded

Sougata ji, we will remove him. You should not worry. The people from outside have settled in Delhi to earn livelihood and for a bright future. Shouldn't those living in slums have pucca houses? Should not they get benefits from the Ayushman Bharat Scheme when they fall sick? What is the crime of those people who came and settled in Delhi 20-30 years ago? Till date, even a single house was not given to those people in last seven years. The Central Government gave houses to three crore landless people. Had the person running Government in Delhi been considerate, shouldn't the poor people have gotten their share in the Scheme.

16.00 hours

Whether the youth living in slums do not have dreams of becoming pilots and engineers? Have they committed any sin? If they were born to a poor mother, should not they get rights? The people don't get rights, the Corporations don't give them rights,...^{*}This is the task the Chief Minister got engaged in. Sorry sir, delete the name. The Chief Minister of Delhi remains engaged in this work.

Sir, all the three Corporations did development work. Manish ji had said that during the President's rule in the year 2014-15, Rs. 4,000 crore was given. Through you, I want to inform Manish ji that Rs 4,000 crore was released by Hon. Jaitley ji for one financial year and Rs 6,129 crore was given for 5 years and not for 1 year. How can three Corporations be run for 5 years in Rs. 6,000 crore? Could you imagine this thing? In return, MCD did many works in the field of dispensary, park, street light and cleanliness. One year of budget for Delhi is Rs 75,800 crore. MCD asked for Rs. 17,000 crore in budget from the Chief Minister but it was given only Rs. 6,000 crore. Despite this, MCD has 1,616 schools, which work to strengthen the foundation of children. The Delhi Government has 1,026 schools

^{*}Not recorded

teaching from class VI to class XII. All the three Corporations provide free food, uniforms and books to 8,00,000 children. There are only 1,000 schools for which, they are advertising in the world. Out of these, 392 schools do not have principals and 363 schools do not have vice principals. Even after taking this much budget, there are no principals in the higher secondary schools. I claim ...*Sir, the Chief Minister of Delhi ... (*Interruptions*)Let it be accepted that... * name should be deleted. Hon. Speaker Sir, I am requesting you. Will he quit politics? From Vidyarthi Parishad to Bharatiya Janata Party, I have been working with one ideology for 25 years. He came to...* by running an NGO to mislead the people. He would not quit politics. You get the Chief Minister of Delhi to conduct a survey. Manish ji, you get a survey conducted by any third party agency whether the people of Delhi want to take admission in Central Schools or in Delhi Government Schools. I claim that if 90% people do not prefer Central Schools, then in front of this House, I am saying that I will quit politics. People will not take admission in Delhi schools. They are working to mislead the country through advertisement by only white washing and painting and releasing the photos of only 15-20 school buildings. Sir, the number of students enrolled in MCD schools in the year 2020 was 7,20,000 and in the year 2022, 8,71,000 children have been enrolled. People are happier more with the MCD people. MCD has three mayors. They have different thinking. They cannot jointly address the press. They cannot jointly give information. MCD has three mayors. They all think differently. They cannot unite the press or give information to them.

That leader promised to build 500 new schools, 20 colleges and seven hospitals. Eight new schools have been set up by East Delhi MCD. I want to lay this on the Table. I am giving the information obtained under RTI. A total of

*Not Recorded

95 schools have been built by the three MCDs. I am speaking on record. I would like to table the reply given under the RTI. The Delhi Government was asked through an RTI to the Hon. Chief Minister regarding the number of new schools built in the last seven years. A new school has neither been allotted nor built. This was the Delhi Government's reply under the RTI. I would like to lay this paper on the Table. I would like to tell the irregularities. SDMC has built 95 buildings and it is not my report or BJP's but the Economic Survey of Delhi says that the Government of Delhi built 20 new buildings only and SDMC built 95 new school buildings.

Let's look at the case of hospitals. Dada was also speaking about it now. Our case is over. Behen ji was travelling to every nook and corner of the country saying she would become a leader. Now, hell is out of her. It is also being said that we want to postpone the election. If ...*, Chief Minister of Delhi says it...(*Interruptions*). I am not making any negative remark. Are we getting scared of elections? Despite being diabetic, the Minister of Home Affairs built a 10,000 bed hospital in Chhattarpur. A 10,000 bed hospital was set up in Delhi cantonment. The Chief Minister was hiding in his house. He never said anything when he was visiting.

The Hon. Prime Minister is concerned about Delhi. Therefore, he wants to integrate the MCD. I would like to tell you that 497 Mohalla Clinics have been set up so far in Delhi by the Government of Delhi. 311 dispensary of Delhi MCD is functioning properly. I am comparing 497 clinics and 311 dispensaries of Delhi MCD in seven years. During Covid, the Government of Delhi used to say that a

*Not Recorded

hospital with 30,000 bed will be built. The hospitals of the Government of Delhi have a total of 12,400 beds. If we count the number of beds in both MCD and Central Government, it is under 15,744 beds.

Who is maintaining or destroying the health facilities in Delhi, who is being greeted with applause? The Hon. Chief Minister is pretending and tells that the health system in Delhi has been improved. 3,000 beds is more than the hospitals in Central and MCD. It was promised to set up 7 new hospitals. The foundation stone was laid at Sector 9, Palam in 2013. Shri Arun Jaitely sanctioned Rs. 50 lakh earnest money in the 2014-15 budget for a 400 bed hospital in Ambedkar Nagar. Two hospitals have been built in 7 years but by using old construction techniques. He has not set up a single hospital in the last seven years.

Let me tell you about other new facilities of MCD. 15067 parks were built and out of these, 2019 parks have open gyms and 3725 parks have swings for the children. These parks have been set up by the MCD, not by the Government of Delhi. 5,82,000 LED lights are illuminating Delhi.

Their members in Rajya Sabha will ask how many community centers have been built in 7 years? 402 community centers have been built by MCD where the poor can organize their children's marriage, birthday celebrations, pooja etc. There are 2339 auto tippers and the personnel of the Municipal Solid Waste Management collect garbage from door-to-door in Delhi and this is done by MCD. The roads where vertical parks are seen at 150 places under 14 flyovers come under PWD. People are criticizing as Delhi is becoming noxious, MCD has beautified the parks for the people. All these vertical gardens have been set up by MCD. 600 toilets are being constructed by MCD.

In 2014-15, he promised that he would make LDC, peon, watchman and teachers permanent. The Anganwadi workers work for meager wages and they are protesting. The Government of Delhi fired 1000 Anganwadi workers from their jobs. MCD has made 12,599 employees permanent in the last five years. The Government of Delhi has not given anyone permanent jobs and tells that we are afraid of the election.

Bholi si surat banakar khoob karta hai logoon ke jakhmom ka ilaaj,
kured kar dekh leta hai aur fir kehta hai ki ismeim samay lagega.

In 2013-14, it was said that the people of Delhi will be provided tap water. In 2017, when the corporation election came, he asked to give more time. In 2019, we will supply tap water. It was not provided in 2019 and later said it will be done in 2020. Like this* and raise slogans. 20 new colleges, 2 lakh public toilets, 500 new schools had to be built. They said they would end the tanker mafia but even today, water is supplied to Delhi through 1200 tanks. They said the electricity charges would be reduced to half and would conduct an audit. Till today, audit of Jal Board has not been conducted because the Jal Board is running at a loss of Rs. 60,000 crores. The people who were seeking the audit of electricity used to say that we are Ambani's people and we and Congress are hand in glove with Ambani.

It was said the contract of power companies would be cancelled. Today, they are working with the same electricity companies. While working there, he does not realize even for a single day that Ambani ji is making money. Now, they are like Ambani's relatives. Each village will be given a special fund. At number 36 of his manifesto, it was said that the villages will be developed as per the requirements of the residents. 55,000 new vacancies will be advertised to give employment to the

people. Through the House it is important to tell the country how big ... ^{*}he is. ... ^{*}people can remain happy for a year or two after falling into his trap.

People will know about the condition after seeing the suffering of Delhi. Sir, it was said that 5000 new buses would be bought. Not even a single bus was bought. For seven years, DTC has been running at a loss of Rs. 11,000 crores. In 2016-17, the Central Government said "draw the boundary, we want to pass colonies". In 2019, in a reply given to a letter written by the Ministry of Urban Development he said that he hadn't appointed any agency till date and that they would need two more years. The Ministry of Urban Development said that they had time from 2015 to 2017 and now, The Delhi Government is asking for more time again in 2017. Then, the Central Government took the initiative and now, the it is going to take the initiative about the Corporation. In 1991, the Central Government or the Congress made an Act and gave powers to Lieutenant Governor. By using that power, the Central Government or the Hon. Prime Minister provided pucca houses to 36 lakh people in Delhi. The residents have to live under lurking fear of demolition. They were given relief. If the Hon. Prime Minister had not come up with PM Uday Yojana for unauthorized colonies, what would have happened to the people of those colonies?

Hon. Speaker, I just want to say one thing. I remember one thing – darkness does not go away with the rising sun, you have to open your eyes to overcome darkness otherwise you will only see darkness. Without opening their eyes, some people support him but there they criticize each other outside but they become one inside the House. They stay as friends there but they criticize each other here. They

^{*}Not Recorded

get united here in this House. They are friends outside the house but turn hostile inside this House.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to inform him that Delhi being the National Capital, proudly accommodates embassies, Houses of all Indian States and international delegates.

India and Delhi have ranked second and third respectively globally, because of the visionary leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji,. Today, one of the eminent leaders of NCP, Smt. Supriya Ji had to say that they should rather be wary of the rising popularity of Narendra Modi than criticizing him. Hon. Speaker Sir, if today, Delhi turns into a dumping ground, if filth persists, if various diseases spread, if the level of pollution rises, then those ...* Sahabs, ...* will never be questioned about the filthy condition of Delhi. It is Modi Ji who will be defamed and discredited that so many people die from pollution in the Prime Minister's National Capital.

As the funds are provided to MCD and if there is only one Mayor after unification of MCDs in Delhi, it will facilitate integrated decision. He, after taking decisions democratically, will be able to put his decisions firmly before the people and if he puts those decisions firmly before the people then they will accept those decisions, appreciate them and will not fall into the traps of the Chief Minister of Delhi. This will facilitate the developmental works in Delhi as per the will of the two and half crores people of Delhi.

Hon. Speaker Sir, BJP is not going to run away from election. When the party is not scared of anyone after removing the Article-370 and constructing the temple of Lord Ram, then why would it flee from MCD elections. The party who is

blaming BJP had also contested elections in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Mizoram but its security deposits were forfeited. I would like to appeal to Media that they eye Punjab where our party was not in power but the party which while ruling had been looting Punjab for the past 70 years, got defeated this time. Their security deposits were forfeited in all those four States where we were contesting elections. The media should underscore this incidence rather accolading their victory in Punjab, where we have never been in power.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I am supporting the Bill presented by the Hon. Home Minister. This Bill is being brought in for the development of two and half crores people of Delhi. With these words, I would like to conclude my speech. Thank you.

[English]

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to participate in the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

Sir, it is very sad to see that the Treasury Benches are always complaining about the Congress Party for whatever problems are being faced in the country now. I think, it is more than seven years since this new Government has been in power. I feel, that this is, probably, the time when you have to look forward saying, 'we will take the country forward in the best way possible,' rather than to look back and say that Congress has been the root cause for all the evils in this country. Sir, we have to understand that Congress has done some amount of development since freedom or till you came to power.

In between, the Vajpayee Government was also there. Subsequently, now you are here with a huge majority. I wish to congratulate you for that. But having said that, we have to see how we can go forward instead of complaining about how the Congress Government has ruined it. In fact, I have a few friends in the BJP also. When we were sitting and talking casually about COVID-19 and the management of this Government during the COVID-19 pandemic, one of my friends surprisingly said that the cause of COVID-19 in India is the Congress Government. For a second, I was taken aback, surprised, and shocked. I was wondering what he is talking about. I asked him where the coronavirus came from. He said that that came from China. I asked him how did it come in. He said that that came through the flights. I asked him who was in the Government operating the flights. He said that that was the BJP Government. So, how can you say that it is the Congress Government which is the root cause of all this? Who built the airports? He says that the Congress Government built the airports and that is why, the coronavirus has entered into India. So, if this is the way we are going to be talking, this is not right.

16.16 hrs

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

Sir, I turned 50 in 2019-20. I think, probably, even Rahulji would have also turned 50. Our hon. Prime Minister would have turned 70. There are times when I get into a doubt. Probably, we would not have turned 50 or 70.

Maybe, I would have been hanging on at 49 as long as the BJP Government had not come. So, these are the kinds of conversations we try to have. The content of this Bill and the way this Bill has been brought in shows the Government's total apathy towards any kind of norms which have to be followed. As regards every other Bill, there may be an argument, and there is probably a reason and a good

intention behind bringing in that Bill. But as regards this particular Bill, you see the way it has been brought in. On March 9th or so, there was an announcement from the Delhi State Election Commission regarding a Press Conference. On the same day, he gets a letter saying that the elections should be postponed because they were planning to bring in a Bill this way. So, what is the urgency to bring in a Bill in this form? When the elections were supposed to be happening in April 2022, what was the urgency or necessity to do it in such a fashion? This is a kind of a semi-emergency. You are bringing in a rule where you are saying that the elections are not going to happen. The reason for it is that BJP has been ruling this Corporation for more than 15 years, and probably this time, the election results may not be in favour of BJP. So, that may be the reason this Bill is being brought in. If this Bill has to be brought in, delimitation has to be done.

In this Bill, the main things you are talking about are these. You are reducing the number of seats from 272 to 250. There is an assumption that this Government is planning to increase the number of Members of Parliament in the country. Probably, you are justified in doing that. But what is the justification we can find for reducing the number of Councillors from 272 to 250? What was the need to reduce the seats when the population of the country is increasing and we probably need more representatives for the given set of population? You are reducing the number of Councillors. We cannot understand why it is happening. There is absolutely no logic in doing this.

The other point is this. The Bill which made the possibility of trifurcation of this Corporation was brought in by the Delhi Legislative Assembly in 2011. It has hardly been 10 years now. The Supreme Court had already made an observation saying that this Government is bringing in Bills without putting in much thought

into then, which is causing a lot of confusion and also leading to repealing of Bills. Even they were forced to repeal the Farm Bills because of the huge protest by the farmers.

Similarly, when the Delhi Government had trifurcated it, I feel, probably there must have been a reason behind that. Has anybody looked into that? I will give you an example of my State's Corporation. In Chennai, we have three Parliamentary Constituencies but it is a single Corporation. As regards the fund allocation, which was close to Rs. 1,900 crore for Chennai, I would say that during the previous AIADMK Government, Rs. 1,000 crore were spent on South Chennai, about Rs. 850 crore were spent on Central Chennai, and the North Chennai had only about Rs. 25 crore to 50 crore allocated for this.

This is a very unjust way. We had made several representations because my constituency is the most economically and socially backward area. Similarly, in Delhi, they have brought in a situation where they have three Corporations and they have an understanding that there will be an officer who will be coordinating among these three Corporations to make sure that the toll tax collections are equally distributed and all those things. Also, through this Bill, they have removed the powers of the Delhi Government. The power to decide the total number of seats and reservation of seats was with the Delhi Government. Then, the powers regarding division into zones and wards, delimitation, salaries and allowances and the leave of the Commissioner have been removed. The main thing in this Bill is on building regulation. Do you want to say that the Union Government wants to take the powers of a Corporation and keep it running also?

The other fear that we have is this. You are going to set a precedent. By taking up these Corporations now, what assurances do we have that this is not

going to happen to the other Corporations throughout the country? There are several Corporations all over the country. What will give us the confidence that you will not take up any of these Corporations in the future?

Also, it has been shown that the delimitation process takes a minimum of 16-18 months. Already, my earlier speaker, Mr. Manish Tewari has spoken about this. He has asked, by delimitation, what statistics are you going to take. Are we going to take the statistics from the 2011 Census? Or, are we going to say that we are going to wait for the 2022-23 Census and then go forward? In that way, I feel that the Parliament elections may happen even before the elections of Delhi Corporations.

So, I think this is a very unjust and a cruel way of treating the people of Delhi. Even in 2024, we do not know for sure whether the elections ever again will be conducted in the Delhi Corporations? The Bill also has a provision for a Director for local bodies. The role of the Director is to coordinate among the Corporations, frame recruitment rules for various posts and do the toll tax collection and sharing. There is not at all a mention of this Special Officer. Till further election, only the Special Officer is going to be there. There is no provision for the role of a Director and it has not been defined at all. I will tell you, in Tamil Nadu, we went through a phase where for four years, we did not have our local body elections, though the people were asking for it. ...*(Interruptions)* Please give me one minute. I will just conclude.

We did not have elections for four years. One of the problems is, if there is a Special Officer, funding from the Union Government to the individual wards may be an issue. So, in these kinds of situations, for the Government to have taken a decision one month before the scheduled elections which are supposed to happen,

to bring this Bill and thereby thwart the whole election process is actually, very, very sad and pathetic.

Regarding funding, Manish Tewari Ji has also mentioned about it. Between 2010 and 2011, Rs.1,465 crore was provided for the Delhi Corporation. Between 2014 and 2015, Rs.4,380 crore was provided, and during 2021-22, the amount provided under the Aam Aadmi Party Government is Rs.6,172 crore. So, when the Government has already provided a substantial amount, if you felt that the amount needed for the local bodies was not adequate, it would have been easily possible for you to provide that allocation. You could have made an extra allocation of whatever fund is needed.

In fact, in one of my earlier speeches also, I was talking about this. I do not know about the Delhi Corporation. But in several Corporations in the country, the elected representatives are working without salary. So, I would request that the Union Government takes this opportunity to see that the salaries of elected representatives in the local bodies across the country is paid by the Union Government substantially, say, about 70-80 per cent, and the remaining percentage can be paid by the local Governments, that is, from the States. ... *(Interruptions)*

Yes, they are working without salary. ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that they should also be provided with salary. The other question is about the garbage. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray, intervention of the Minister during the debate is good for the House. Normally, the Ministers are not intervening. That is the problem. Intervention of the Ministers during the debate to give more clarifications is good.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: Thank you, Sir.

Sir, every State has its municipal corporations, and one of the biggest problems which these municipal corporations face is with regard to the garbage dump yards. In fact, if you look in Delhi and even in Chennai, garbage in acres of land is piled up to a height of 13 or 14 floors. So, I feel that the Government of India should create a separate fund for modernization of the garbage disposal mechanism. I suggest that the Government of India should adopt a process called bio-mining for disposal of the garbage. But the budget that is required for this mechanism to adopt is about Rs.600 crore. It is not possible for an individual Member of Parliament or an MLA to implement this process in his parliamentary constituency or ward, unless the Government of India steps in over there.

Sir, the BJP Government has been ruling over the Delhi Corporations for more than 15 years. The achievements which they have got are leaving the garbage mountains at the entrance of Delhi, dilapidated Government hospitals which are not being adequately cared for, and selling the Government property at throwaway prices.

Therefore, I totally oppose this Bill, and I hope that the Government would withdraw this Bill and ensure that fair elections are held next month and democracy is safe. Thank you very much, Sir.

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA (KRISHNANAGAR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am very disappointed, the hon. Home Minister was here only a minute ago. I hope him seeing my name on the list of speakers had nothing to do with him going inside. ...*(Interruptions)* I hope he is listening wherever he is. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Two Ministers are here.

...(Interruptions)

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA: Yes. But I am talking about the Home Minister.

...(Interruptions)I am very disappointed that he is gone. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Three Ministers are here.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sorry. Three Ministers are here.

...(Interruptions)

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA: It does not matter. I am only disappointed. No problem. ...(Interruptions)Sir, I am happy that the other hon. Minister is here.

...(Interruptions)I am only disappointed. I do not know why he ran away. But it is okay.

[Translation]

“Ek roz apni rooh se poochha ki Dilli kya hai, to yun javaab mein keh gayi,

Ye duniya mano jism hai aur Dilli uski jaan.”

[English]

Hon. Chairperson, today I rise to oppose the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 as introduced on March 25th in this House seeking the unification of the three municipal corporations of South Delhi, East Delhi and North Delhi, which had previously been trifurcated by the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill of 2011, which was passed in the State Assembly.

The ostensible motive of the Union Government, as stated in paragraph 5 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is to bring about greater transparency,

improved governance, and more efficiency in delivery of civic services. However, the timing of introduction of this Bill in the backdrop of delay by the Union Government in conducting the municipal elections in Delhi tells a rather contradictory tale.

The State Government of Delhi had moved the Supreme Court only a week prior to this Bill's introduction in this House seeking expeditious municipal polls in Delhi, and alleging brazen influence and flagrant meddling by the Central Government in the election matters.

Immediately on the heels of the enactment of the Government of NCT of Delhi Act of 1992, the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 was amended with effect from October 1st, 1993. The salient feature of the 1993 amendment was that it vested control of the corporation in the elected Government of Delhi, that is, the State Government of Delhi. The insidious nature of this Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 is that under the garb of unifying the three corporations, the Central Government is seeking to usurp the power of superintendence hitherto vested in the Government of NCT of Delhi, and assuming this power in itself. The Central Government has arrogated unto itself the task of taking decisions on behalf of the citizens of Delhi in blatant disregard of both the scheme of the Constitution and its statutory framework. But remember this, this is Delhi, the heart and soul of India.

“Jnaab-e-Kaif ye Dilli hai ‘ Meer’ O ‘Ghalib’ ki
Yahan kisi ki taraf-daariyaan nahin chalti.”

What is wrong with the amendment Bill 2022? This is once again a consistent pattern of blatant disregard of cooperative federalism by the Union

Government. Deceivingly innocuous substitution of the word ‘Government’, which currently means the Government of NCT of Delhi, with the word ‘Central Government’ strikes a blow on federalism and accountability.

Under Section 2 (21A) of the Delhi Municipal Act, 1957, ‘Government’ means the Government of the NCT. But now as per Section 2 (c) of the amendment Bill 2022, in Sections 1, 3(a), 5, 6, 32(a), 55, 56, 57, 193, 330(a) and 499 for the word ‘Government’, wherever it occurs, the word ‘Central Government’ shall be substituted.

Section 3 of the old Act said, Corporation to be notified by the Government maximum up to 272 seats, and number of reserved seats to be determined by the Government of the NCT.

Clause 5 of the new Bill amends Section 3 of the old Act and says that the Corporation is to be notified by the Central Government, not the Government of the NCT; there will be a maximum of 250 seats, which is the reduction of 22 seats; and the number of reserved seats is to be determined by the Central Government. But there is no clarity, as Mr. Manish Tewari said, on when this delimitation will be done. Section 479 of the old Act says that any notification under Section 3A is to be laid before the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, which is altering the number, name, area of any zone or ward. The new Bill of 2022 requires that such notifications are now to be laid before Parliament. The powers of the State Government now taken over by the Centre include division of the area into zones and wards, delimitation of wards, power to alter or amend delimitation orders, declaration of assets by Councillors, salaries and allowances of ward commissioners, powers of the Corporation to consolidate loans, and many other.

Under the scheme of the Constitution of India, the power for unification or trifurcation of the municipalities of Delhi vests with the Legislative Assembly of the State and not with the Union Government. Articles 243P, 243R and 246S of the Constitution of India, read with Rules 8 and 9 and Entry 1 of the Schedule to the *Transaction of Business of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993*, very clearly assign the power to constitute municipal corporations to the State. They can say that Article 239AA of the Constitution allows the Union Government to legislate on this, but it must pass the test of constitutional morality. The Constituent Assembly debates, 1948, Volume 738 lays out that constitutional morality means to go down to the norms of the Constitution and not to act in a manner which would become violative of the rule of law. The Central Government in bringing this Bill is in clear breach of constitutional morality.

In addition, this Bill is in violation of Article 243U of the Constitution of India *vis-à-vis* the delay in conducting municipal polls in Delhi. The polls were supposed to be held in April, 2022. The State Election Commission had come out and even said that they would be on track when suddenly this Bill was brought in.

Article 243U deals with the duration of municipality and says clearly that any election to constitute a municipality shall be completed before the expiry of its duration specified in clause (1). It is a classic example of the hypocrisy of the ruling party and of the Central Government that after years of shedding ...* for the lack of Statehood for Delhi, today the same party, the same rulers seek to do away with the last vestiges of autonomy for Delhi citizens and for its State Assembly.

*Not recorded

Let us examine the timeline. In 1996, the BJP's election manifesto talked of full Statehood for Delhi. In 1998, under Shri Madan Lal Khurana, the former Delhi CM, the BJP raised the pitch for full Statehood for Delhi. In 1998, in the BJP's election manifesto, one of the proposed constitutional reforms was full Statehood for Delhi along with abrogation of Article 370 and separate States for Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal. In 1999, the BJP's election manifesto for the Lok Sabha election also talked of full Statehood for Delhi. In 2003, the State of Delhi Bill introduced by the BJP-led NDA Government under Prime Minister Vajpayee, Deputy Prime Minister Advaniji, was sent to Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who was then head of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, for consideration. In June, 2013, the BJP supported full Statehood for Delhi in the political resolution accepted by the party at its two-day National Executive Meeting in Goa when the Delhi BJP President was Vijay Goel. In 2014, the BJP's Vision Document referred to full Statehood for Delhi.

Please note the about turn today. There are some holy men in the ruling party who say that they cannot tell a lie; there are some unholy men who seem not to be able to tell the truth, but the majority seems not to be able to tell the difference between the lie and the truth. That is the sorry situation today.

Let us examine the allocation of funds to Delhi. The collection of direct taxes from Delhi alone in 2009-10 was Rs. 13,500 crore and in 2020-21, it was Rs. 70,800 crore. Despite a five-fold increase in the collection of direct taxes alone in Delhi over this period, disbursement from the Union Government to the GNCT of Delhi remains pegged, from the year 2002, at only Rs. 325 crore. All the other States get enhanced share in Central taxes, but not Delhi.

The 15th Finance Commission allocated grant-in-aid of Rs. 4,36,300 crore for local bodies for the award period 2021-2026, a five year period. But as per this, the GNCT of Delhi, the local bodies of Delhi were omitted on the principle that only States are covered under this award scheme and Delhi is a Union Territory. The Centre has frozen the allocation of direct taxes to Delhi at Rs. 323 crore for more than a decade whereas more than 40 per cent of direct taxes is contributed by Delhi alone.

When it comes to funds, all other municipal corporations receive grants in terms of the Central Finance Commission recommendations but Delhi is denied on the faulty excuse of it being a Union Territory. This Bill replaces the Government of NCT of Delhi with the Central Government. It does away with the position of the Director of local bodies to assess the Government, and instead allows the Central Government to appoint a Special Officer to exercise powers and discharge functions of the Corporation until the date on which the first meeting is held. This Bill has no place in Parliament. The State Assembly of Delhi alone is the competent authority to legislate on this matter. After Part 9A was inserted into the Constitution of India with effect from 1st June, 1993, the part 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. Now, I ask you this question. '*Modi hai to mumkin hai*', we accept it. You have just won in four States. No problem. Go ahead. Call the municipal elections in Delhi, win the municipal elections, and then bring this Bill to the State Assembly. Who is stopping you? Nobody is stopping you. Do it the right way. Do not do it by the

backdoor. You do not have the competence to legislate on this. Only the State Assembly can do this. So, till then, I urge the Minister not to overstep your boundaries. Please take back this Bill and send it to where it belongs, namely, the State Assembly.

In conclusion, I quote one of Delhi's most famous citizens, Mirza Asadullah Baig Khan to remind the Central Government:

[Translation]

“Tum se pahle wo jo ek shakhs yahaan takht-nasheen tha,
Usko bhi apne khuda hone par itna hi yakeen tha ”

[English]

Everyone thinks they are God when they sit on the throne but do not fall into this trap. Do the right thing. Send this Bill back. Thank you so much.

[Translation]

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT (SUPAUL): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

Sir, I rise in this House to speak in favour of this Bill. The data of the Corporations show that the collective annual budget deficit of the Eastern and the Northern Municipal Corporations is around Rs 2,000 crore, while that of the Southern MCD is Rs. 500 crore. The three corporations altogether spend about Rs. 8,900 crore annually on about 1,20,000 employees and generate revenue of just Rs 6,700 crore. It is estimated that about 200 crore rupees will be saved after the unification. The Central Government is unifying the MCD to address the problems

of the staggering economic condition of the North, South and the East MCDs and salary of thousands of employees working in MCDs, it is commendable.

Sir, during the last 64 years journey, many important rights of the Municipal Corporations have been forfeited. The Delhi Municipal Corporation also had to face division by the Congress ruled Government on 13 January, 2022. Apart from this, the MCD has become unable to bear the increasing burden of expenditure incurred towards politicians and officers. In 1958, Delhi Municipal Corporation was formed by merging 11 local bodies and one Delhi District Board. During that period, the important departments like – Electricity, Water, DTC and Fire Fighting were functioning under the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation. The Municipal Corporation was trifurcated in 2012, leaving merely minor subjects like – construction of streets, drains and sanitation under their jurisdiction. Apart from that they are left with only Primary Education in the name of education and a few dispensaries and hospitals in the name of healthcare facilities. The unification of these MCDs will strengthen their rights and improve economic conditions which will further lead to enhancement of their work-efficiency. The said unification is likely to provide better facilities, benefitting the common people.

Sir, this Bill will discontinue the revenue related dependency of Municipal Corporation on Central Government and Delhi Government. The Municipal Corporation is likely to receive Rs. 12,000 crores as revenue and to spend around Rs. 10,000 crores. Because, the unification of MCDs will lead to setting up of a single Headquarters for Municipal Corporation which will further help reduce the additional strength of officers and employees from all departments and thus relieving the additional financial burden.

Unification of MCDs will also lead to saving of revenue spent in heads of salaries and allowances of different heads of the departments. Presently, the three MCDs are headed by their own commissioners independently. MCDs have 36 departments comprising of 108 heads of the departments. Every year, crores of rupees are spent on salaries and other facilities of the three Mayors and their long list of staffs.

Unification of MCDs will result in positioning of only one Commissioner, one Mayor and just a few of their staffs. In addition to that there will be only 36 heads for 36 departments. Thus, it will save around Rs. 200 crores spent on their salaries and allowances every year.

The long pending problem related to the salaries of the employees will also be almost solved. Apart from that around two crores people of Delhi will be benefitted by some welfare schemes. In addition to that irregular and inadequate citizen's services and healthcare services will also get improved.

Sir, the Central Government is going to provide Delhi with a better Municipal Corporation. Unification will not only provide a strong Municipal Corporation to the National Capital and curtail the extravaganzas but also facilitate easy access to civic amenities to the citizens.

I support this Bill.

Thanks a lot.

[English]

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. This is the second time we

are re-drawing the maps in the last three years in my tenure. The first time was when the State of Jammu and Kashmir was trifurcated into three different Union Territories. Now, three municipalities are being unified and brought under one municipality. ... (*Interruptions*).

Coming to the reasons quoted for this Bill, the number one reason given was that the trifurcation of erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi was very unscientifically done. Prosperous South Delhi Municipal Corporation with minimum population has greater resources, while East Delhi Municipal Corporation with sparse resources has maximum population. That was one of the reasons that was given. Even the hon. Minister has mentioned that. The second reason that they have mentioned is that this Bill will remove bottlenecks in the delivery of public services and welfare. The third reason that they have given is that issues like pending salaries, civic projects stuck in the financial limbo will be completed. These are the reasons that the hon. Minister has given and these are the reasons mentioned in the Bill as well. But when we go through all these things, I can only draw parallels with what happened to Andhra Pradesh when I read the words 'unscientific bifurcation' and all those things because in 2014, the State of Andhra Pradesh has been unscientifically bifurcated. Hyderabad, which has the higher revenues and was a capital city, has gone to a new State that has been formed. It has never happened, but for Hyderabad it has happened. We, in Andhra Pradesh were left with no capital at the same time. Promises were made to Andhra Pradesh in the AP Reorganization Act as well, but those have not been fulfilled as of now. The issues like revenue deficit and national projects like Polavaram are moving at a snail's pace. So, if the Union Government believes that a wrong has been committed on Delhi, and this Bill will correct all of that, why does the same logic not apply for the State of Andhra Pradesh as well? The State of Andhra

Pradesh was bifurcated in 2014 itself and large promises were made. Of course, I have to mention this because these are the parallels I can draw by reading from this Bill.

Coming to the Bill, we want to make some suggestions as well as we need some clarifications on this. The first suggestion is this. Division of power at three tiers of Government is not only an important exercise in transparency, but it is necessary to prevent the concentration of power at the top and bring democracy down to the grassroots. Our forefathers have mentioned about it many a time how we should strengthen the democracy at the grassroots level. So, I suggest the Union Government to introspect if this Bill is achieving that and upholding the federal structure of the country. My second suggestion is this. With this Bill, the Union Government wants to discharge functions such as the division of the area of corporation into zones and wards, delimitation of wards, matters such as salaries and allowances etc. These powers are with the State Government till now. My esteemed colleagues have also mentioned about this earlier. I am sure this move was made by the Union Government after a lot of serious consultations.

If they could disclose the reason behind it, then it would be helpful for the people to understand the lead-up to such a drastic step. Otherwise, my friends from Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and other cities are really worried because next they may think about implementing this in other municipal corporations as well. So, if you can give the reasons behind it, then it will be very helpful and they will be at ease. ... (*Interruptions*)

As regards clarifications being sought from my side, land holding urban bodies such as the Delhi Development Authority, the New Delhi Municipal Council, and the Delhi Cantonment are already under the Central Government, and

this amendment might bring a parallel body in Delhi further complicating and creating a lot of confusion. I would request the Government to clarify on this issue.

Secondly, this Bill adds a new position regarding Special Officer, which has been mentioned by Dr. Kalanidhi as well. This Special Officer will exercise power of the Corporation until first meeting of the Corporation is held after commencement of this Bill. The clarity that we need here is this. Will the Special Officer be appointed in consultation with the State Government or not? If he is appointed, what will be his tenure? So, I would request the Government to give clarifications on these two issues.

I keep repeating myself that the BJP has the best mechanism to get unfiltered feedback from the ground. The results of elections held during the last 7-8 years show that you have one of the best mechanisms, but they have also faltered in some of the decisions that have been made.

For example, when we rush ahead with some decisions without taking opinion from the people like the Farm laws, then sometimes we have to face the brunt of it and you have faced the brunt of it. So, I would humbly request to use this strength wherein you get unfiltered feedback from people. Try to listen to the people and do not make decisions in haste and threaten the sanctity of the federal structure. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon.Chairperson Sir, thank you very much.

Sir, The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 - is an important Bill. This is a Bill to determine the course of policy and politics of this country. Is it politics or social policy? Support is there when it comes to social policy, but when politics comes ahead, what comes in mind? ...*(Interruptions)*they never bring anything without any political agenda. ... *(Interruptions)*. This is their speciality, because now the term of the Metropolitan Municipality is coming to an end and you know that elections are going to be held there.

You also remember the feat he achieved in Punjab recently. You also remember what happened there in the last assembly elections. Maybe because of that fear it might have been brought. First of all, let me talk about what Hon.Home Minister has said. Regarding this Bill that has been brought, it is correct that there is a clause written in the Constitution. Article 239A is a short two line paragraph in Article 239A which states that: *[English]* “You are empowered to override the rules / regulations of the Legislative Assembly”. *[Translation]* You are misusing them.

I am hereby quoting your own objective statement which says:

“... A Corporation charged with the Municipal Government of Delhi was established under the said Act as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. In 2011, the said Act was amended by the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi vide the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2011 leading to trifurcation of the said Corporation into three separate Corporations”.

Who has done it? The Assembly has done it. Who is doing it right now? The Parliament is doing it right now. Who is overriding?

[Translation]

Hon. Chairperson Sir, we have federal structure which is being attached. It's unfortunate. But I also liked when the Home Minister said that the people working in Delhi Corporation are doing step-motherly treatment with us. Its good, atleast you have felt it....*(Interruptions)* The Home Minister has said this, you can see the record.....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI) : The Hon.Minister did not say so.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: If he didn't say so, I will eat my words....
(Interruptions)

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA(WEST DELHI) : The Hon. Minister had said that the Chief Minister of Delhi is doing step-motherly treatment with the MCD.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Please don't mind.... *(Interruptions)* No, it is not the time of Holi, it is a fact. The fibs may work on Holi, but this is the truth. The Hon.Minister said and I liked it too. Its good that it was felt, because we also feel the same step-motherly treatment... *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Arvind Sawant.

... *(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sawant ji, please address the chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: What is going on? ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, have you permitted them to interact? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Sir, many states are also meeting the same step-motherly treatment. Ask our colleagues belonging to Andhra Pradesh who spoke here, what is step-motherly treatment? Ask Maharashtra what is step-motherly treatment? Ask West Bengal what is step-motherly treatment? You can ask all the states, so I will tell the Home Minister that he said a good thing. Yesterday, Supriya ji also said that the Hon. Home Minister speaks the truth. Supriya ji said that he is authentic, you said that it is a '*jumla*' and openly said that yes it is a '*jumla*'. Even today he said that he felt step-motherly treatment and we also feel step-motherly treatment. Before you arrived, I said that it is welcome from social point of view. He was right that the resources are short. We received a proposal in Mumbai to form three corporations of the Metropolitan Municipality. South Mumbai remains in profit, but let us see what is the condition of East Mumbai. This Bill has been introduced. *[English]* We are overriding the powers of Assembly. We should not do it. Why not ask the Assembly? *[Translation]* You took this decision after the election. After the election, you will appoint an

Administrator. He will conduct business. If you want to bring him, then constitute a committee. Opposition and you together should run that. The Federal structure will remain intact. Why did you put a restriction of 250 on it? You know that this was done once in the Parliament as well, that's why they are holding on to the figures. The population is increasing. I request you not to decrease from 272 to 250. *[English]* It should be in proportion to population of that. Why should it be reduced? It has to be according to the corresponding population. Think about the total population; imagine and standardize it. *[Translation]* There will be one representative in the Metropolitan Municipality for 30 or 25 thousand. We have one representative for 50-60 thousand in Mumbai.

The aims and objectives says that it has been done by the assembly. If these are the rights of the Assembly, then why are we overriding them? *[English]* I am saying that your intent is not that bad. *[Translation]* It is written in the clause - *[English]* In the establishment of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in Section 5, in the principal Act, in section 3, in 3(b), sub-section (2), for the word "Government", the words "Central Government" shall be substituted. That means, permanently, you will be empowering that.

[Translation]

This law will give you the right to intervene in the affairs of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi later on. There is a provision in 239(A) also for the 250 number you have given. Regarding the Special Officer, I would like to say that you should be a little careful in what you are doing, because if something happens to the LG, then it seems that step-motherly treatment is being given. You should make such a policy that people feel that its not just a political decision, but it's a social decision taken on the basis of democracy in right manner

[English]

KUMARI CHANDRANI MURMU (KEONJHAR): Sir, I, on behalf of my Party, Biju Janata Dal, welcome the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill. However, we have some points that need to be addressed.

My leader, hon. Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik ji, is always for the autonomy of the urban local bodies. Recently, my leader bravely announced the direct election of Mayor and Chairman of all the corporations and municipalities of the State and the people of Odisha welcomed it. My Party won 90 per cent of the seats in municipalities and 100 per cent of the seats in the corporations in the Urban Body Elections of the State.

As far as the Bill is concerned, we are impartially analysing all sides. I seek to underscore the points that we appreciate and the points that have larger ramifications.

The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill seeks to unify the three municipal corporations into a single integrated and well-equipped entity to ensure a robust mechanism for synergised and strategic planning and optimal utilisation of resources which will bring about greater transparency, improved governance and more efficient delivery of civic services for the people of Delhi. This is a welcoming step taken by the Government.

The Act as was amended in 2011 empowered the Delhi Government to decide various matters under the Act. These included: total number of seats of councillors and number of seats reserved for members of the Scheduled Casts; division of the area of corporations into zones and wards; delimitation of wards; matters such as salary and allowances; and leave of absence of the Commissioner

etc. Similarly, the Act mandated that the Commissioner would exercise his powers regarding building regulations under the general superintendence and directions of Delhi Government. But the Bill instead empowers the Central Government to decide these matters.

The Act provides that the number of seats in the three corporations taken together should not be more than 272. The 14th Schedule to the Act specifies 272 wards across the three corporations. The Bill states that the total number of seats in the new corporation should not be more than 250.

Reducing the number of seats means a new delimitation exercise will have to be conducted which the experts say will take at least three months but it is more likely to take longer which means the MCD Election would be delayed further. The previous delimitation which had taken place before 2017 MCD Election took approximately eighteen months. It is also noteworthy that unlike the previous Bill that clearly specified which year's Census data should be used to carry out the delimitation exercise, the current Bill is silent on the use of specific Census data which gives scope for further postponement of MCD Election if the Government decides to use the 2023 Census data for delimitation. During this period, the MCD will be ruled by a nominated 'special officer' instead of democratically elected representatives.

Sir, the Act provides for a Director of Local Bodies to assist the Delhi Government and discharge certain functions which include: coordination between corporations, framing recruitment rules for various posts etc. But this Bill omits the provision for the Director of Local Bodies. The Bill provides that the Central Government may appoint a 'special officer' to exercise powers of the Corporation

until the first meeting of the Corporation is held after the commencement of the Bill.

17.00 hrs

The bureaucratisation that is happening is a matter of grave concern. All the powers are being assigned to the Central Government which is not viable at all. The Bill adds that obligatory functions of the new Corporation will include establishing an e-governance system for citizens' services on anytime-anywhere basis for a better, accountable, and transparent administration. This is a really good step and we totally appreciate it. Another thing of concern is the replacement of word 'Government' with 'Central Government' in all places in the Bill.

The Bill hence seeks to curtail the powers of the elected government of Delhi by introducing central hegemony. Some of the operational areas which the Bill proposes to keep out of the purview of the Delhi Government include funds, demarcation of municipal zones, consultations in case of a delimitation exercise for municipal wards, providing recommendations and approval for building byelaws, and the power to hold councillors, officers and municipal employees accountable for loss, waste or misapplication of money or property owned by or vested in the Corporation. This is a direct encroachment on the feature of federalism as enshrined in the Constitution.

According to the recommendations made in the 14th Finance Commission's Report, which was accepted by the Union Government in February 2015, the Centre is supposed to give a grant of Rs.2.87 lakh crore to State Governments every year of which Rs.87,141 crore are meant for municipalities. But Delhi, being a Union Territory, does not get this fund. Funds for these Corporations are, therefore, released by the Delhi Government under the Basic Tax Assignment to

pay for salaries. It is the Delhi Government which decides what proportion of the BTA will be assigned to the Corporations as per the current law.

By removing the Delhi Government from a position of power for any sort of intervention in the affairs of the civic bodies, the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 proposes to make the unified municipal agency dependent solely on Central Government for funds. The Central and the State Governments should not try to encroach upon the powers of the Municipal Corporation because the day to day needs of the people shall only be fulfilled by the elected bodies of the Corporation. With this, I would conclude, Sir.

Thank you.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (Amendment) Bill.

Sir, while introducing the Bill, as the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has said that Delhi is the capital of the country, and foreign dignitaries and Heads of States visit here, so the Central Government should have control over Delhi and it is having control over it also. Delhi holds a very unique position. All the Central Government offices are here, foreign dignitaries and Heads of States visit here. New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), where all the foreign Missions are situated comes under the Central Government through the direct control of a bureaucrat. On the same lines, when we drive out of the airport, we enter Delhi Cantonment area. This area neither comes under the control of Municipal Corporation nor under the NDMC area. Nevertheless, we do not have any problem if you want to unify this trifurcation. The trifurcation of Municipal Corporation of

Delhi was done by the Assembly of Delhi in the year 2011. We believe that the rights of the States and the powers which have been given to the State Legislatures in the federal structure are constantly being attacked by the incumbent Central Government.

Just before me, Shiv Sena leader Hon. Arvind Sawant said that in the Bill, the number of wards have been reduced from 272 to 250. He said that the numbering should have not been given. Hon. Arvind Sawant, numbering has been given exactly for this purpose. If there were 272, what was the need for delimitation? You do not want to have the election of Municipal Corporation in Delhi. For example, when the State of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated, trifurcated, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs said in this House that we will soon hold elections for the Legislative Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir. But on the pretext of delimitation, the formation of the Legislature of Jammu and Kashmir is being delayed continuously. You have a Government in Delhi. The Bharatiya Janata Party does not want to hold elections to the Municipal Corporation. The truth is that influence of Punjab is being seen in Delhi also....*(Interruptions)* If so, why are you afraid? You have won four States, then why are you scared?

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the State Election Commission plans to hold a press conference at 4 o'clock to announce the election dates of Delhi Municipal Corporation and a few hours before, the Central Government orders not to announce the dates, because the Central Government has changed its mind. It is clear from this that...*(Interruptions)* See, sir, if you disturb me, then when I will stand up to disturb you, you will have troubles. I am telling you. Hon. Chairperson Sir, I want to ask you, why are you running away from the elections? You had all

the information. The financial crunch and crisis of Delhi Municipal Corporation that you are talking about, you know about it beforehand.

For the last seven years, you have been in power in the Central Government. When the MCD term was over and on that day, the date of election was to be announced, you had a dream that it had to be unified. You could have done this process earlier. Then why are you taking away this authority from the Delhi Government? When the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs answers, should he tell whether he held any discussion with the Delhi Government before this unification? Whether your representative, the Lieutenant Governor, held any discussions with the elected Delhi Government? Whether the appointment of the Special Officer, which is mentioned in this Bill, will be appointed by the Delhi Government in consultation with the representative of the Government elected by the people of Delhi or not? Along with this, I would also like to have some clarification....
*(Interruptions)*Hon. Chairperson Sir, give me one or two more minutes, because the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. I'll conclude my speech in two minutes. You know....*(Interruptions)*Yes, I would like to bring a few things to his notice. The way in which you were running the Municipal Corporation Delhi, nowadays one more thing has happened that the Government and its party have started deciding who will eat what, who will wear what? They are deciding on which day you will eat what? What do you have to eat on Tuesday, what do you have to eat on Monday, what do you have to eat on Wednesday? The South Delhi Municipal Corporation has put out a notice that the small street vendors and the small shopkeepers, who earn their livelihood, have been banned from selling non-vegetarian food here. What is this?

Hon. Chairperson Sir, you know, you are seeing what is going on in Karnataka these days. It is happening there every day that if someone is running a shop, people of a particular religion are being banned from setting up their shop on a premise. Particular communities are warned not to buy goods from particular shops. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am just concluding my speech. This is very dangerous for the country. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, I would like your intervention on this subject because if we do this here, its effects will be far reaching. Be strict on the State Governments which are dictating who will buy from whom, who will sell to whom particularly the Bharatiya Janata Party Government in Karnataka. You should issue the directions that such discrimination will not happen. Because it spoils the image of our country in the international arena that discrimination is happening in India on the basis of religion. That is why, through you, I would like clarification from the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs on this matter. Thank you very much.

کنور دانش علی (امروہ): محترم اسپیکر صاحب، آپ نے مجھے دہلی نگر نگم (امینڈمینٹ) پل پر بولنے کا موقع دیا اس کے لئے آپ کا بہت بہت شکریہ۔

جناب، جیسا کہ وزیر داخلہ جی نے پل کو پیش کرتے وقت کہا کہ دہلی ملک کی راجدھانی ہے، یہاں پر بین الاقوامی مہمان آتے ہیں، دوسرے ممالک کے ہیڈ آف اسٹیٹس آتے ہیں، اس لئے مرکزی سرکار کا کنٹرول دہلی پر ہونا چاہیے اور ہے۔ دہلی کی ایک بہت بڑی یونک حالت ہے کہ یہاں پر جہاں ہم بیٹھے ہیں، جہاں پر مرکزی سرکار کے سارے دفتر ہیں، جہاں پر بین الاقوامی مہمان آتے ہیں، راشٹر ادھیکش وغیرہ آتے ہیں، جہاں پر غیر ملکی مشنر ہیں، وہ ایریا نئی دہلی نگر پالیکا پریشد ہے، جس کا ڈائریکٹ کنٹرول ایک بیوروکریٹ کے ہاتھ میں ہوتا ہے، مرکزی سرکار کے ہاتھ میں ہوتا ہے۔ سیم چیز جب انر پورٹ سے نکل کر آئیں گے تو دہلی چھاؤنی ہے۔ وہاں پر میونسپل کارپوریشن کا کوئی دخل نہیں ہے، نہ نئی دہلی نگر پالیکا پریشد کا دخل ہے۔ اس سے باوجود ہمیں اس سے کوئی

اعتراض نہیں ہے کہ آپ اس ٹرانزفرکیشن کو یونیفیکیشن میں تبدیل کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ سال 2011 میں جب دہلی نگر نگر کا ٹرانزفرکیشن ہوا، تو وہ دہلی کی اسمبلی نے کیا۔ ہمارا یہ ماننا ہے کہ جو ریاستوں کے حقوق ہیں، فیڈرل اسٹرکچر میں اسٹیٹ اسمبلیز کو جو اختیارات دئے گئے ہیں، ان پر لگاتار حملہ موجودہ مرکزی سرکار کرتی رہتی ہے۔ ابھی مجھ سے پہلے شو سینا کے نیتا محترم ارونڈ ساونت جی بول رہے تھے کہ ہل میں 272 وارڈس سے گھٹا کر 250 وارڈس رکھے گئے ہیں۔ اس کی نمبرنگ نہیں ہونی چاہیے تھی۔ ارونڈ جی آپ شاید بھول گئے ہیں کہ نمبرنگ دی ہی اس لئے ہے۔ اگر 272 وارڈس ہی ہوتے تو پھر ڈیلیمٹیشن کرنے کی ضرورت ہی کیا تھی؟ آپ کو دہلی میں میونسپل کارپوریشن کا چناؤ نہیں کرانا ہے۔ جیسے جب جموں کشمیر ریاست کا بانفرکیشن کیا، ٹرانزفرکیشن کیا، تو اسی ایوان میں محترم وزیر داخلہ نے وعدہ کیا تھا کہ ہم بہت جلد جموں کشمیر کی اسمبلی کا چناؤ کرائیں گے۔ لیکن ڈیلیمٹیشن کا بہانہ لیکر لگاتار جموں کشمیر کی اسمبلی کے گٹھن کو روکا جا رہا ہے۔ دہلی میں آپ (AAP) کی سرکار ہے، بھارتیہ جنتا پارٹی میونسپل کارپوریشن کا چناؤ نہیں کرانا چاہتی ہے اور یہ سچائی ہے کہ دہلی میں پنجاب کا کچھ اثر دیکھنے کو مل رہا ہے (مداخلت) اگر ہے تو پھر ڈرے کیوں؟ آپ چار ریاست جیت کر آئے ہیں تو پھر آپ ڈرے کیوں؟

محترم چیرمین صاحب، اسٹیٹ الیکشن کمیشن دہلی میونسپل کارپوریشن کے الیکشن کی ڈیٹ کی اناونسمینٹ کے لئے چار بجے پریس کانفرنس رکھتا ہے اور چند گھنٹے پہلے مرکزی سرکار سے فرمان آتا ہے کہ نہیں نہیں، آپ کو یہ تاریخ اناونس نہیں کرنی ہے، کیونکہ مرکزی سرکار کا دل بدل گیا ہے۔ اس سے صاف ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ (مداخلت)۔ دیکھئے، صاحب، آپ مجھے ڈسٹرب کریں گے تو جب میں ڈسٹرب کرنے کھڑا ہوں گا تو آپ کو دقت ہوگی۔ میں آپ کو بتا رہا ہوں۔ محترم چیرمین صاحب، میں آپ سے یہی کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آپ چناؤ سے کیوں بھاگ رہے ہیں؟ آپ کے پاس ساری چیزیں تھیں، دہلی میونسپل کارپوریشن کے جس فائننشل کرنج اور کرائسیس کی بات آج آپ کر رہے ہیں، یہ تو آپ کو معلوم ہے۔ پچھلے 7 سال سے آپ مرکزی سرکار میں بیٹھے ہیں۔ جب اس کا ٹرم پورا ہو گیا تھا، جس دن چناؤ کی تاریخ کا اعلان ہونا تھا، اس دن آپ کا خواب آیا کہ صاحب اس کا یونیفیکیشن کرنا ہے۔ آپ اس پر کریا کو پہلے کر سکتے تھے۔ پھر آپ دہلی سرکار سے یہ اختیارات کیوں چھین رہے ہیں؟ میں چاہوں گا کہ جب محترم وزیر داخلہ جی جواب دیں گے تو یہاں پر وہ بتائیں گے کہ کیا آپ نے اس یونیفیکیشن کے پہلے دہلی سرکار سے کوئی چرچا کی؟ کیا آپ کے پرتیندھی جو لیفٹیننٹ گورنر ہوتے ہیں، انہوں نے چنی ہوئی دہلی سرکار سے کوئی چرچا کی؟ کیا جس اسپیشل

افسر کو اپونٹ کرنے کی بات اس ہل کے اندر ہے، کیا وہ اسپیشل افسر دہلی کی عوام کے ذریعہ چنی ہوئی سرکار کے پرتیندھی کے ساتھ ان کنسلٹیشن و دہلی گورنمنٹ اس کو اپونٹ کریں گے یا نہیں؟ میں اس کے ساتھ ساتھ کچھ کلیرفیکیشن بھی چاہتا ہوں (مداخلت)۔

محترم چیرمین صاحب، مجھے آپ ایک دو منٹ اور دیں۔ کیوں کہ محترم وزیر داخلہ جی یہاں بیٹھے ہیں۔ میں دو منٹ میں اپنی بات پوری کروں گا۔ آپ جانتے ہیں (مداخلت)۔ ہاں میں ان کی جانکاری میں کچھ باتیں لانا چاہتا ہوں۔ جس طریقے سے دہلی کے اندر میونسپل کارپوریشن کو آپ چلا رہے تھے، آج کل ایک چیز اور ہو گئی ہے یہ کہ یہ سرکار اور ان کی پارٹی یہ طے کرنے میں لگ گئی ہے کہ کون کیا کھائے گا کون کیا پہنے گا؟ آپ کو کس دن کیا کھانا ہے؟ آپ کو منگوار میں کیا کھانا ہے، آپ کو سوموار کو کیا کھانا ہے، آپ کو بدھوار کو کیا کھانا ہے؟ ساؤتھ دہلی کارپوریشن نے باقائدہ یہ نوٹس نکالا ہے کہ جو اسمال اینڈرس ہیں، جو ربڑی لگانے والے ہیں، جو چھوٹے دوکاندار ہیں، جو اپنی روزی روٹی چلاتے ہیں، ان پر پابندی لگائی ہے کہ آپ یہاں نون ویج نہیں بیچ سکتے ہیں، آپ یہاں مچھلی نہیں بیچ سکتے ہیں۔ یہ کیا طریقہ ہے؟

محترم چیرمین صاحب، آپ جانتے ہیں، آپ دیکھ رہے ہیں کہ آج کل کرناٹک کے اندر کیا چل رہا ہے، وہاں پر بھی روز یہی ہو رہا ہے کہ آج کوئی دوکان چلا رہا ہے ایک پارٹیکولر ریلیجن کے لوگوں پر پابندیاں لگائی جا رہی ہیں کہ آپ اس پریمیسس کے اندر اپنی دوکان نہیں چلائیں گے، آپ سامان نہیں خریدیں گے۔ (مداخلت)۔

چیرمین صاحب، میں بس اپنی بات ختم کر رہا ہوں۔ سر یہ ملک کے لئے بہت خطرناک ہے۔ محترم وزیر داخلہ صاحب، میں اس پر آپ کا انٹروینشن چاہوں گا کیونکہ اگر ہم یہاں یہ کرتے ہیں تو اس کا اثر بہت دور گامی ہوگا۔ کون کس سے خریدے گا، کون کس کو بیچے گا، اس پر آپ سختی کیجیئے۔ جن ریاستی سرکاروں میں جہاں پر ایسا ہو رہا ہے اور خاص طور سے آپ کی بھارتیہ جنٹا پارٹی کی سرکار کرناٹک میں ہے۔ آپ یہاں سے ڈائریکشن بھیجنے کہ ایسا ڈسکریمینیشن نہیں ہونا چاہیئے کیونکہ اس سے ہمارے ملک کی بین الاقوامی امیج خراب ہوتی ہے کہ ہمارے ملک میں مذہب کی بنیاد پر ایسا ہو رہا ہے۔ اس لئے میں آپ کے ذریعہ سے محترم وزیر داخلہ صاحب سے اس کا کلیرفیکیشن چاہوں گا، بہت بہت شکریہ۔

(ختم شد)

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, Delhi belongs to the people with big hearts, but it is a matter of regret that in the discussion on this Bill, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and a senior Member of Parliament put their views points, but they did not discuss about the problems of citizen of Delhi and Delhi city. Today, Delhi is facing various types of problems. In a few months, the summer season will approach and there will be scarcity of drinking water for the people. Water tankers will operate, tanker mafia will run, power cuts will happen, children will not be able to study; such problems will be faced by the people in Delhi. There is also the problem of garbage. The garbage mountain in East Delhi is probably going to be higher than Qutub Minar at one point of time. Nobody talks about sanitation. We have been given the slogan of Swachh Bharat, but there are not as many toilets in Delhi, as there should be for women under Swachh Bharat Programme as of today. Even today, many complaints are being received about MCD. Complaints are being received about unauthorized construction, solid waste management, different kinds of stray animals and sewage, drainage, toilets and issuance of various types of licenses. Delhi's MCD employees have no option left other than strike and gherao. Every year and every month one or the other MCD employees are sitting on dharna or gherao for their demands, be it doctors, teachers or drivers. Those who say that this is only due to the failure of the State government, it is not correct. Today, doctors and employees demand the same things from the Central Government also as they demand from the State Government. We all have seen the plight of the hospitals in Delhi when the second wave came at the time of Corona. You would have spoken something about that also. There was no oxygen in MCD hospitals. The capital of the country, Delhi, completely collapsed during the time of COVID. Ambulances were there, but the ambulances were not reaching the patients on time. Today, it should have been

explained how the health system of Delhi will change through this unification. Even today, they are not able to solve the problems like salaries and other problems of the doctors and nurses, who have been given the status of corona warriors by the Central Government. Even today, the Government could not have succeeded in addressing the salary related problems of Doctors and Nurses who during pandemic were hailed by conferring the title of COVID warriors.

They do not seem to be interested in addressing the said issues, rather they seem to be interested only in political tussle and political-upmanship. The common citizens of Delhi are suffering being caught in the political strife between the Government of Delhi and the Central Government. This strife further leads to poor sanitary condition of the National Capital and prevalence of unaddressed civic problems like – power cuts during summers, water logging during monsoon and air pollution during winters. There is not a month during which the beauty of Delhi could be rejoiced. Moreover, the Domestic Breeding Checkers and many other Employees Associations have their own grievances which have not been addressed yet.

Sir, I was listening to his speech. He told that in 2011, the Congress Party wanted the MCD to be divided. Since, the Hon. Home Minister has all the relevant facts and figures, I would humbly like to ask whether the Hon. V.K. Malhotra Ji in his Committee report recommended for the division of Delhi into five parts in 2001 or not? Whether one of your leaders in 2006 who was the then opposition leader and now the Governor of Assam had suggested for pentafurcation of MCD or not? You should look back in history. I would not like to name everyone but the leaders from your party themselves had suggested for the division of MCD of Delhi, particularly of the Eastern Delhi as this region contains narrow streets and villages which need proper administrative support for their development. Moreover, the

demand of the Eastern Delhi do not match with those of the Southern Delhi. Therefore, you should go through the speeches of the stalwart leaders of your own party. You will find that they were demanding a separate Municipal Corporation for Eastern Delhi. You are now making a U-turn on your own history.

You talk about unification, but this unification is also not complete in itself, as the Cantonment Boards and the New Delhi Municipal Council are still separate identities. This is the unification of North, East and South Delhi, but still there are three independent bodies in Delhi. Even after this unification, Cantonment Boards and the New Delhi Municipal Council will remain a separate body. The developmental problem of Delhi which is due to the existence of multiple agencies will still remain intact and unaddressed.

You talked about the Budget. You said that when Congress Party had divided the MCD, it could not speculate as to what is the budget requirement of East Delhi and that of North Delhi. Then, I would like to ask whether you have assessed the present financial condition of the three bodies? Be it South Delhi, East Delhi or North Delhi, all the three corporations are facing budget deficits.

The deficit of South Delhi has touched the figure of Rs. 1000 crores from the level of the year 2019-2020. East Delhi has the deficit of around 500 crore rupees, whereas, the deficit figure for North Delhi is 319 crore in the year 2020-21. You would argue only with this logic that if all the three MCDs are unified, then the surplus revenue generated by the MCD of South Delhi would help subsidise the deficit of East Delhi and North Delhi. But this logic does not hold water. Even today, they are in the deficit phase and even after unification, they will ask for assistance packages from the Central Government. Will the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs assure us that unification of the MCDs would empower the MCD so much so that it would not need any special package from the Central

Government? Will the previous practice of providing special packages to the MCDs by the Central Government and the State Governments discontinue hereafter? This will not discontinue. Therefore, the intentions you are showing and the arguments of improvement in financial planning for MCDs you are making, will not lead to the betterment of their financial condition. They are still in deficit. You should understand why they are in deficit.

The Member who spoke before you outsourced the entire responsibility to the State Government. But who is running the MCDs? You should be aware that the ruling party itself is running these Municipal Corporations not just for the past one, two or five years, but for 15 years. Why do not you introduce reforms in your tax collection system? Why are the incidences of corruption in MCDs so rampant?

Sir, it is the need of the hour for those who always cry out for cooperative federalism, to follow the cooperative federalism in letter and spirit. But this is not reflected from their action. Everyone has spoken about its timing. I also would like to put it on record that only two months are left for the upcoming MCD elections. If they thought that the unification was so necessary, they could have done this task last year or would bring this proposal two months after the coming election irrespective of its result, but why have they brought this proposal now? They have entrapped this election in the name of delimitation in order to postpone it. But who will bear the brunt of this? It is the people of Delhi only. The people of Shahdara will suffer. The people of Najafgarh will bear the brunt. Should they run after the Special Officer or the Minister of Home Affairs, when they face water crisis? Does the Ministry of Home Affairs have any idea that where the streets in East Zone are located or, where the water can be supplied through trucks? Will you take care of that?

Sir, there are 272 Corporators. They even today do not perform their duties properly. Because they have to cater to the demands of 35 IAS Officers. When 272 officers are not enough to handle the problems and responsibilities that they have, how will 250 officers be sufficient enough? I have never heard of this logic. You should increase the number of Corporators keeping in mind the large population, but you are not able to envision that. Therefore, we want a detailed discussion on this issue to be raised here. Our Senior Member of Parliament Shri Manish Tewari Ji mentioned about the Article 239AA.

Sir, there should be a discussion on Transaction of Business Rules also that how the original expression of the Article 239 AA of the Constitution is being diluted by the Transaction of Business Rules.

Sir, today you saw that they had removed the provision of the Director of Local Bodies from the Bill. Why did the need for the same arise? The Director of Local Bodies are entrusted with the responsibilities of maintaining coordination amongst these three bodies. But they are going to remove this provision also.
(Interruptions)

Sir, it is true that after unification, there will be only one MCD, but as I stated earlier that the demands of East MCD are not similar to those of West MCD. With all due respect, I do not think that even with the proposed structure of the MCD, all the problems would be addressed properly. With all due respect, kindly explain in your response that how the problems of water scarcity, poor sanitation and financial deficit would be addressed through your new design and resolution. I will be eager to hear from you about this issue.

Sir, the second point is that we also have governed the State earlier. When our party was ruling in Delhi, that time the Governing body of M.C.D also

belonged to the ruling party. Despite that the Hon. Minister put across his points in the House and we too want to work beyond the party-politics in the interest of the common people. The Congress Government also provided the financial package to MCDs in 2010. Irrespective of the then ruling dispensation of MCD, the Delhi Government always extended support when required by MCDs and ensured fulfillment of their obligations by sharing their responsibilities also. This is the way to govern and this is how an administration runs. Neither you can run a Municipal Corporation alone nor the State Government and not even the Central Government or Ministry of Home Affairs can run Delhi alone.

Sir, I will not take much of your time. But, various kinds of committees are present here. In 1989, there was Balakrishnan Committee which talked about partition. In 2001, Virendra Prakash Committee talked about partition. But, it is not about partition and to unite but about governance, employees of Delhi and the development of the citizens of Delhi. We will welcome it if you can work with this model. If this is just to win the election and for political rivalry, the development of the citizens of Delhi will not happen. We may or may not have a government in Delhi, but there should not be any injustice to the people of Delhi. The people of Delhi are fed up. The people are fed up with the political rivalries of both Governments. I think that financial problems will remain the main problem after the passing of this Bill today.

Even after the Bill, the Central Government should bring a special package or financial package in the future. Delhi should also be given around Rs. 438 per person just like they give to other States. *[English]* Even though Delhi is a Union Territory, Delhi is the National Capital. Do not treat Delhi like an ordinary Union Territory, do not treat this city on par with other UTs. Delhi is the National Capital.

Therefore, show some flexibility, give some part of your resources per person as you do in the case of municipalities of other States. Again, the Central allocation should be revised every five years to adjust inflation.

With these words, thank you very much for giving me this time and allowing me to raise these important questions.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA (WEST DELHI): Thank you Sir. Today, I rise to support The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022. I feel very happy that the Members of Parliament from other States of the country are concerned about Delhi because we spent 200 days out of 365 days in Delhi. I have said this many times before because we spent most of our time in Delhi. We come here to attend committee meetings even when the Parliament is not in session. So, everyone should at least give one crore rupees from their MP funds to Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Everyone should be concerned about Delhi.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, today we are discussing how to strengthen the Delhi Municipal Corporation. We are not telling you to strengthen any party. This Bill does not strengthen any party. This Bill strengthens the Delhi Municipal Corporation. Now, the election are around the corner. The people in Delhi will decide to whom they will give vote in the elections. BJP and other parties can also win the elections in Delhi. The people in Delhi will decide that. If the MCD is strong, it will be beneficial to whoever wins the election. This will be decided by the people of Delhi. We are not strengthening any party here but we are strengthening the MCD. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs will answer all the questions raised by the MPs who spoke before me. Now Manish Tewari and Gaurav ji were speaking. Everyone was asking questions as well as answering

them by themselves. Manish Tewari ji was asking why this Bill was brought by the Centre when it should have been brought by the Government of Delhi because this Bill was brought by the Government of Delhi in 2011. Then he also answered the question himself saying that there is a provision in C of Section 239 AA that the Government of India can make an amendment in the Bill in an emergency situation. How did this emergency happen? I am explaining that to you. Now the Minister of Home Affairs was saying that the Delhi Government was treating MCD like a stepmother and that brought us towards this Bill otherwise why did not we amend this in 2017? In 2017, our Government was in power. The same Government is in power in Delhi today which was in 2017. If we wanted to strengthen our party, we could have done it in 2017. Why are we doing it today? We hope that the Government of Delhi may improve. The outstanding amount of MCD should have been given. As the Minister of Home Affairs has said, I would like to say that Delhi is the capital and the whole country and the world look at Delhi.

Now, the cleaning work and the work to beautify Delhi are entrusted with the MCD. If the MCD is not financially strong, how will Delhi become beautiful? How can we keep Delhi clean? Delhi, the capital of India is the second most densely populated capital in the world after Tokyo. MCD does not work only in the urban areas of Delhi. The local body in the capital only works inside the city but the MCD of Delhi is managing both the urban and the rural areas.

The Hon. Prime Minister has regularised the unauthorized colonies of Delhi and the MCD is taking care of those colonies too. The MCD of Delhi is maintaining J.J. Cluster and Slum. Now, Gaurav ji was asking why this was not done a year ago. When did you do it? You did it two or three months before the

MCD election in 2012. When did you do it? Did you do it a year ago? You did it in December, 2011 and the election was held in February, 2012. If you had done so good for Delhi, how did BJP win the MCD elections in 2012? The then Chief Minister had said that he is going to do a big reform. How would the BJP win if you have done the reform? Even the people in Delhi did not want the trifurcation and Bharatiya Janata Party is also against it. He had another question. He said by taking our leader's name that the Malhotra Committee recommended it. It was not only the Malhotra Committee but there were five committees and all the committees supported trifurcation. None of the committees recommended unification.

But what did those committees say? They did not ask to do the trifurcation. The Malhotra Committee also said that 15 percent of the sales tax of Delhi should go to the MCD after the trifurcation. Whether it was given? No. You are referring to one recommendation given by the committees.

I will tell you all the facts. As the Minister of Home Affairs has said, I will tell you the merits of why we are going to do the trifurcation. How will this benefit Delhi? There is no politics behind this. We are unifying this today as the system existed before. If this system was running smoothly or badly, Gaurav ji we are improving the system. No one should object to this. There is no MP from the Aam Aadmi Party here. Nowadays, liquor is being sold extensively in Delhi. It was also popularized inside the Parliament. Today, he has become the Chief Minister of Punjab. There is no MP.

But, when Mahua Moitra ji was speaking yesterday, I felt that the people from the Aam Aadmi Party must have contacted her. Nowadays, both the Chief Ministers are very close. He must have contacted the CMC party that we do not

have an MP, so, please say these points. She was speaking like that. You do not have to stand in Delhi's election or you do not have any seat here. You will say that if one is an MP, why can't you raise this issue? But you should work for the interest of Delhi not your own. Delhi, where you stay for 200 days or you may have one private house. Consider the interest of Delhi.

I know that all of us own a private house in Delhi. Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Central Government is introducing this bill as it has been fully authorized by the Constitution to initiate any statutory measures in the interest of MCDs. I would like to explain the reason and the background of introducing this Bill. What measures were supposed to be taken by the Delhi Government when three new Corporations were formed after the division? Whenever any newly formed Government organisation starts its maiden operation, it is extended financial support by the Government to ensure its smooth functioning. But when the three Corporations were formed, they had the Budget deficit amounting to Rs. 1,831 crore. The Government of Delhi ought to have provided them funds and grant-in-aids, but it abdicated its responsibility by just extending the financial help of Rs. 1,831 crore for their functioning. The fourth Finance Commission constituted in 2012-2013 recommended in its report that Rs. 11,323 crore should be given by the Delhi Government to the MCDs which was not given. The fifth Finance Commission was constituted on the recommendation of the then Chief Minister of Delhi. They were crying out over and over again for the 74th Constitutional Amendment that the amendment envisaged for the equal rights to all the local bodies in the country. Moreover, the Legislative Assembly has been entrusted with the responsibilities for the care and maintenance of the local bodies. It is the responsibility of the State Government to look after all the local bodies. Merely trifurcation of the MCDs will not exempt the State Government from its

responsibilities; rather it will also have to extend them financial support. The Finance Commission has recommended for the grant of Rs. 40,561 crore to the MCDs. But the Delhi Government is releasing hardly Rs. 17,000 crore, that means that the Delhi Government owes Rs. 23,000 crore to the MCDs. How will the MCDs run in such a condition. Gaurav Ji was saying that the initial loan of Rs. 1,831 crore has now compounded to Rs. 6,000 crore. This was pretty sure to happen as all the three MCDs altogether earn merely Rs. 6900 crore against their expenditure of Rs.8,200 crore. Since the loss of Rs. 2000 crore and interest thereupon are getting accumulated every year, hence, the MCDs are burdened with the debt of Rs. 10,000 crore. Had the Delhi Government given Rs. 40,000 crore to MCDs, it would not have been required to introduce this Bill and MCDs would function smoothly. Although, MCDs are doing good, but it would function better if it had been extended financial support.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, three MCDs namely, South, North and East Corporations were formed after its division. We all are aware about the South Delhi and the places like – Greater Kailsh, Vasant Vihar, Vasant Kunj etc which are among the posh areas of Delhi. However, the North Delhi is known for villages and unauthorised colonies. There are unauthorised colonies in the East Delhi also.

Those unauthorized colonies have now become regularized colonies with the efforts of the Hon. Prime Minister. There are 2 Lakh 88 Thousand taxpayers under East Delhi MCD, 3 Lakh 35 thousand under North delhi MCD and 4 Lakh 75 Thousand under South Delhi MCD. There is a huge difference of more than 2 Lakh taxpayers between South and East Delhi.

Sir, where do the MCDs of Delhi get their taxes from? What are their sources of revenue? The MCDs of Delhi get their revenues mainly from two

sources, first, from Property Tax and second, from advertisements, ...* particularly from the false advertisements and huge hoardings of Delhi's Chief Minister. They get their share of taxes indirectly which are mainly collected by Delhi Government in the form of Professional Tax, Transfer Duty Tax and Parking Tax.

These are the sources of revenue of MCDs. But MCDs can function well only when they are provided with their entitled share of revenue and funds. The MCDs get their share of revenue after deducting commission and service charges by the Delhi Government. The Chief Minister of Delhi thinks that empowering MCDs will harm his party, because, BJP has been winning again and again in MCD elections.

Sir, I would like to mention the various recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission and the recommendations which were not implemented by Delhi Government. The Fifth Finance Commission recommended that the fund for education be granted by the Delhi Government to the MCDs, but the Government did not follow that recommendation. The Commission recommended for waivers of loans given to the MCDs and lowering of interest rates but the Government did not consider those recommendations. The Finance Commission as well as the Committee about which you had earlier mentioned, too recommended for raising the Transfer Duty from three percent to five percent, but the Government turned a deaf ear to this recommendation. They also recommended for the Sanitation cost to be borne by the Delhi Government but the Government did not bear even this cost.

Sir, MCDs provide free education as well as Mid Day Meals to eight lakh poor children. But when the MCDs demanded for the fund for the Mid Day Meals

*Not recorded

Scheme, it did not provide the fund and rather diverted it to some other purposes. I would like to urge all of you to condemn this step of Delhi Government. Where was this fund spent by Delhi Government? I had heard that when the Government in Telangana was formed, a sum of rupees fifty crore was spent by the Chief Minister of the State on his accommodation facilities. You must remember that the Delhi's Chief Minister of Aam Aadmi Party who had once announced that he would renounce the facilities of Vehicles, Bungalow, Security etc, has recently floated the tender of Rs. 21 crore for his official residence by misusing the fund allocated for Mid-Day-Meals Scheme. You should not be surprised to know that a swimming Pool is being constructed in the premises of his residence. I am telling the truth that he did float the tender for the said facilities.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Parvesh Singhji, please avoid personal remarks.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, what is personal in this? I am talking about the Government's spending. ... *(Interruptions)* The Chief Minister of Delhi has not earned that money by farming or by selling wheat. Will he construct a swimming pool in his house with Rs. 21 crore from Delhi's taxpayers money? While on the one hand, he had said that he would take neither a car nor a bungalow, on the other hand, twenty-one crore rupees are being spent on his house. The money spent there belonged to whom? That money belonged to the fund allocated towards Mid-Day Meal Scheme for the poor children. They are diverting that money. Thereafter, all the committees recommended for increasing the property tax, parking tax and professional tax, but the Delhi Government did not increase those taxes. When the MCDs proposed to the Delhi Government for introducing Municipal Bonds, the Delhi Government refused saying that they did not have permission for it. But, liquor vends are opening in Delhi itself because

they have to advertise. They are hungry for advertisements. Over one thousand liquor vends have been opened in Delhi for advertisements, but the MCDs have not been provided fund and not even the fund allocated for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme. They are totally concerned about their advertisements and for that, they are resorting to all means.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Parvesh Singh Ji, how much more time do you need?

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, we need half an hour more.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is also the next Speaker to speak from BJP. So, please try to conclude.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, our party has a lot of time.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your party has plenty of time!

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: After me, only Manoj Ji is going to speak.

This House as well as the entire country will be surprised to know that when the second wave of Covid began in March, 2021, the Chief Minister of Delhi spent Rs. 92 crore on advertisements in that very month at the average spending of Rs. 1.75 crore a day. When doctors and nurses in Delhi were not being paid their salaries and when the Prime Minister was offering oxygen cylinders, he was not receiving it. Our Home Minister was opening hospitals after hospitals and giving ventilators, but what was he doing? He was busy placing his own huge photos and hoardings.

Publishing advertisements in Newspapers by posting his own photos on the ventilators given by the Hon. Prime Minister, he was only doing the job of giving

sermons. Then, the doctors and nurses moved the High Court pleading for their salaries which they were not getting despite working 24x7 and losing their lives to save others. Then the High Court reprimanded the Chief Minister of Delhi to pay their salaries and ultimately, they got their salaries.

Sir, the need to introduce this Bill has been felt today as we have to strengthen the MCD. Why did we introduce this Bill today? Why specially now? The Opposition is saying that we are scared as elections are approaching. But we were not scared in the year 2017. They say that we are scared as they feel that they will be able to win some seats after winning elections in Punjab.

If the elections are held after four months, these few seats will also not be won and their party will get exposed in Punjab in four months. Hence, they are scared and insisting on holding elections today itself. Gaurav ji opined that elections should be held first and then it should be unified. When it is unified, elections will have to be held again. It is not possible to hold the elections first and then unify it.

Sir, we are not afraid. Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi says that we are afraid. He does not trust the people of Delhi? The people of Delhi will vote for the same person today for whom it will vote after four months. They will not change their mind after four months. We are not afraid. We have brought this Bill today and had not introduced it six months before because any elected body has the constitutional right to complete its term. Should the Municipal Councillors who have been elected for five years, be removed from their posts six months prior to completion of their terms? Should they should not be allowed to complete their term of five years? The Councillors of future Government of MCD in Delhi will also complete their term of five years. A special officer will look after the affairs of Delhi during this intervening gap period until delimitation is completed. We have introduced

this Bill to ensure that the Councillors of the present as well as the future MCD complete their terms of five years.

When elections are scheduled in a State governed by the Opposition and the Union Government dissolves the Assembly even a week prior to its term, the entire country and the opposition say that democracy is in danger. Does the MCD not have any democracy? How can we dissolve it six months in advance? The Chief Minister of Delhi is asking as to why MCD was not dissolved and in this House also, one of our colleagues is saying as to why MCD was not dissolved. When the MCD was trifurcated in the year 2011 whether the MCD was consulted by the Government of Delhi? It was not consulted because there was Congress Government in Delhi as well as in Centre, but in MCD, it was BJP Government.

Whether those whom they trifurcated, were asked? They were not consulted. All the powers vested in Government of Delhi are being seized today with the introduction of this Bill. We have asked the MCD and it is ready. We have also asked the political party which is governing the MCD, and it is also ready. When both of the stakeholders are agreeing, there is no role left for the Government of Delhi. Why the Government of Delhi is worrying. Both of us are ready. The MCD is ready; the people of Delhi are ready. The Chief Minister of Delhi says that there is rampant corruption in MCD. I agree that there is rampant corruption. But who is involved in corruption? Can I name an MLA who belongs to their Party in the Legislative Assembly of the Deputy Chief Minister only?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, there is a Municipal Councillor ...* belonging to his party only who was caught red handed by the CBI taking bribe a month back. Who is indulged in corruption?

The master mind of Delhi riots belongs to their party only. Tahir Hussein has confessed being the master mind of Delhi riots. What is his affiliation? He is the Municipal Councillor of the Aam Aadmi Party. I would like to know who is indulged in corruption? Who is inciting the riots? Now, you can imagine the situation if the reigns of Delhi MCD come to be handed over to such people. There will be riots in Delhi, there will be corruption in Delhi. As is the master, so are the councillors. The councillors and the MLAs are also indulged and the Rajya Sabha is being ...* Whoever supported them, are now abandoning them. Big businessmen are replacing them. When their master is like that, why will the councillors not indulge in corruption?

Sir, with folded hands, I would like to say to all the Members of the House that all of you heard about the Hindus living in Kashmir that their mothers, sisters, daughters and wives were raped, they were cut into pieces alive, the youth were shot in the head, so much so that all of them had to abandon their houses and the Chief Minister of Delhi laughs in the Legislative Assembly on their deaths, on their massacre. He laughs and says that its a lie. This movie is a lie. Whether the massacre of Hindus in Kashmir is a lie? Can there be anything more reprehensible for a Chief Minister in the history of independent India? The entire House should condemn it. Sir, have a look at their ...* Please allow me ten minutes more.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please avoid repetition and conclude.

*Not recorded

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Look at their...* They ask why The Kashmir Files should be made tax free. I would read out the tweet made by the Chief Minister of Delhi. “Nil Batte Sannatta is a great movie. You must watch it. We have made it tax free in Delhi.” Apart from that, they made the movie "Saand ki Aankh" tax free. But when it comes to making the Kashmir Files tax free, they are not doing it. They are not doing it, because it affects their vote bank. This will harm their vote bank. So, they are not making it tax free, otherwise this Chief Minister is a person who chooses to watch the first show on the very first day, but he has not watched the Kashmir Files yet.

Sir, the Chief Minister of Delhi has made a very condemnable remark. He ... * has said that Hitler is better than our Hon. Prime Minister. Can anybody praise Hitler in independent India? Does the Prime Minister belong to us only?

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please avoid quoting names. *[Translation]* Please do not quote the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly here.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: OK, Sir. Does the Prime Minister belong to us only? Whether he is not the Prime Minister for the entire country? Can they say that Hitler was better than the Hon. Prime Minister? The Chief Minister of Delhi has made one more comment that the Hon. Prime Minister is falling at the feet of the Director. Everybody knows who is on his knees. The Chief Minister of Delhi first made allegations of corruptions on all the political leaders and filed cases against them. Subsequently, he prostrated and asked for forgiveness in written. It is not in our habit to fall at feet. Falling at feet is the habit of the Chief

*Not recorded

Minister of Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)* Everyone must have heard the Chief Minister of Delhi saying that they constructed a number of schools, hospitals, colleges, and flyovers. The Chief Minister of Delhi claims that he got them all constructed. Yes, I also agree that he may have got them constructed and the Chief Minister of Delhi claims that he has done development works in Delhi at an unparalleled scale. Yes, I also agree and say that such development has never taken place because all those hospitals and colleges etc are not to be seen. They are invisible. You only tell, whether such a technology has been introduced anywhere in the world? Is it likely to be introduced ever? Whoever wants to get treatment in hospital, should just visit Youtube and get himself treated.

The one, who wants admission in college, should go to YouTube and get admission done. The one, who wants admission in sports, put it on YouTube, go to the stadium and get admission done. None but but the Government of Delhi in the world can implement such technology. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am telling the benefits of this Bill. All Hon. Members will agree with me that earlier there was one mayor, one commissioner and 22 departments. After having three MCDs, there are three mayors, three commissioners and 66 departments and the staff also got tripled. The number of vehicles tripled, the number of accommodation for them got tripled, the number of offices tripled and the number of office buildings tripled. Why should the people of Delhi bear all these expenses? It has become our only duty to correct the wrongdoings of the Congress. It has committed so many wrongdoings that our Government has to be correcting these wrongdoings. All these expenses will now be reduced and Rs 200 crores of MCD will be saved every year. We will have equal revenue distribution. There is no need for three MCDs as there are already 12 zones. When there are 12 zones and 12 DCs, then why three MCDs are needed. The need to bring this Bill

arose because when the Government of India decides to implement the Ayushman Yojana in Delhi, the Chief Minister of Delhi doesn't implement it. When the Government of India decides to implement 'HRIDAY', 'Tourism Circle', 'Ujjwala Yojana', 'Jan Aushadhi Yojana' etc. in Delhi through MCD, the Delhi Government doesn't implement it. That's why there is a need to bring this Bill. ... *(Interruptions)*.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, I saw a picture, in which Amitabh Bachchan asks Shashi Kapoor that I have car, bungalow and bank balance and what do you have? Then Shashi Kapoor says that I have mother with me....*(Interruptions)* Sir, give me two minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You asked for five minutes and five minutes are over.

SHRI PRAVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, Amitabh Bachchan asks Shashi Kapoor that 'I have a car, bungalow and bank balance, what do you have?' Then Shashi Kapoor says that 'I have mother with me'. The Chief Minister of Delhi tells the MCDs that "I have built colleges, schools, stadiums and what do you have"? The MCD says that "I have the addresses. I have the address where I have built it. I have the addresses of the two hospitals I have built in Tilak Nagar and Kalka ji. What you have built is invisible, they are only visible on hoardings, Youtube and advertisements, television and they are not in tangible form.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, Gauravji said that the height of Ghazipur landfill is matching that of Qutub Minar. No, it's not Gauravji, MCD has reduced it by 11 metres. You should appreciate it and come with preparation.

Sir, I would like to give some suggestions regarding the Bill to the Hon. Home Minister.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude after suggestions.

SHRI PRAVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, my first suggestion is that in Delhi we have some nominated members, who are called Aldermen. Earlier their number was 10. The Delhi Government increased that number to 30, because they can't win seats, so the Govt. thought they should nominate members. The zone where they do not get majority, they nominate 10-10 aldermen in each zone only. I suggest that Delhi has 12 zones so there should be 12 nominated members – aldermen only and there should be only one in each zone. My second suggestion is that either the LG or the Mayor should have the power to nominate them. My next suggestion is that the report of the Finance Commission should be strictly implemented. The third suggestion is that the councillors, corporators should get at least an allowance equal to the salary of a sweeper. At present, they do not get even a single rupee. A corporator should also get allowance equal to the salary of a sweeper like Rs 15,000 or Rs 20,000 or as much as he/she gets.

My fourth suggestion is that as it used to be in MCD earlier, Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Electricity Board, Fire Department, DUSIB, DTC etc. all were under the authority of MCD, if we are unifying MCD then we should make it as it was earlier. It would be better if authority of all these be given to MCD. Delhi Government should be told that the tax they collect should be given to MCD by the 7 date of every month.

18.00 hours

Sir, I am concluding....*(Interruptions)* Dada is speaking....*(Interruptions)* He is speaking about the mosque....*(Interruptions)* Sir, do you know where the MCD money is being spent? In five years, the Chief Minister of Delhi has given 55 crore rupees for the salary of the Clerics of the mosques. He has not given any money to the Priests of the temples and the Granthis of the gurudwaras....*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now please conclude.

SHRI PRAVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: They are squandering the money of MCD on constructing swimming pools and on salary of Maulvis of mosques. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I support the Bill and want to tell the opposition that this bill is not to strengthen the party but to strengthen the MCD. Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the time is already six o' clock. If the House unanimously agrees, we will extend the time of the House up to seven o' clock, as directed by the hon. Speaker.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time of the House is extended up to seven o' clock.

Now, Shrimati Supriya Sule.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): Sir, I would like to speak on the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill. I appreciate the lines of the hon. Home Minister when he made his speech while moving the Bill for consideration where he said that this would be a very academic discussion. What he said was, let us rise above politics and have a healthy debate. It is very

unfortunate that both the speakers from the Treasury Benches have only spoken politics. That is very unfortunate.

I appreciate the hon. Home Minister because he was, probably, looking for some good discussion and good suggestions whereby we could really and truly make a difference in the city which we all owe a lot to. This city gives us our second home. We come here. Being the Capital of India, it definitely is something that we all need to contribute to.

Shri Parvesh Verma as well as the earlier speaker made very interesting comments. They both kept talking about the glorious works done by their Party and their representatives. So, I stand perplexed and confused whether the MCD has money or not. I will give you an example. *[Translation]* Sir, they said about mid-day meal, they said that they have built very good schools, very good programs. If all these are happening and everything is going well and he said about one more thing. He said they built schools, medical system, houses were allotted and Anganwadi workers were also regularized. If everything is going so well, then what is bad in it. So whatever is the present system let it be. *[English]* So, the MCD is doing a very good job. So, where is the problem? So, if debt is the problem, I want to ask one question. Meenakashi Ji, I am glad you replied to me. In December, 2021, the leader of the three Corporations approached the Union Finance Minister seeking for payment of salaries. The request was denied by the Finance Minister. This is what the quote is about the Government of India. So, how does this thing change?*(Interruptions)* I am happy to yield.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI): The revenue of the Delhi Government

has increased by five times. In the same way, the Municipal Corporation's revenue should have also increased by five times. It has not, and as per the Finance Commission, even that has not been paid.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I totally agree with Meenakashi Ji. Meenakashi Ji, then there is another solution that I can give you on the same ground that you are saying, that is, according to the rules of this land, which we follow, that is, the Constitution of India about which Shri Parvesh Verma also mentioned in his speech. What he said was that these monies deserve to come to us and this unification is going to solve the problem. Well, I am buying the argument. I am sure the intention of the Government is very noble in doing so. I am not doubting their intention. I am doubting the way it is directed. What did he say? It is the timing. ...*(Interruptions)* Meenakashi Ji, sure, I will come to your point. But let me finish Mr. Parvesh's point. What he said first was about the timing of this. He said, "before five years" Now, the decision on unification was taken on the day the Delhi Municipal Corporation's election was going to be announced. That is where the first doubt in my mind came as a normal citizen that if the State Election Commission is announcing the election, what happened five hours before that, that they suddenly felt the need to go for unification?

If they think unification is a solution, and if it is for the betterment, so be it. It is a good suggestion. No harm in trying it. You tried a tripartition. You think it did not work, and now you think you want to unify it. There is nothing wrong in it. Change is inevitable in any administration. So, I have no problem in either way going forward. But the point is about the timing of it. It is not just timing, but he is saying that *[Translation]* We are going to complete five years. *[English]* Very

good. I am happy you wanted to complete it. But if delimitation was a suggestion, why did they not start the process of delimitation before the elections?

[Translation] There is corporation election in Maharashtra, Shri Arvind Sawant Ji knows this. When delimitation is desired, its process is done before the end of the term. *[English]* It is because we do not want to delay it. Why should a *prashasak* come? We, the elected Members are here to run it. Think about it Meenakshi ji. *[Transltaion]* If you do delimitation later, then five years...
...*(Interruptions)*

[English] It is not about it. It is an academic point that I am making. This is not about UPA versus NDA. Some things have to rise above politics, and we need to have some deliberation. Like, you are all doing in Delhi, *[Translation]*, there is also a corporation in Pune and in Pimpri Chinchwad too. *[English]* We made two completely separate bodies.

So, is that a solution you could have thought of, looking at PMCN and PCMC? Now, could that be an option? *[Translation]* Shri Amit Shah Ji also said in the beginning that he wants to reduce the number of corporators. Like in Delhi, similarly in Maharashtra also the population is increasing everywhere. *[English]* Actually, it is the population pressure. It is the same in my constituency. Now it has increased much more. Is it manageable? It is not only for me but it is applicable for every Member of Parliament. *[Translation]* Population is increasing, Parvesh Bhai was asking for one crore rupees and five crore rupees have not received yet. I could have given it being your sister if your Government had given me five crore rupees. *[English]* That is not the point we are arguing here. I was saying that on a lighter note. But on a very serious note, when you do delimitation, is it not increasing the number rather than decreasing? What is the logic of

reducing the corporators? *[Translation]* Because the density of voters will increase and how will a corporator manage all these people? *[English]* It is because the number of citizens is clearly going up in any city. *[Translation]* It is happening in Delhi *[English]* So, what is the theory behind the Government doing this?

Now, coming back to your point, Meenakshi ji. I appreciate what you are saying. My only limited point was that the position has changed. According to the Constitution, in parts 9 and 9 (a), because of the 73rd and 74th amendments, which Shri Parvesh Verma mentioned, the position has changed. The original enactment was that the Central Government could have done it. But when the trifurcation happened – we debated it and you know better than me that it happened in the Delhi Assembly. So, why are we not doing this in the Delhi Assembly? Why are we debating these municipal issues here? *[Translation]* There is no need. We could have talk about it there. *[English]* I am not really sure whether this is really going to work. *[Translation]* If it goes to court, it will cause more trouble. *[English]* What are we going to achieve by this? I urge that this is India's Parliament. We are here to discuss the issues of the country and not to discuss the corporations. *[Translation]* Anyways, you have brought a Bill related to Goa, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi.

[English]

18.08 hrs

(Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki *in the Chair*)

This is when we feel that there is a contradiction and there is a hidden agenda. Why only Delhi just because there is an Administrator or the Government today which is not of your ideology? Daman and Diu also face the same issue. Why are they not discussed here; why is Jammu and Kashmir not discussed here? The same logic is applicable here. So, give us an argument to that.

I think this is purely technical, and I think that we should think about the timing, like they said, the State Election Commission had issued an official invite to a Press Conference at 5 o'clock, and then this decision was taken. That is the reason we are saying, and we feel that *[Translation]* There is some problem. *[English]* I am not saying it. I am sure that your intent is very good but delaying is not going to help anyway. An Administrator is there. *[Translation]* whom the common man in Delhi can call upon ? They call upon the corporator when the DP switch gets burnt, if there is problem with the gutter or of water where will they go now? *[English]* He will have to run to his MLA. *[Translation]* But corporator is someone who takes care of your problems 24x7. *[English]* That is why this whole distribution of powers is in the Constitution. I think that is the whole idea of decentralization of powers. I am not saying it. It is the hon. Prime Minister, Modi ji, who 'n' number of times has talked about it, and I have a number of quotes, which I can come back to if I am given that kind of time.

The other thing that I was talking about is autonomy. A lot has been said about autonomy. We even discussed earlier about autonomy. I think the problem is that the Government, with Bill after Bill which is coming, is actually taking autonomy away from the States and also the cooperative federalism. *[Translation]* When Arun ji was present, *[English]* he must have told me 200 times. I can tell you quotes on cooperative federalism. There is no cooperative federalism. It is becoming lesser and lesser. This is the feeling that I am getting while working here. There is excessive centralisation of power taking place.

Sir, I will give you an example. You said that the Congress got the LG to bring more power. These are two wrongs straightaway. You cannot selectively like

the Congress and dislike the Congress because your first speaker said *[Translation]* He has given all powers over Delhi to the LG.

[English] Please give me two minutes. If Pravesh can speak for so long, I am asking for only two minutes. I am not criticising; I am only giving an honest feedback because I genuinely love this country and I truly want to make a difference by being here by contributing, not just criticising them for the sake of criticising. How do you selectively use the power of LG? When it suits you, the LG is a good man. *[Translation]* If Congress does it, it is bad. This is not right. *[English]*

Administration has to be there. Governance is continuity. One day, you are sitting there; one day, we will sit there. But that does not mean that we misuse the power. Why is the Governor there? It is not to make the life miserable of the administrative people who are elected. I am suffering that in my State. I will tell you some other day what problems there are, when the Governors talk. When you want to do good works, they are hampered by these kinds of interventions. Look at the legacies of Governors. In my State, we have had tall leaders as Governors. They were very big people – Ali Yavar Jung, Latifji, P.C. Alexander. These are legacies of Governors that we have had. So, I cannot understand what the problem is.

Even while talking about cooperative federalism, it is very important to leave the States alone. It does not matter that *[Translation]* Now, it is Kejriwal's Government. Tomorrow, it will be your Government in Delhi. *[English]* But doing all this is not the way to solve all our legislative problems. You want to make MCD of Delhi. Anyway, Amit Shahji controls that entire thing. So, this is something which I fail to understand. I just want to know the mechanism we will

have by merging all these three Corporations. Sir, I would request you to please explain to me in your reply what big magic difference this convergence is going to bring. To me, it does not matter whether there are three corporations or one corporation as long as people get better services. That is my point.

I still remember Modiji talking about cooperative federalism when he was Chief Minister. I still remember his words. He actually said this when he was the Prime Minister. He said, 'Babasaheb gave a Constitution with a federal structure to strengthen our unity. Sadly, UPA's intent was striking the core idea.' What are you doing today? He had, at that time, said that the UPA was doing that. Today, what else is this? Again, Modiji in 2012 said in an issue of *The Times of India* that 'cooperative, not coercive federalism, for a strong Republic'. This is what his thinking was. He said, 'our Government is about attitude of cooperation instead of confrontation.' What are these speeches? These speeches were only about confrontation. We want 'cooperatism'. We have to find if there are any solutions there.

Let us look at the UTs. There are so many examples I can give about UTs. Please look at what is happening in Lakshadweep. I have met twice the hon. Home Minister for these issues. Mrs. Delkar is not here.

I know what she went through. She lost her husband. The same gentleman, who was managing that UT, has now moved to Lakshadweep and is making the lives of people miserable in Lakshadweep. The hon. Home Minister has been very kind, and indulges with time, and he has assured us that he will find a solution to make sure that Lakshadweep works very peacefully.

Sir, I would just request the hon. Home Minister that in governance, there are differences of opinions and there are differences of Governments which we

definitely can have from election to election, but we cannot have jugglery of institutions. Institutions must be maintained. There can be debates and discussions.

My only request to this Government is not to bring Assembly issues to Parliament. *[Translation]* The issues of Corporation should not be brought to the Parliament. *[English]* Parliament has a larger role in policy-making for Government of India. I think, it is about nation-building, not corporation-building. So, I urge the Government to send this Bill to the Assembly. Let the Assembly debate it. Let us do what is for the betterment of this country.

So, I would urge the Government to believe in cooperative federalism. There was a time Arun Jaitleyji used to constantly talk about it. After Arunji, I hear that word seldom. I am looking forward to build a better India. You take the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar. Please walk the talk, follow the Constitution and respect cooperative federalism.

Thank you so much.

DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (MALAPPURAM): Thank you, Sir, for permitting me to take part in this very relevant discussion.

[Translation] Sir, Delhi is called Hazrat Delhi. *[English]* It is a very respectable city, laudable city, celebrated and renowned city, and the capital city of our country. When I take part in this discussion, I am reminded of a couplet of Amir Khusro, the Delhiite poet of India, who is described as ‘Tuti-e-Hind’, the ‘Parrot of India’:

Hazrat e delhi is an emblem of justice and charity,

A garden of heaven flourishes and will remain forever.

But this amendment Bill, which the Government is coming forward with, I do not think is a move in accordance with justice. It is an attempt to make the States and the governed Union Territories at the charity of the Central Government. Delhi is not only a city of power and privilege, it is the city of diversity, vividness, and plurality. The most important point that we have to think of when we take part in the discussion is this. No doubt, it is the lack of competence of this august House for this kind of a legislation. It is beyond the domain of the Parliament to pass a law aimed at the merger of civic bodies. A unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi is a very good idea. It may be a beautiful idea for the coming years but it is an attempt to make parallel Governments. It is a clear interference in the affairs of Delhi. It is equal to giving complete control of the civic body to the Centre.

Our hon. Law Minister is also present in the House. Why we oppose this Bill is because it negates and nullifies the federal character of the Constitution. Democratisation is based on decentralisation. This amendment will no doubt affect decentralisation. This is a Bill which has to be discussed in the Delhi Assembly. In this Bill, replacing the word 'Government' by the words 'Central Government' is self-explanatory. It is going to be replaced in, at least, 11 sections of this Bill. Instead of the word 'Government', the words 'Central Government' is used. It is self-explanatory. The power to make municipal bodies lies with the State Governments. One of the highlights of this legislation – our hon. Home Minister's statement also mentioned – is regarding the resources.

Our hon. Law Minister himself knows better ways, better methods, and better devices to distribute the resources between the States and the governed Union Territories by avoiding even this kind of legislation.

As regards the Special Officer, no doubt he is going to be a Government person. It is said in this Bill that he will be exercising the powers and discharging the functions of the Corporation until the date on which the first meeting of the Corporation is held. So, appointing an officer, giving a kind of speciality is no doubt a clear interference in the affairs of the elected body.

I see a kind of symbolic significance in this Bill. Delhi is even described as the miniature of India. Our apprehension is that in future the Government may be tending to make or amend this kind of law. I cannot understand that the number of seats is fixed by the Government at 250. The number of seats depend upon the population of Delhi. How can the Central Government say that it has to be this number or that number?

There is Section 388 on which I have to make a suggestion because it is regarding the conditions of the service of the sweepers employed for doing house scavenging. I do not think that this clause is in the interest of those brothers and sisters who are compelled... ..(Interruptions)I will conclude in two minutes, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Conclude in one minute.

DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: Sir, this Bill curtails the freedom of the civic body. So, I have to remind the Government about the couplet of Bahadur Shah Zafar, who was a poet of Delhi and was one of the outstanding leaders of the first freedom struggle. The couplet is something like this: "*Kitna hai badnaseeb 'zafer' dafan ke liye, do gaj zameen bhi na mili kue-e-yaar mein*".

[English] So, they stood for freedom, and this Bill curtails the freedom, the freedom of the elected body, the civic body. ... *(Interruptions)*. So, I would like to request the Government and the hon. Minister to withdraw this Bill.

ADV. A.M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, I stand here on behalf of CPI (M) to speak on the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022. At the outset, I strongly oppose the Bill.

Before entering into the merits of the Bill, I would like to say that we would have taken the words of our hon. Home Minister at face value and believed that he is doing all this in good faith, if he has done what he has promised in this august House about the Kashmir election at the time of abrogation of Article 370. Now, I am remembering his speech on 5th August, 2019. He said that an elected Assembly will be constituted in Jammu and Kashmir without any delay. After two and a half years, till this day, 'the appropriate time' has not come. The delimitation of Assembly constituencies is going on till this time. Here, no doubt, merging of the three corporations into one is the right time for the BJP to win.

Sir, through this Bill, the BJP Government has shown how the democratic process can be twisted and distorted at the cost of federal principles on which our Constitution rests. Have we ever heard of a statutory body like State Election Commission being dictated to by the Union Government to cancel the Press meet called for announcing the elections to a local body? Have we ever heard a Bill being introduced to completely change the structure of local body on the verge of holding elections? Ironically, under this Government we need to expect much more than this. No Government in the history of our country has undermined constitutional bodies, including Election Commission, making them puppets in their hands.

Sir, if this Government feels that it will get defeated in any of the States, then what is the surety that this House would not witness the introduction of a Bill to club two State Legislatures and postponing the election? If this Bill has been introduced with the intention of strengthening the local governance of Delhi, we would have welcomed it wholeheartedly. But disappointingly, this Bill has been introduced only to protect the political interests of the BJP as it fears losing the Municipal elections if held now.

Sir, we are living in an era of decentralization of power, which has been recognized worldwide for efficient bottom to top planning approach. But what is envisaged in this Bill?

If this Bill gets passed, the three Municipal Corporations of North, South and East would cease to exist and one single body would emerge out. But the result is that the combined strength would come down from the present 272 to 250 Councillors.

Sir, already, some of the municipal wards have 60,000 to 70,000 voters, which is more than the number of voters in Assembly constituencies of smaller states. Sir, how come a ward councillor would be able to meet the day-to-day demands of this much voters? Do the people of Delhi not deserve a much wider representation? This Bill is full of ambiguities, purposefully introduced by this Government to derail the democratic process. So, I request the Government at this juncture to please replace with "State Government of Delhi" instead of "Central Government" wherever it is mentioned in the Bill.

Sir, though the Bill speaks of delimitation of wards, it has not specified, what would be the basis of such delimitation process. If the Government desires to use the upcoming census data as the basis, then when would the elections be held?

We all know it would take at least two years. And what would happen in the interim period? Sir, the biggest concern of this bill lies in the creation of "Super Power Structure' in the name of a Special Officer to govern the administration till the elections are held.

We all know how this Government is using the Lieutenant Governors of Delhi, Puducherry and Lakshadweep, and Administrators of other Union Territories to impose the anti-people policies of the Government. We have no doubt that the Special Officer is appointed for sabotaging the people's mandate and making a mockery of the democratic institution. This is nothing but abuse of power, and gives a clear message that this Government has no hesitation to go to the extreme to capture power and hang on to it till the last breath.

Hence, I oppose the anti-democratic provisions of this Bill and wish the Government gets the wisdom to withdraw this Bill in the interest of the people of Delhi. I conclude my speech. Thank you.

[Translation]

***DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM):** Hon Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. Thank you for allowing me to take part in this discussion.

The Bill being discussed here is aimed to address the Bill brought by the Delhi Government in the year 2011. The Union Government, with all its powers, has been trying to make the Bill brought by the State Government null and void. This is not only the case in Delhi. In all the States where non-BJP parties are in power, the Union Government has made it a practice to interfere in the day-to-day administration of the States concerned, through the hon. Governors of the

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

respective States. Particularly in Tamil Nadu, where the ruling DMK is providing good governance, hon. President and hon. Governor have not given their assent to 19 Bills passed by the State Assembly. As a result, these Bills could not become Acts and subsequent implementation is pending.

On one side, by bringing the Delhi Municipal Corporation Bill, the Union Government is trying to block the functioning of the Delhi Government. On the other hand, this Union Government is also making hindrances to the free functioning of the States through the interferences made by hon. Governors. I wish to state that this is against the principles of federalism. I should say that several amendments made to this Bill seem to prevent the people, particularly the poor in getting the basic civic amenities. As mentioned by many MPs here in this august House, the total number of Councillors has been brought down from 272 to 250 in this Bill. As a result, instead of increasing the representation of the people, the Government has brought it down.

In the Act of 2011, there was a clause saying that in order to terminate the sweepers and sanitation workers from service, a notice should be given 14 days prior to that effect. But in the present amendment this aspect has been removed. We are aware of the fact that already the civic rights and amenities in Delhi are in worst condition.

In such a scenario, this amendment Bill has furthermore paved the way for termination of these sanitation workers mercilessly, as per the wishes of the administration. I condemn this in strongest terms as these sanitation workers are the ones who keep their lives at stake while they perform their duties.

Moreover, the Officers to be appointed through this Bill, will be looking after the administration of Delhi. Till a corporation is set-up, these Officers will

have the powers vested with them. This is complete denial of public representation and this is against the principles of democratic system of governance.

Besides that, through this Bill the local body elections have been postponed in Delhi. I wish to state that it is so unfortunate as it may lead to a situation where the local body elections may not be held for the next two years in Delhi. I therefore urge that this Bill should be withdrawn.

Thank you.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I oppose the Delhi Municipal Corporation Amendment Bill, 2022. I would like to call the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs as Map redrawer, he wants to change all the maps. It was first done in Jammu and Kashmir and it was made a separate union territory. Now he wants to change Delhi too. People have psychological disease like a control freak. They want to control everything and want to have everything in their hands. Now, they want to takeover Delhi too. How much more power do you need? You have won in four States...*(Interruptions)* It is your Government in India, so, what difference will it make if you leave Delhi alone?

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly address the Chair.

[Translation]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I wonder whether it would make any difference if Delhi is passover? I do not know. This disease has another name it is called – Gigantism. A gigantic corporation will be formed which will have 250 members. Sir, Kolkata is such a big city, but there are 144 counselors. We cannot

manage it. Mala Roy is the chairperson of the corporation. You want to form a corporation of 250 members. What is the meaning of local self-government? The meaning of local self-government is that you reach out to the people and you are making it big. This is a disease which is called – gigantism. You like gigantic things.

Sir, Supriya Sule ji mentioned it. Amit Shah ji was telling that Rashtrapati Bhavan, the residence of Prime Minister, Parliament, all these are within NDMC. NDMC comes under IAS officers and you have complete power over there. You have taken over NDMC and you want to control Delhi as well. Why? I do not understand. Yes, I know that the NDMC area is the power center, ED, headquarters of CBI. You think about all these...*(Interruptions)* States are attacked. It happens in Bengal and in Maharashtra. Continue it...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I just want to say that the elections of all three corporations are going to be held in Delhi after a month. What was the hurry? Why did they announce on the same day, when the dates of the three corporations were to be announced? What is the answer to this?

Sir, the Chief Minister of Delhi has challenged BJP. I am not from his party, but he has said that the Government should conduct elections. If he loses the elections, he will relinquish the Government of Delhi also. Amit Shah ji is such a powerful man, so courageous, why didn't he accept his challenge? He should say that okay, Kejriwal ji we will defeat you in Delhi. But he doesn't have the courage to say this. The Government has introduced a Bill and the schedule of election is uncertain.

There was a discussion on Delhi riots in this house. Amit Shah ji was there that day, and so was I. He said that those involved in Delhi riots, he will punish them one by one. He should tell us today, how many people have been punished who were involved in Delhi riots? He should tell us, sir. Sir, I want to tell you that

Delhi is a small place. There are 70 members in the Delhi Legislative Assembly and they are forming a corporation with 250 members. Where will these 250 people sit? Delhi Municipality is not such a big place. Why is he doing this? Everyone asked about this question because Amit Shah ji's decision on trifurcation was made in the Delhi Assembly.

Why didn't the Government send this Bill to the Delhi Assembly to pass it? Rather they derived the powers under articles 349 'A' and 239 'A' in Parliament and because they have 303 members, so they decided to pass it in the Parliament. The Government has bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir. They are determined to wrest full control of Delhi also. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, this tendency to take complete power in one's hands also has a name. Some people do this, they are called control freaks, who want to control everything. This will not work. Nowadays it has also got another name, it is called Putinization, i.e. taking complete power in your hands like Putin. ... *(Interruptions)* This hasn't gone that far yet, but the Government is going in the same direction. Supriya ji was asking a question yesterday, what is the hidden agenda, what does the Government want? After having government in so many States and having so much power, they are hungry for more. They want to take everything in their hands. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I just want to say the last point. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, you are from Ahmedabad, a great doctor, you know that Modi ji has done very good work on the river front of Ahmedabad. That is worth visiting. Why was river front not built in Delhi? ... *(Interruptions)* There are three corporations under the Government. ... *(Interruptions)* Whether the Government has been to the slum colony of Delhi? Have they seen the condition of open sewers there? The Bill has been introduced instead of improving the condition of colonies. That is why I am against it. I am also a citizen of this country. I come from Kolkata. I am proud of

my city. People from all over the country come to Delhi. Delhi needs improvement in the life of the people instead of new laws, more of government, force, power or control. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA ROY: Sir, we live comfortably in Lutyens' zone of NDMC area. Sir, it is like living in hell for those who live outside this zone. The slums and colonies in Delhi are pathetic. You should have given free hand to Kejriwal to address this issue. He built mohalla clinics, schools and if people did not want him then they would not vote for him. ...*(Interruptions)* But the Government wants to take everything into their own hands. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, as long as I am in this House, I will openly and vehemently oppose this hidden agenda of taking control. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI (North East Delhi): Chairperson Sir, I think this Bill is a gift of humanity to the people of Delhi. To understand this, our colleagues who are speaking here will have to see the pain of a teacher who goes on strike for salary after months of teaching. They also face problems of feeding and fending for the education of their children. To understand this Bill, they will have to go and see how the sanitation workers here are forced to throw garbage at the doorstep of the Chief Minister of Delhi every two-three months.

Chairperson Sir, my colleagues who have not gone out of NDMC in the streets of Delhi, cannot understand the importance of this bill. I want to say this with great humility. To understand the situation of the thousands of employees, about 1 lakh 20 thousand who are suffering, groaning, crying and wailing, I spent 34 nights in the streets and slums of Delhi in 2016 and understood their problem.

Chairperson Sir, I have stayed among them for 34 nights. Today, our Minister of Home Affairs has introduced this Bill. He was the national president of our party, at that time he asked us to go and understand the condition of people living in slums, we went there. The elections of 2017 were ahead. In the year 2015, a party had won 67 out of 70 seats in the Legislative Assembly.

When we sat with the people living in the slums of Delhi, the employees, sanitation workers, teachers, doctors and spent some time with them to understand their pain, their only demand was to regularize the finances of the MCD. They also demanded that anyhow funds should be disbursed to MCD directly so that they do not have to sit on the streets to get milk for their children. After that, when we were making the manifesto in the year 2017, we included in our manifesto that its finance should be direct, there should be no problem of finance, we will make every effort for this. This was the first point in our manifesto for the year 2017.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am happy to inform you and the entire House that the people of Delhi kept the confidence in the Bharatiya Janata Party and its manifesto. The Government that came with 67 out of 70 seats in the Legislative Assembly; that party could not get 67 councilors out of 272 seats in the elections of MCD of Delhi. They did not get even 67 councilors out of 272. The public had become so angry with them. But, these people bifurcate the MCD and use this 'anger'. This is what they want. MCD elections are held after two and a half years of every Legislative Assembly election. By then, the public is so angry with the Delhi Government that it makes the BJP win. They know it... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: The public made them winners later in the Legislative Assembly.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI: Yes, of course.

Sougata Sir, I was coming to your point only. Then in two and a half years, they paralyzed the MCD. Due to that the same 'anger' benefitted them later. That's what I want to say. We are very thankful to our Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi for changing the same thing. So, I am assuming that this is a gift to humanity. Today, the people are rejoicing in the streets of Delhi. Today, there is a Holi-Diwali like festival situation in the houses of sanitation workers, teachers and doctors. This is not the first time that the Central Government has given this gift to Delhi. I want to remind you. To understand this Bill, we have to pay attention to two-three points. If the present Government in Delhi comes to know that even after troubling some people of Delhi, it can accuse BJP, then it will torture those people. It has become so cruel because it has to take advantage of only one thing that is a Union Territory and they will blame the Central Government and get away.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, before understanding this Bill, it should be noted that there is NH-24 through which people go to Delhi NCR. There, people who used to get stuck for up to two hours in traffic jams on smokey roads were given such a gift. Everyone knows that a two-hour journey has been converted into a pleasant twenty-minute one. When all our Hon. MPs and friends come here after getting down from Delhi airport, they used to get stuck in traffic jam near Dhaula Kuan. The Central Government solved that problem.

Sir, approximately 70 lakh people here used to live with the stigma of 'unauthorized' in their colonies. Those, who do not live in Delhi, may not feel the pain of it. They do not know when their houses will get demolished, some machinery will come to demolish it and the Delhi Government deliberately

undertakes to demolish it by deputing an SDM or a DM. At that time, that poor person, who had built a house on 25 or 50 yards of land, had to save his life by paying lakhs of rupees. The Central Government removed the stigma of this unauthorized colony from approximately 70 lakh people living in Delhi's unauthorized colonies. This thing should be seen in connection with it. I am not saying this in a casual manner as a gift to humanity. This Bill should be seen as a step forward in the same direction.

Sir, I want to tell you with confidence and humility that today when I was leaving to come to the House, people from the Associations of Sanitation Employees came to me. They represented 40,000 people. They were saying that they wanted an appointment to facilitate the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. This is the voice of the streets of Delhi.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I understand that the Hon. Members cannot understand that pain. It is not their fault. Because these people cannot understand it at all. They will have to go to Delhi to understand that. We have done some good work in Delhi. Now, I will talk only about one point. I will not speak for long.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I will finish my speech in two-three minutes. The conspiracy took place in the year 2012. At that time, the MCD was divided into three parts, it was a big conspiracy. Even under that conspiracy, we observed for ten years. Despite hatching so many conspiracies, they did not come to power in MCD. Our many friends said that they got scared and ran away here and there. Ever since the BJP Government came to power at the Centre, six elections have been held in Delhi. BJP has won four of these six elections. What are we afraid of? Whenever the next elections will be held, you will see the results because Delhi is suffering due to their policies. I would like to give one or two examples of that. By

the way, in all the things that Hon. Parvesh ji and Hon. Ramesh ji have already said, there are many such things, which I also wanted to say. So, I do not want to repeat them.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I definitely would like to tell what they did. Many of our colleagues were just now talking about how to remove water logging. Just now Hon. Sougata Sir was saying why the sewerage work was not done. Someone was saying that the pollution situation has not improved. All these subjects come under the purview of Delhi Government.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Sougata ji, this is what I say. You come with me; spend some time in the slums. Your opinion will change and you will praise the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs for bringing this Bill. All these Departments are with the Delhi Government. The Health Department is with them. ...*(Interruptions)*I will definitely take him with me. I would like to tell you this much.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, as Hon. Parvesh ji said, I will also tell when will the garbage mountains in Delhi be disposed of? It will be disposed of when this Bill is passed. This Bill has come for the same solution. Rupees 13,000 crore is still outstanding. Hon. Arvind Sawant ji was speaking just now. They have a budget of Rs 46,000 crore for BMC. We were promised Rs 6000 crore, but that amount too was not given. Despite such a situation, many people say that the administrator has been appointed. Even today, administrators are engaged in many places in Maharashtra. At how many places, I do not want to go into that. Our Hon. Minister of Home Affairs will tell you. But, I would definitely like to say that despite so much opposition, what we are doing. We are collecting garbage from door to door. Where garbage used to be dumped in Delhi, we installed compactor machines after taking money from the Central Government. Today, Delhi is becoming garbage

dumps (Dhalao Ghar) free. Now, you will not see garbage on the streets. We have done this work. We have built 47 new school buildings, the rest are under renovation. We are giving online approval for 500 square meter plots.

We are constructing pink toilets and toilet blocks for women in different markets. If the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs lays the foundation stone and inaugurates, our friends should visit Bharat Vandana Park. They will be proud of the current Central Government and MCD of Delhi. Bharat Vandana Park has been built in Delhi. You all should visit this park. Why can't we make the whole of Delhi like this? A friend said that NDMC is very good, but what are you doing? Why should not the entire Delhi be good and beautiful? Our Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has been saying from the beginning that people from all over the world come here. It is the capital of the country. It is the face of our country. Why should the face of the country be pathetic? If this is a concern then I think it is humanity's gift to Delhi, otherwise what is there in Delhi? Here, the Yamuna River has also become so dirty. Why is the Yamuna River which flows for 1700 km dirty up to a 42 kilometer stretch of Delhi only?

Sir, recently there was Chhath Pooja. It was not covered in the advertisement. A lady took a dip in the water during Chhath Pooja and the whole media covered it. You also must have seen that. Danish Bhai, please talk about Ammonia and phosphorus sometimes. There is a need to think about it. Arvind Sawant Ji had said whether it is political or social. Sir, this is not only social but this is a Bill for a major social cause because Delhi is the capital of the country. The problems of the residents of Delhi should be resolved.

Delhi is number one in terms of pollution and dirty water. The pension has stopped in Delhi for five years. How will you feel if there are people from other

States in your constituency and their pension is stopped? The pension has stopped here for five years. During Covid, the Hon. Prime Minister provided free ration. You will be surprised to know that a new ration card has not been made in Delhi for the last seven years. The poor did not receive ration and the ration stored in the schools got rotten. Whether action should not be taken against such a Government?

Sir, the Central Government is very kind. The Central Government is functioning very carefully. They believe in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. On the contrary, action should be taken against the Government of Delhi for what they have done...*(Interruptions)* So, give it, who said not to give it? Who stopped it? Buy your ration and distribute it. Several times, they tried to stop us from giving ration. We should not deviate from the topic. Many issues have come up. The people from MCD used to distribute medicines to the people during the Covid period and took care of the people during difficult times. At this time, the Government of Delhi did not give compensation even after being informed about the people who died. Such discrimination is there.

Just now, our colleague was speaking and I agree with him that as soon as a person is born, the first work is done through a corporation. Every work starts with the corporation and as Gandhi ji and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay have thought that this corporation is the body which serves every person and you want to weaken that institution.

You want to bulldoze the same institution. Thus, I can say to you that this Bill is needed for Delhi at this time. The Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has also promised earlier that he will resolve the problems of Delhi. This Bill presented by the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs will resolve those issues. I

understand that this Bill will stop unnecessary expenses, the Corporation will be able to take its own decision regarding its work plan, the method of implementation will be clear, Delhi will have a strong administrative system, lakhs of employees of the Corporation will be freed from the present chaotic administration and the people of Delhi will get to experience the services of a Corporation which is transparent, corruption-free and with strengthening development works, the schemes pending for years will be accelerated and the employees of the Corporation will not have to wait outside the door of CM to get their salary.

Sir, three mayors of Delhi waited outside the door of the Chief Minister of Delhi for 15 days in severe cold and he did not even bother to meet them. The discrimination shown towards the Corporation in Delhi cannot be seen anywhere in the country. On behalf of lakhs of employees and the people of Delhi, I thank the Hon. Narendra Modi and the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs by supporting this Bill which provides a better administrative system and strong Corporation. Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I rise to strongly oppose the legislative document under the title, The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

The crux of this legislative document clearly indicates that this Government has been hell-bent upon encroaching the jurisdiction of the State, while undermining the cooperative federalism. There is no denying this fact.

[Translation] I will not take much time because I know that there is not much time left.

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Adhir ji, there is no shortage of time.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that there is no shortage of time. What was the recommendation of Balakrishnan Committee in 1989 and Virendra Prakash Committee in 2001? Their recommendation was to do bifurcation or trifurcation. Trifurcation does not mean three. There is one cantonment apart from this and there is New Delhi Municipal Corporation. It was not today's recommendation but it was the recommendation of two committees in 1989 and 2001. Today, you are talking about re-unification once again.

Everything in the world has time and dimension. Time and space dimension tells that there is a secret hidden behind this decision of yours. The secret is that you do not want to have an election in Delhi after the election results of five States and the BJP does not want to lose the election. This is not your intention, I know that. Has this ever happened in India? I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs whether it happened anywhere in India that the State Election Commission is going to call a press conference to announce the election and an hour before, a call is received from the Ministry of Home Affairs that the elections should be postponed because they have to reunify the Delhi Municipal Corporation or they want to merge the three municipal corporations.

Such an incident has never happened anywhere in India and it will never happen. I would like to ask Shri Amit Shah to swear on Ram that your intention and motive is pure. Everyone knows that there is no secret in this. Your condition is not good in Delhi and anti-incumbency is rising against you in Delhi and that's why you chose this way.

While doing so, it was promised by removing Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in this House that a union territory is going to be formed by dividing a State. There will be an election within some months and de-limitation will happen. But, this will never happen.

You promised in this House. Later, it was said that there will be an election, there is no need to worry. In 2017, de-limitation was done before the election in 2017. It took 17 months, you can see it yourself. What is the basis of the census if you are talking about holding elections this time? whether it will be based on the census 2023 or the previous census?

18.54 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

Hon. Speaker Sir, how much time will it take to conduct the election again because in 2017, it took 18 months just for delimitation. How many months do you need this time? It is important to know that because every day, we are witnessing the difference in your words and actions. Therefore, we do not have any faith.

[English] With the removal of the word 'Government' from Section 3A -- which refers to division of Delhi into zones -- of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, the Centre unilaterally can alter, increase, or diminish any area or zone.

[Translation] Therefore, please clarify in the House as to what your intention is...*(Interruptions)*

19.00 hrs

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude and give some time to Bittu ji to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, please give me two minutes. Amit Shah ji has told us to take as much time as we want. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs always tells to speak more.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, as per the law, when a Corporation exists, there is tenure or term for the corporation and it is mandatory to hold elections after the end of its term. This means that the corporation is being merged and instead of merging, it was necessary for the State Election Commission to conduct an election. But, the State Election Commission follows your words. Therefore, whatever you say, the Election Commission will do it. This is the major problem. It is mandatory. *[English]* Article 243U of the Constitution mandates that the election to constitute a municipality shall be completed before the expiry of the duration of the existing municipality. This is a mandatory provision which needs to be complied with by the Election Commission under all circumstances. *[Translation]* This is not my rule but the rule of the Election Commission. *[English]* The Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957, was passed by Parliament. Before that the municipal affairs of Delhi were run by a multiplicity of agencies leading to problems. This Act created a unified body called DMC. In 2011, the corporation was trifurcated.

This was done by amending the Act in the legislative assembly of Delhi and not Parliament, though the trifurcation was preceded by public debate and citizen demands. *[Translation]* Have you ever done it? It is important to tell that nobody spoke about the Article 246. *[English]* Article 246(4) of the Constitution empowers Parliament to legislate for a Union Territory(UT) on a matter which is in the State List. Delhi, as a part C State, had an assembly and a CM (Chaudhary

Brahm Prakash) from 1951 to 1956. Thereafter, Delhi became a UT and the Assembly was abolished. It was brought back only in 1992. So, the Parliament was the sole legislative body for Delhi in 1957, when the DMC Act was enacted.

[Translation] Secretary General P.D.T Achary used to sit here.

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Please repeat the last sentence you have just read...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Parliament has the general power to legislate on a matter in the State List for a UT under Article 246(4). But this is a general provision. After the enactment of Parts 9 and 9A in the Constitution, the position has changed. This is made clear by Article 243ZB which says, “The provisions of this part shall apply to the Union Territories...”. The only caveat is that the President can, through a public notification issued under this Article, make modifications or exceptions in the provisions contained in Part 9A. As far as is known, the President has not made any such modifications or exceptions in those provisions with respect to their application to the Municipal Corporations of Delhi. Thus, Part 9A is, in its entirety, applicable to these Corporations and only the Delhi assembly has the power to legislate on all matters, including the reconstitution or reunification of the Municipal Corporations of Delhi.

[English]

An important point to note here is that the provisions contained in Part 9A are special in nature whereas Article 246, which empowers Parliament to legislate for a UT, is a general provision.

One of the rules of interpretation of statutes is that special provisions prevail over general provisions. Therefore, it is a State Legislature, which is constitutionally mandated to legislate on the reorganisation of municipal corporations. *[Translation]* You can confirm it from your legal advisor. I oppose this Bill. I am skeptical about the intentions of the Government. With these words, I would like to conclude my speech.

HON. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, the time of the House may be extended till this Bill is passed.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir, we agree.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ravneet Singh Ji. Kindly conclude your speech in just two minutes.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Thank you Speaker Sir. Today, many of the Members of Parliament have made exaggerated remarks about the newly formed political party, Aam Aadmi Party which has registered its victory in the recent assembly election of Punjab. I will express my views on that issue later on.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit few points to the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. Usually, if any MP, Chief Minister or Mayor is elected for the term of five years, he rests assured that he is going to work for the next five years and then he focuses well on the developmental works of his concerned area, but in Delhi, the tenure of the Mayors heading MCDs lasts just for one year. Here the elected Mayor knows that the five years tenure of the post of Mayor is not fixed for a single Mayor but the tenure can be of single-year terms on a rotation basis, with one year each being reserved for a woman and a reserved category candidate. Therefore, any elected Mayor hesitates to start a new project as he is aware that his tenure is going to last just for one year. With the passing of each

day, every officer of MCDs just counts the remaining days of his tenure which is also one of the prime reasons for the failure of the Corporation. Let the party be the deciding factor in this whole process. If 50 percent of the seats are to be reserved for the women candidates then the party should give tickets as per that provision only. If any seat is reserved for some particular category of the candidate, then the incumbent person knows that after five years, the said seat will be offered to the General Class candidate and he/ she will have to leave his/her chair. This shuffling affects the morale of the people.

Secondly, the Aam Aadmi Party's model was discussed here. These subjects come under the jurisdiction of Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah Ji. Delhi received the benevolence of the Union Government. All the Universities and Hospitals in Delhi are funded by the Central Government. New MPs from Aam Aadmi Party have been elected to Rajya Sabha. Maan Sahab was elected for this House who is now the CM of Punjab. If the model of their schools are so good then why they brandish the ten Coupons which are allotted to the MPs for admission of students in Kendriya Vidyalayas on their recommendations? If the model of the schools of Delhi is so good, why they long for the Central Schools? Central Schools in Delhi and across the entire country are the best. It is our fault that the members of our Congress Party had factionalism there. Aam Aadmi party was nowhere liked by the people. Just now, someone said that we got afraid of the election. If this was so, why would we let election be held in Punjab?...*(Interruptions)*The election would have got cancelled. This is not how a democracy functions. Every party gets its turn someday or the other. But you will come to know what happens after six months.

Sir, there is neither any separate department for agriculture nor for irrigation. Does any farmer of Delhi get free electricity? No, but in Punjab, we had provided free electricity to the farmers. If the Government of Delhi has to run a separate department for agriculture and irrigation, then they will understand the difficulties faced while administering these departments. Here, they claim to create a Delhi Model but in reality, they are just showcasing to do so, and that too with the funds received from the Central Government for every small requirement.

By spending Rs. 550 crore on media, Kejriwal has portrayed his photos all over Punjab. ... (*Interruptions*) I demand from the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs that an inquiry into the misuse of money in Punjab should be conducted.

Now Punjab's money will be misused in Gujarat. The in-charge of Gujarat has now been made in-charge of Punjab. They will now transfer the money of Punjab's big industrialists to Gujarat. The Home Ministry should also inquire about this issue and ignore the talks of the model.

HON. SPEAKER: Nishikant Dubey Ji, kindly conclude your speech in two-three minutes.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I will speak for five-seven minutes.

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, you deliberately asked Bittu Ji to speak.

HON. SPEAKER: I did not say it deliberately.

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: You wanted someone to speak against AAP.

HON. SPEAKER: Does it mean that I can ask any Member to speak anything as per my wish? Why do you think so? All are equal and similar for me.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Speaker Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 brought under the leadership of Shri Amit Shah Ji, the only strong Home Minister of this country who showed his resoluteness after Sardar Patel Ji.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell this House that I am a worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, has a clear cut policy and a will to serve the people and has such a strong leadership that has left the entire opposition frightened. ...
(Interruptions)

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: No one is afraid. We are not afraid at all. ...*(Interruptions)* Who else is scared?

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, perhaps the opposition leaders are suffering from amnesia. ...*(Interruptions)* You can understand that I have seen the opposition leaders continuously ... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Only the thieves would be afraid. ...*(Interruptions)* We are the sons of famers, we are not afraid of anyone. ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, they have been continuously blaming us that we are afraid of elections. Just now Bittu Ji was talking about the Aam Aadmi Party. I have been asking them whom we are afraid of? I would like to say that not we, but they are afraid of someone. They must have liked that leader, because, be it the Congress Party or the people attached with this party, all had a previous records to collude with those people who are anti-national, who do not believe in the democracy of this country and who are ultra left people as Bittu Ji was telling earlier. They have compromised with them from time to time. This is the history of

the country, this is the history of the Congress and the parties supported by the Congress. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, let me tell you when the Muslim League was founded. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member. Kindly speak on the Bill.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I am speaking on the Bill itself. Why would I fight? Why would I be afraid? Would the Bharatiya Janata Party want to fight with the party that gets just 0.38 per cent of the votes or will it be afraid of it? On the day of election, every worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party will be ready to fight. We will not only win the MCD election, but also the upcoming Lok Sabha election. But the opposition is still suffering from amnesia.

Sir, let me tell you that I belong to Jharkhand. Were the MCD elections held in the State? Did Bharatiya Janata Party get afraid of that election? Elections are not being conducted. All this is being stated. I come from Deoghar, where the Municipal Corporation elections have not been held for the past one and a half years. The CEO is running the Municipal Corporation. They boast about their policy, make lame excuses of adverse situation, talk about municipality and also cry out for reservation.

Sir, there has been a lot of discussions here on Jammu and Kashmir. They allege that the Constitution has got jeopardized. Well, for a moment let me assume that Constitution has got jeopardized. When Article 370 was in force in Jammu and Kashmir, you could neither remember the scheduled castes nor the schedule tribes and could not even remember the OBCs. You could not remember the local body elections that were to be held there. After the abrogation of the Article-370 under the leadership of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, the SCs, the STs and the

OBCs all got the benefits of reservation and also the election for local bodies were held.

You are alleging that the Governor is doing this or that. Shri Jagadambika Pal is present here, he is a member of my party. Could you tell me circumstances in which he was appointed as the Chief Minister of Delhi. How did the Congress party and Romesh Bhandari courted and made him Chief Minister? Did they forget that history? Did they forget how they removed N.T. Rama Rao? Did they forget the history how Ghulam Shah was appointed as the Chief Minister of Kashmir? Perhaps, they have forgotten the entire history. They forgot the history that how the Governor of Haryana G.D. Tapase overnight gathered the entire party altogether with Bhajan Lal Ji. As the saying goes, “*show of piety from a habitual sinner,*” you have personified this proverb. What do you want to talk about?

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Is he speaking on the Address of the President or on Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill? ... (*Inerruptions*)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: I am speaking on the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill only. You have compelled me to speak so. We are the workers of Bharatiya Janata Party who always speak in the interest of the country. We talk about a competent leadership. They are perhaps neither aware about the what is happening across the country, nor what is happening in Delhi.

I am a person who has the experience of living at different areas of Delhi like - Tagore Garden, Hakikat Nagar, Delhi University, Mahipalpur and also in unauthorized colonies like – Sanik Farm. Today, with the grace of this Bharatiya Janata Party, I am living at Lutyens’ Delhi. Do they have any idea about the pathetic condition of Hakikat Nagar, Vasundhara Enclave or Sainik Farm? Are they aware that there is no regular power supply, no roads and no sewer lines in

these areas. ...*(Interruptions)*They have just created a notion in the name of an Ultra Leftist Party.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that Bharatiya Janata Party neither fear of anyone, nor, care about what others are saying. They dismissed our Government on the recommendations of the Governor. They sacked Kalyan Singh ji, they sacked Shanta Kumar ji, they sacked Bhairon Singh Shekhawat ji, but the way our party workers have been killed selectively in Bengal. ... *(Interruptions)*

Kalyan Singh's government was dismissed in 1992 due to the incident of demolition of Babri Masjid. A number of our workers had died, women were raped and children were killed. ...*(Interruptions)*Today, people have been set ablaze live in Rampurhat, nonetheless, we neither imposed Section 355 nor 356. ...
...*(Interruptions)*Today, they find Jagdeep Dhankhar bad. Bhagat Singh Koshyari looks bad. Through you, I would like to request that this Government has brought a constructive Bill and I beseech that do not discuss about the Aam Aadmi Party which could hardly get 0.3 percent votes. I would also like to request you to have faith in the democratic system and not to support an ultra-leftist party. Do not create your notion based on their claims. Please support this Bill. With these words, I would like to conclude my speech. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I think, he has some problems.

Hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI AMIT SHAH, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION: Hon. Speaker Sir, today, there has been discussion on both relevant and irrelevant subjects. Although, while piloting this Bill, it becomes my duty to answer both the relevant and irrelevant subjects.

Hon. Speaker Sir, had the discussion been subject specific, I would also have tendered a befitting reply, but this House is the largest *Panchayat* of the country and about 130 core people watch the discussions held in this House. The Bill provides a wider range to discuss upon its various aspects and also the rules of the business of the House about the discussion on a Bill are a little flexible. Exploiting the very flexibility, many of the Members have spoken a lot on the Bill to which I do not have any objection. Everyone has the right to express his views. I have only one request that I must be listened to carefully....*(Interruptions)* *Dada*, I am yet to start my speech and you must listen to me carefully. A total of 20 Members from the ruling and opposition parties have participated in today's debate. All have expressed their views on the Bill. I would like to express my sincere regard to you all for going through the Bill so minutely and delving deep into the subject as well as highlighting its political aspects. You all have tried to express your opinion on the subject in this House.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the first important topic for discussion surfaced was, diluting the federal structure of the country. The Second topic was, usurping the rights of the State Governments by the Central Government. Many Members including some of the opposition leaders like - Manish Bhai Ji, the leaders of Congress party as well as *Dada* also expressed their views on the subject. Firstly, I would like to clarify before the House that I have brought in this Bill under the powers conferred to the Parliament by Article 239AA of the Constitution. I can read it out, if anyone is interested and I have also carried the Constitution with me, because, these issues were raised while introducing this bill and were answered too, but today these issues have been raised again. According to Article 239AA (3)(b), Parliament has the power to make laws in respect of the Union Territory of Delhi or any part thereof and on any matter connected therewith. Here, rights were

talked about in a different way. Therefore, I have emphasized this word. If someone has missed my words, I would like to reiterate that Delhi is a Union Territory. I cannot bring such a Bill in Maharashtra. I cannot bring such a Bill in Gujarat or Bengal. Nor can the Central Government bring it. But if someone is not aware about the difference between the State and the Union Territory, then I think they must read the Constitution carefully. The Bill that I have just brought is related to the Union Territory. Who do you want to misguide by using the clauses like - 'Rights of the States', 'Article-246 etc as a tool of interruptions.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to tell you that we have brought this Bill exactly in accordance with the powers conferred by the Constitution and it is absolutely a Constitutional Bill. Delhi is a Union Territory and the Government of India has all the rights to frame legislation on any subject concerning the Union Territory, including the Union Territory of Delhi. Questions were also raised on why we exercised this right, which I will answer later. Let me go a little further. One point was raised that in the year 2011, this amendment bill was passed in the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, now here, how we could amend or change that. Under Article 239AA(3)(c) of the Constitution, the Parliament of this country has the unfettered right to amend, change or repeal any law made by the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. I want to tell those who are alleging us that this law has not been framed during our rule. Adhir Ranjan ji should also listen, this has not happened in our time. This provision already exists in the Constitution. If you go through the Constitution keeping your biases aside, you will easily find this fact. But you cannot find it by going through the constitutions with a preconceived political biases. Hon. Speaker Sir, it is just about clearing your perceptions. Moreover, all relevant clauses are written clearly and that too in all recognized languages. It is written in Hindi for those who read Hindi,

in Bengali for those who read Bengali, in English for those who read English, in Marathi for those who read Marathi. It is in all languages.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY : It is written in Gujarati as well.

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Yes, indeed it is written in Gujarti as well. I have read it in Gujarati only. You also read it, that's all I would like to say.

Sir, the reference to Article 246R is in relation to the method of election. Anyone who goes through the Bill carefully will know that we have not tampered with the process of election. On the contrary, it was suggested that direct elections should be held. We can't do that. The constitution does not allow us to do so.

Hon. Speaker, I completely reject the attempt being made to spread a big misconception. This is a Bill which has been brought entirely from the powers conferred by the Constitution. There is neither encroachment of the powers of the Union-State, nor do we want to do so.

Hon. Speaker, he asked to read a paragraph. A justification was given that the State should do it. By virtue of the first proviso to Article 239AA(3)(c) of the Constitution, any Bill seeking amendment to the DMC Act, 1957 shall be reserved for the assent of the President. Even if the Delhi government does it, it needs the assent of the President, which means it needs the assent of the cabinet. Further, the Parliament has been given powers to make laws for the Union Territory GNCTD on any matter i.e. contained in any of the three Lists.

Further, notwithstanding the assent given to any Amendment Act under the second proviso to Article 239AA(3)(c), Parliament may at any time, make any law with respect to the same matter including law to amend, to varying, to repeal, etc. the laws made by the Legislative Assembly of the UT.

Sir, I am reading a noting for the information of Congress friends. This noting was done by the country's then Home Minister and scholar, Dharashastr

Mr. P. Chidambaram, when this law was introduced in the year 2011. His interpretation also says the same.

Hon. Speaker, just now Dada was saying that Amit Shah ji wants to form the government everywhere, his party wants to form the government everywhere....(*Interruptions*) Power means when the government is formed, only then power comes. By the way, how will the power come, in a democracy power will come by forming the government. I want to say in the House that yes, we want our government to be formed everywhere, that's why we contest elections. Why do we contest elections? Tell me why you contested in Goa. Tell me why you are going to contest in Tripura. You also have the right, you also go and contest. Every party should carry its ideology, its stand, its programs and the performance of its governments everywhere. This is the beauty of democracy. What would be the objection in this? If a party thinks that its people should be elected, on the basis of its programme, on the basis of its ideology, on the basis of popularity of its leader, what can be the objection against it in a democracy? Those who are afraid of loosing power can have problem with this. The leaders who believe in democracy cannot have any problem with this. I still say that Dada, we want that on the basis of our programs, on the basis of our ideology, on the basis of popularity of our leadership and on the basis of performance of our government, we want to contest elections everywhere and also want to win. But Dada, we don't want to grab power by killing the opposition workers, we don't want power by letting a series of bloodshed, we don't want to grab power by raping the wives and sisters of the workers. This is not our culture, Dada. Don't give the lesson of democracy to my party. First democratize your party, I could not hold my laughter when Congress party, TMC, and I don't want to name all other parties, which are being run as a family fiefdom, cannot elect their president for many years, but worry about the

country's democracy, first conduct elections in your office, first conduct elections in your party, talk about the country later.

Hon. Speaker, a topic has come up, the appointment of a special officer. Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to say again that the special officer is appointed only for the transition period, after that the election takes place and after that the elected body comes and this special officer is appointed under section 490 of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi Act. (b) The provision was already made during the time of the Congress. It is very democratic when they use it and when we do the same thing then they started asking questions.

Has democracy been violated? How do they want to run the country? Will they introspect and look at themselves in the mirror, should they do it or not. Who brought section 490 2(b)? Today we are using it. At that time it was not our government.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to repeat today that most of the States have Bharatiya Janata Party government. The people of this country have given absolute two-thirds majority twice to the Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of Modi ji.

NDA colleagues are standing with us like a rock. We have no interest in grabbing power, nor do we want to. Hon. Speaker, Smt. Supriya ji said that why this bill was brought at the last moment of elections. Supriya ji, when did the Maharashtra government change the provision of OBC seats? For how many years is the administrator in the Government of Maharashtra? How many corporations have administrators? Why aren't elections being held there? If they want to hold elections then why didn't they get it done earlier? I can also ask this. But when it happens in their respective States, like my fellow MP Nishikant ji said that there is an administrator in Jharkhand for the last one year... (*Interruptions*) But there is a

Congress government, so you will not speak. The facts should be kept in this House with transparency. The entire country sees this House.

Shri Manish Tewari was speaking. Manish ji, you have mentioned Narasimha Rao ji, just be careful what happens next? ...*(Interruptions)* Speak carefully man, don't speak so emotionally, the High Command listens to the speech. You have mentioned the Shri Narasimha Rao ji. Bittu Bhai also accepted the mistake of Punjab. It's okay, you accepted sooner or later.

Dada talked about the Delhi riots. We said that we will put everyone in jail. Dada, Delhi is governed by the Bharatiya Janata Party. The police is under the Bharatiya Janata Party government. I want to clear the record in the House that as of now 2473 people have been arrested in Delhi, 409 people have been charge sheeted and only 83 people have been given bail. It's been two years Dada, still all are in jail. This is not Bengal. There is a Government of the Bharatiya Janata Party here. Whoever breaks the law will be punished.

Hon. Speaker, reference also came for the election of Kashmir. My speech is on the record of the House. Anyone can pick it up and see it, listen to it again. It is also on YouTube, you can also make it available. I had clearly said that panchayat elections will held first, then delimitation will be done, then elections will be held and only then we will give full statehood back. Panchayat elections have been held. The district panchayat elections have concluded without any violence. Delimitation is on final stage. I reiterate in the House that after delimitation, we will conduct elections immediately after discussing with all the parties. We have no interest to impose President's rule.

A reference came that there is Cantonment Board in Delhi, NDMC is also here. You said that Rashtrapati Bhavan, Prime Minister's residence, Parliament House etc come under NDMC. I didn't know, otherwise I would have explained in

detail. My aim was to say that merely the NDMC cannot constitute to the National Capital and we cannot merge the Cantonment Board with NDMC. Gaurav ji was talking about it, but he is not here now. Gaurav ji was saying but he not in the House at present. The Cantonment Boards are separate throughout the country. This arrangement is not only in Delhi. They are separate all over the country. This should remain separate for certain reasons. If this arrangement is reviewed and the relevant provisions are changed, it will take effect here also. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Elections are held there. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Yes, it is held. There is elected body in place at present.

There is no objection that elections should be held. Reports of several committees have been placed here. I would only like to say that every Government discussed these reports whenever they were presented. The relevant files are also available. Decisions have been taken keeping in view all the questions that arose after discussion now. The report of the committee was not restricted to making three corporations, there were several issues along with it. It contained the formula for revenue sharing and granting some extra rights. I am of the conviction even today that if a package is formulated keeping all the above aspects in mind, these three corporations are still viable even at present.

As mentioned in a report, earlier there was Sales Tax, now it is GST sharing. How can we run the corporation without accomplishing all these? It is not possible. We have tried doing it for ten years without success. Some Members have questioned why delimitation was not done earlier? Three of the Members have said this. I would like to inform them that delimitation can not be done beforehand without carrying out integration. A new unit is formed, subsequent to which seats and wards are marked. Delimitation can not be done as per rules because the three corporations are separate bodies. Delimitation can be done only when the three

corporations are unified and one corporation is formed. What is the use of getting over suspicious over so many things?

The Bharatiya Janata Party governs a really large part of the country. There is a municipal corporation for the two crore people living in Delhi and our corporations only will be elected there and not of the AAP (Aam Aadmi Party). When the term of the corporation ends, our councillors will be relieved and an Administrator, Special Officer shall take over. Issue of seats was raised. Sougata ji was saying that the number of seats is too much. Dada, I am reducing the number of seats from 272 to 250. Two Hundred and Fifty seats are not an increase over the previous number. ...*(Interruptions)*The seats which were in excess have been reduced. ...*(Interruptions)*First of all, you will have to understand that the number of seats has been reduced. You have not understood it quite well. ... *(Interruptions)*

There are 227 wards in Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*The population there is two crore people. We have decided 250 seats as per the population. Is it too many? The population here is somewhat higher than Mumbai. There also you have 227 wards. You are suspecting even the number of seats also. You are questioning the basis of the number of seats. I agree with your question. I would like to tell you the basis and source of this number. But before that, you tell me from where the figure of 272 emerged in the year 2011? Whether some astrologer was consulted? ...*(Interruptions)*That figure also was introduced in a similar Act. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: I would like to make a small remark. You are constructing a new Parliament. It is being constructed keeping in view the expected increase in the number of seats in future. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMIT SHAH: My dear friend, I am not asking you to sit down. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: But it conveys the same meaning. Isn't it? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMIT SHAH: No, its not the same thing. I amabout elected representatives... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: When the population increases, the number of seats and consequently the number of wards shall also increase. ...*(Interruptions)* Secondly, let's talk about whether the number of seats should go up ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Adhir Ranjan Ji, kindly be seated for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to elaborate so as to make you understand. ... *(Interruptions)*

Some of the friends in opposition have asked how did we decide the figure of 250? I would like to ask, how was the figure of 272 decided? ...*(Interruptions)* I ask only this much. ...*(Interruptions)* My friend, that is OK but even in three corporations, 272 members were not there. ...*(Interruptions)* Two Hundred seventy two members were not there. Then how this figure was arrived at? It is only through estimates. Some number has to be decided but we have referred an ideal Act which mentions the number of members as 225 if the population is below two crores. The population here is somewhat higher than two crores, so we took the figure as 250. ...*(Interruptions)* I will tell you the justification behind the figure. ... *(Interruptions)*

Shri Gaurav Gogoi ji said that the state of affairs in Delhi is pathetic with many problems. He specifically mentioned the period of spread of Corona in Delhi. I don't know whether Gogoi Saheb was in Assam in his Parliamentary Constituency or stayed back in Delhi at that time. He might not be knowing that whole world praises the way we faced and fought against Corona in this country

under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji. ...*(Interruptions)* This included vaccinating a population of 130 crore people, everyone getting his certificate of vaccination on their mobile phone and receiving a complete vaccination certificate after getting two vaccines.

It also included raising the production of Oxygen 12 folds within nine days, supplying oxygen to every area of the country by air and special trains after procuring cryogenic tankers from the world over and thus saving lakhs of lives. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, I don't want to say anything. I just want to tell Adhir Ranjan ji, that the Governments of your party, and every Chief Minister irrespective of the party thanked Modi ji and Modi ji also in turn thanked every Chief Minister. I know this as I used to conduct the Video Conferencing...*(Interruptions)* Danish ji, you may have fear in your mind, but its not in everyone's mind. Everyone does not get scared. There is also mutual understanding and there is a spirit to appreciate the efforts of political opponents also. Under this spirit, the Hon. Prime Minister thanked all the Chief Ministers that they had done a very good job. We worked in a very good environment and Gaurav ji was saying that the 'Aam Aadmi Party' was not allowed to work. Gaurav bhai, you may not know that the Chief Minister declined to accompany me. I went to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital, where, there were heaps of corpses. ...*(Interruptions)* He has mentioned the 'AAP' party. ...*(Interruptions)* I keep notes and I am reading them out. ... *(Interruptions)* There is government of 'AAP' in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)* Adhir Ranjan ji, please take your seat. This fact has been registered. There were heaps of corpses and funerals were not being held. There was no formula for vaccination. The rates and charges for hospitals had not been fixed. All this was accomplished by the Government of India under the leadership

of Modi ji because we could not have been mute spectators. We did not boast anywhere but when asked, I had to speak out here in the House. The Ministry of Home Affairs maintains records for years and this record becomes immortal. The future generations study it that is why I mentioned it here. I never mentioned it in any of the election speeches or press interviews till date, but I have to speak here because it goes on record.

Hon. Speaker Sir, it is said that we have brought this bill scared of elections. We are not scared of elections. ...*(Interruptions)*Kindly pay attention. It was stated by Adhir Ranjan ji also. ...*(Interruptions)*I am not targeting you. It is not our nature to be afraid of elections. Victory and losses are part of elections. ...*(Interruptions)*I am clarifying this only. I am only telling what sort of tactics are resorted to when we are afraid of elections. The election of Indira ji was cancelled by the Allahabad High Court. After that, the Prime Minister who did not have the right to vote in this House, imposed emergency overnight, taking away all the democratic rights of the people of entire country. This is called fear. The term of the Lok sabha was extended for one year. This is called fear. ...*(Interruptions)*Please listen. ...*(Interruptions)*Emergency was imposed out of fear. The leaders of all the political parties and lakhs of people were pushed behind bars.

The content of editorials of all the newspapers was decided from here. A famous singer was barred from singing on Akashwani. ...*(Interruptions)*Even the duet songs used to be presented in a single voice. ...*(Interruptions)*This is called fear. What more will happen? I am telling that the people saying that it has been postponed out of fear of elections are themselves afraid. I tell you, those who are saying that it has been postponed due to the fear of elections, they feel scared. Election will be held after 6 months, why are they afraid of. Only the people will decide. If they have confidence of winning, why they want elections right now?

...(Interruptions)Why we did so, I will answer it later. If they have confidence of winning, why they want elections right now? If you have done good work, you can win the election even after 6 months. This is called fear that conduct elections right now and they will win in a hurry.

Sir, I have to say that if one has to fear, then who are those who should fear? They cite the election results of five States and say that the Bharatiya Janata Party is scared of the results and it is scared of AAP. In Uttar Pradesh, AAP contested on 349 seats and it got their deposits forfeited on all seats.... (Interruptions)It Contested on 70 seats in Uttarakhand and forfeited their deposits on 68 seats....(Interruptions)It Contested on 39 seats in Goa and forfeited their deposits on 35 seats. They performed well in Punjab. They did not contest in Manipur. What are we afraid of? I heard... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: You do not follow the Constitution.... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMIT SHAH: I will tell about your party also.... (Interruptions)have a seat....(Interruptions)I will also tell about the Congress....(Interruptions)I will come on this topic also.... (Interruptions)

Please listen. Many Congress MPs said that we are scared. Why should we be afraid of? There are no such results to fear. Congress party contested elections on 575 seats and got their deposits forfeited on 475 seats....(Interruptions)Now who should be afraid? ...(Interruptions)Who has to fear? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: You do not follow the Constitution that is why I have said so... (Interruptions).

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Sir, none of Bharatiya Janata Party workers needs to fear. We have formed Government in four States and we have full confidence that wherever elections will be contested under the leadership of Modi ji, we will definitely come out victorious. We don't need to be afraid. I want to tell him that we were not afraid even when had only two members, now there are 302. At that time treasury bench used to taunt, I will not name the leader, otherwise they will raise the point of order, but taunts were made that we two, ours two. That party does not even have the status of leader of the opposition today. We are not afraid of. What to be afraid of elections? Victory and defeat are part of life...
 ...(Interruptions)It is to be decided by the people. We have spirit.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): You had only two Members of Parliament in 1984.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AMIT SHAH: That's what I said.....(Interruptions)Mr. Suresh, you put mike on translation mode.... (Interruptions)You put mike on translation mode.... (Interruptions)I said that we were not afraid even when we had only two members, now we are 302 so why should we fear? It is neither a matter of arrogance, nor a matter of sorrow. The decision of the people should be accepted by everyone in a democracy and this should be the spirit too. There is no question of having fear.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the question about why I brought the bill was repeatedly asked. I want to tell about it. After dividing one corporation into three corporations, it might have been done in a very good spirit as at that time both the Governments were of the same party, but after that there was a change of

Government. The 5th Finance Commission of Delhi had recommended Rs 40 thousand 561 crores to be given to the three Municipal Corporations, Sougata Ji please listen, the 5th Finance Commission of Delhi recommended to give Rs 40 thousand 561 crores. The Delhi Government gave less than Rs 7,000 crore. I repeat again. The recommendation of the Finance Commission was that Rs 40 thousand 561 crore should be given to the three municipal corporations on a pro rata basis for the civic service upgradation... *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: The State Finance Commission or the Central Finance Commission... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI AMIT SHAH: I am talking about the Finance Commission of Delhi, but less than Rs 20 thousand crore was given. Now they say that corporations do not work. Our MPs mentioned, in spite of that the corporations has done a better job than Delhi Government. The MCDs built more hospitals and schools. But how to meet this deficit? I would like to point out that after formation of so many corporations, today the deficit is of Rs. 16 thousand crores and Rs. 20 thousand crores has not been given. Had they given Rs 20,000 crore, there would have been no loss of Rs 16,000 crore and there would have been a surplus of Rs 4,000 crore and the work for people would have been done. Whose responsibility is it? No one will speak about it. That's why I say that one should think about it rising above politics. Against Rs 40 thousand crore, less than Rs 20 thousand crore was given. Rs 33 thousand crore less were given. Yet I would like to congratulate all the three mayors of the municipal corporations for the fact that there is a deficit of only Rs 16 thousand crore. If they had given the entire money and if we subtract Rs 16 thousand crore from the entire amount of Rs 20 thousand crore, we would have got Rs 4 thousand crore more for the welfare of the people of Delhi. Even after this, is

there anything worth knowing about it in detail? Leave aside the recommendation of the fifth finance commission. Even important recommendations like loan waiver, full reimbursement of expenditure in the education sector, funding for the expenditure on sanitation and sewerage for which Sougata Ji was talking about the reduction in the interest rate on outstanding loans by the Delhi government, sent to the Government of the National Capital Region Delhi by the Municipal Corporations were not accepted. Not a single recommendation was accepted. Not even a single penny was given more. Due to paucity of funds, the corporations sent several requests to the Delhi government to recover their revenue.

But it was either rejected or postponed. Not a single request has been answered till date. I want to mention some of them here. Like a request regarding Professional Tax in March, 2020. Today we are in March, 2022, we don't know at what stage it is? He has probably come from Punjab, may be, he would do it now. Similarly, a request to increase the one time parking charges was sent but no response was given to it and it was rejected. SDMC also sent proposal for revision of case transfer fee, which is pending till date. They wanted to issue bonds for the implementation of various projects and for which they had permission of RBI and also had permission for taking loan in the permitted amount as per financial inclusion. They sought Delhi government's permission to issue bonds, but it was rejected.

The deduction was also made in the approved budget of the State Government. Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask how the Municipal Corporations will work. How can they work? What do they want that the people of Delhi to get upset and turn against the Bharatiya Janata Party? To those who think like this, I would like to tell them that truth can never be covered by anyone.

...*(Interruptions)*It comes out shining like a thousand Suns. ...*(Interruptions)*A lie does not last long, a lie has no base. We have debated today. Will the residents of Delhi not be listening to what our MPs have said and what I am saying? Won't they ask for the account? I can understand that the Delhi Government may have a shortfall of budget, but a shortfall of Rs 20,000 crore? If it is so then where does this advertising money come from? How they make appointments of their party workers in an unconstitutional manner of their party workers? In terms of politics, it is not us who are breaking the federal structure of the country. Those who are breaking are sitting with them. Which definition of federal structure will justify the strangling of the Municipal Corporations financially? No one can tolerate this. All I would like to say is that the deficit is because we were prevented from increasing our resources and we were not even given our rightful resources.

Hon. Sir, Sougata Ji said, if everything is going well, then why are we unifying Corporations? Sougata Ji, it is being done to make it better. ... *(Interruptions)*. We should not be satisfied just doing good. They are doing good work. Whatever our MPs have said is on record. But it can be better, that's why we want to do this.

Hon. Speaker Sir, there will be one mayor instead of three mayors by having a unified Municipal Corporation. There will be 25 committees instead of 75. There will be one Municipal Commissioner instead of three. There will be one headquarters instead of three. There will be uniformity in the decisions. There will not be two types of tax structures in the city. Financial condition will also be good. The expenditure of about one hundred and fifty crore rupees will be reduced annually.

Hon. Speaker Sir, today, I just want to say that the Government cannot remain as a mere spectator. Delhi is the capital of the country. The image of the country is made through the Municipal Corporation of the country's capital and civic service. If such cheap politics is going on in the country's capital, Delhi, we should intervene. It was wrong not to do it. Therefore, I have done it and I have done it at the right time. Because, there is a five-year tenure for the corporation and when the tenure will be over and then, it will be unified. How can the rights of the elected representatives be taken away? We cannot do that. Questions are being raised that it this is being done after the results of the State elections. It was not done three months ago because you would have said that it is being done to influence the election. You are doing this to oppress the party. We waited for the election. They did not like it either. What can we do? Still, I would like to tell you that all the MPs are well educated and that I will clear all the doubts if they have regarding the Bill. Shri Adhir Ranjan Ji said that he had doubts. I would have cleared his doubts if he had called me on the phone. Why is he speaking like this in this House? You could have called me...*(Interruptions)* I have given only the justification of the time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Why did he remember it just one month before the election...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Sir, that press conference was held to announce this...*(Interruptions)* they thought that it was held to announce the election schedule. That press conference was to announce this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: You are good in...*, everybody knows that...*(Interruptions)*

DR.NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, this word is wrong. Please tell him to withdraw it. He is telling the Minister of Home Affairs that he is good in...
...*(Interruptions)*

20.00 hrs

HON. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, what he said will not go in record nor will be telecast on the TV. You bring in on TV by repeating the same thing.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Hon. Speaker Sir, to conclude I would like to say that we have brought this Bill to strengthen the services and infrastructural facilities of the Delhi Municipal Corporation and to make the Corporation self-reliant. When the election is over, the party which win should serve the people of Delhi with proud for that I have brought this Bill.

Therefore, I specially request all the Members to unanimously pass this Bill irrespective of the parties we belong to.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

" that the Bill further to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

*Not recorded

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause- wise consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 66 of 1957

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N. K. Premachandran, would you like to move the amendment No. 9?

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, omit lines 12 to 14. (9)

Sir, I did not get the opportunity to speak on the Bill. The hon. Minister has replied in detail, and the constitutional propriety and legislative competence of the Bill was also explained.

I would like to seek one simple clarification. You have talked about articles 239 and 246, and I would like to draw your attention to article 243 Z(b). After Part IXA of the Constitution, there is a clear provision by which the Government of India or the Parliament is having the legislative authority to legislate on issues of the Union Territory. But there is a proviso that His Excellency, the President, has to give exemptions or modifications of this Part IXA.

I would like to know this from the hon. Home Minister. Has the President given any exemption or modification of Part IXA of the Constitution, which is applicable to the Union Territory of Delhi? This point has not been explained in

your reply. This is a Constitutional competency so that this can be legislated by the Parliament. I am seeking this clarification. The hon. Minister is ready to respond to it. This is an academic question.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put amendment No. 9 to the clause 2 moved by Shri Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: the question is:

'that Clause 2 stands part of the Bill '

The Motion was adopted

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

Clause 3 and 4 were added to added to the Bill_

Clause 5 Amendment of Section 2

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray, would you like to move the amendment No. 1, 3 and 6?

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, *omit* lines 31 and 32. (1)

Page 2, *for* lines 35 to 38,-

substitute

“(5) The total number of seats of councillors including fifty per cent of seats reserved for the women and the Schedule Castes in the Corporation, shall, at the time of establishment of Corporation, be as determined by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi”. (3)

Page 3, line 5,-

after “Scheduled Castes”

insert “and women”. (6)

[Translation]

Wherever the word 'Government' is used, 'Central Government' shall be substituted. I want it to be suspended, omitted.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put amendment No. 1, 3 and 6 to the clause 5 moved by Prof. Sougata Ray to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Abdul Khaleque, would you like to move amendment No. 2 and 5?

[English]

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA): Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, *omit* lines 33 to 47. (2)

Page 3, *omit* lines 1 to 7. (5)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put amendment No. 2 and 5 to the clause 5 moved by Shri Abdul Khaleque to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, would you like to move amendment No. 4 ?

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I have asked for a clarification.

Sir, 272 has been reduced to 250 for the delimitation. My question is, when this delimitation will be over and election will be conducted.

Sir, I beg to move :-

Page 3, line 7,-

for " 250"

substitute "350" (4)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put amendment No. 4 to the clause 5 moved by Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, would you like to move amendment No. 10 to 15?

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 27,-

for “Central Government”

Substitute “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.”

(10)

Page 2, *omit* lines 31 and 32 (11)

Page 2, *omit* lines 35 and 38 (12)

Page 2, line 41 and 42-

for “Central Government”

Substitute “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.”

(13)

Page 3, line 1,-

for “Central Government”

Substitute “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.”

(14)

Page 3, *omit* lines 5 to 7. (15)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put amendment No. 10 to 15 to clause 5 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"that clause 5 stands part of the Bill"

The Motion was adopted

Clause 5 was added to the Bill

Clause 6 was added to the Bill

**Clause 7 Substitution of New Section
for Section 90A**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, would you like to move amendment no. 16

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN(KOLLAM) : Sir, this is regarding the issues of employees. When the consolidation of trifurcation becomes unification, a proviso is to be added that the tenure, remuneration and terms and conditions of service of officers and employees shall not be altered to their disadvantage because employees' interests have to be protected. This is the proviso to be added, which I am proposing and I am moving the same.

Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3, *after* line 18,-

insert "Provided that the tenure, remuneration and terms and conditions of service of officers and employees shall not be altered to his disadvantage". (16)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put amendment No. 16 to clause 7 moved by Shri N. K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and negatived.

The question is:

" that clause 7 stands part of the Bill"

Motion was passed

Clause 7 was added to the Bill

Clause 8 to 12 were added to added to the Bill

**Clause 13 Subsitution of New Section 514A
and 514AA for Section 514A**

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, would you like to move amendment No.7?

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY(BAHARAMPUR): I beg to move:

after “the Central Government”

insert “in consultation with the leader of Opposition in the house of the People or where there is no such leader of opposition, the leader of the single largest opposition party in the house and the Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory of Delhi”. (7)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put amendment No. 7 to clause 13 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and negatived.

Shri Abdul Khaleque – Not present

Shri N.K.Premachandran, would you like to move amendment no. 17 to 19?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 4, line 3,-

for “Central Government”

Substitute “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.”

(17)

Page 4, line 4,-

after “appoint a person”

insert “for a period not exceeding sixty days.”. (18)

Page 4, *after* line 7,-

insert “Provided that the first meeting of the Corporation shall be held within a period of sixty days.”. (19)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, I put amendment No. 17 to 19 to the clause 13 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and negatived.

The question is :

“that clause 13 stands part of the Bill ”

The Motion was adopted

Clause 13 was added to the Bill

Clause 3 and 4 were added to added to the Bill

Clause 14 Power to remove difficulties

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K.Premachandran, would you like to move the amendment no. 20 ?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN(KOLLAM): Sir, I am not moving. There is no use of moving.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“that clause 14 stands part of the Bill ”

The Motion was adopted

Clause 14 was added to the Bill

"Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long title of the Bill were added to the Bill."

Now, Hon. Minister will move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move:

" that the Bill be passed"

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“ that the Bill be passed"

The Motion was adopted

HON. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till 11 A.M on Thursday, 31 March, 2022.

20.08 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 31, 2022/Chaitra 10, 1944 (Saka).

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