Tuesday, July 20, 2021 Ashadha 29,1943 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Sixth Session (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI

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THE SPEAKER

Shri Om Birla

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Shri Utpal Kumar Singh

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

<u>Tuesday</u>, July 20, 2021/ Ashadha 29, 1943 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER in the Chair]

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 21

... (Interruptions)

11.0 ½ hrs

At this stage Prof. Sougata Ray, Adv. A.M. Ariff, Shri Gaurav Gogoi and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please give notices under the rules and procedures. Please do not enter the well of the house and discuss. Please give proper notices under the rules and procedures. All of you are senior leaders.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 21, Smt. Jaskaur Meena ji.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not try to set a wrong precedent in the House. You are a senior leader .Please give a proper notice. I will have your questions answered.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Yesterday, the Government had made a detailed statement on it.

... (Interruptions)

11.01 hrs

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 21, Shrimati Jaskaur Meena.

(Q.21)

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, arrangements have been made for formation of FPOs with a view to increasing the income in modern agriculture.... (*Interruptions*) I have a suggestion. I would like to ask if the Government will ensure women participation in FPOs... (*Interruptions*) and, what efforts will the Government make to bring down the number of members to minimum 150?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAILASH CHOWDHARY: Hon. Speaker Sir, as the hon. Member has asked the question about the formation of FPOs, I would like to inform that earlier the number of FPOs formed in this manner used to be 1,000.... (*Interruptions*) But now the number has been increased to at least 300 for its registration.... (*Interruptions*) If there is a hilly area, it is necessary to have at least 100 members there. ... (*Interruptions*) Along with this, as the Hon. Member has mentioned it now that the number of members in a FPO should be up to 150, I would like to say that it is a group. ... (*Interruptions*)

As the Hon. Member has mentioned that women participation should also be there, I would say that women can also become its members like men. Both are free to join it. ... (*Interruptions*) But at the same time what she has said about the number of 150 members. In this regard, taking the example of Dairy, I would like to say that the more is the number of farmers, the larger will be the group they will be able to form. Once it is in place, they will be able to set up a food processing

unit or package their products and market them... (Interruptions) If there are more number of groups, they will have the opportunity to showcase and promote their products within the larger framework. ... (Interruptions)

I think this will definitely benefit the farmers, as with more number of groups they will get more benefits. So far as I understand, the number of members required for its formation in Hilli stations is 100 and it is minimum 300 members for the rest of the places....(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, bringing placards in the House is not proper under the rules and procedures. I once again request you that the Government is ready to respond on every issue.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please get back to your seat. I will have all your issues discussed. You will get their answers. But it is not appropriate at all to show placards and shout slogans in the House.

... (Interruptions)

HON SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I once again request you all to take your seats. The issues that you want to discuss, the Government is also ready to discuss those issues.

. . . (Interruptions)

1*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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

11.04 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fourteen of the Clock.

 $^{^{1^\}ast}$ * For Questions, please refer to Master copy of English version, placed in Library.

14.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

14.0 ½ hrs

At this stage Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, debating is very important in the House in a democracy. This is more so important for the opposition .So, I request all of you to take your seats and participate in the debate.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 7, Secretary General.

14.01 hrs

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following eleven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 10th March, 2021:-

(i) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2021;

- (ii) The Appropriation Bill, 2021;
- (iii) The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
- (iv) The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2021;
- (v) The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
- (vi) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2021;
- (vii) The Puducherry Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2021;
- (viii) The Puducherry Appropriation Bill, 2021;
- (ix) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2021;
- (x) The Finance Bill, 2021; and
- (xi) The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2021.

I also lay on the Table a copy each, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha of following five Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:-

- (i) The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
- (ii) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment Bill, 2021;
- (iii) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021;
- (iv) The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill, 2021; and
- (v) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

14.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the papers will be laid on the table.

Item Nos. 2 to 6, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal ji.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, on behalf of the Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya ji, I beg to lay the following on the table:-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited and the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2018-2019.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned in (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4346/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy of the corrigendum (Hindi and English versions) dated 5th April, 2021 to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (No.3of 2021) under article 123(2) (a) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4347/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, on behalf of Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyanji, I beg to lay the following on the table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2019-2020, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4348/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, on behalf of Shri Nityanand Rai, I beg to lay the following on the table:-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. .1050 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 4th March, 2021, specifying the rights to which OCI card holders are entitled under sub-section (3) of Section 7B of the Citizenship Act, 1955, .

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4349/17/21]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 77 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005:-

- (i) G.S.R.452(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2021containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. No.621 (E) (in Hindi version only) dated 9th October, 2020.
- (ii) G.S.R.453 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2021containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. No.620 (E) (in Hindi version only) dated 9th October, 2020.
- (iii) G.S.R.454 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2021containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. No.621 (E) (in Hindi version only) dated 9th October, 2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4350/17/21]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-clause (2) of clause 2 of the Foreigners Order, 1948:-
 - (i) S.O.928 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2020 appointing the Senior Immigration Officer (Bureau of Immigration) as the "Civil Authority" for the purpose of the said Order for the Agartala Land Immigration Check Post located at West Tripura District of Tripura State with effect from 02.03.2020.
 - (ii) S.O.930 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2020 appointing the Senior Immigration Officer (Bureau of Immigration)as the "Civil Authority" for the purpose of the said Order for the Ghojadanga Land Immigration Check Post located at North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal State with effect from 02.03.2020.
 - (4) Statement showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above (Hindi and English versions).

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-rule (b) of Rule 3 of the Passports (Entry into India) Act, 1950:-
- (i) S.O. 927(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2020 designating Agartala Land Check Post of West Tripura District of Tripura State as an authorized Land Immigration Check Post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
- (ii) S.O.929 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2020 designating Ghojadanga Land Check Post, District North 24 Parganas of West Bengal State as an authorized Land Immigration Check Post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.
- (6) Statement showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4351/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):Hon. Chairperson Sir, on behalf of Shri Kailash Chaudhary, I lay on the Table the following on the table:-

(1) A copy of the Review^{2*} (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2017-18,

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4352/17/21]

(2) A copy of the Review^{3**} (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2017-18

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4353/17/21]

(3) A copy of the Review^{4***} (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Agricultural Universities Association, New Delhi, for the year 2018-19.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4354/17/21]

^{2*} Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the year 2017-18 were laid on the Table on 18.12.2018.

^{3**} Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the year 2018-19 were laid on the Table on 03.12.2019.

^{4**} Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the year 2018-19 were laid on the Table on 17.03.2020.

14.04 hrs

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE 36th to 38th Reports

[English]

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Sir, I rise to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2021-22):-

- (1)*36th Report on "Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twelfth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on "Management of Funds";
- (2) *37th Report on "Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirteenth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on "Doubtful Recovery of Outstanding Dues because of Failure of Fiduciary Duty-Bangalore International Airport Limited, Bangalore (BIAL)";
- (3) 38th Report on "Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their 42ndReport (16thLok Sabha) on "Non-Compliance by Ministries/Departments in Timely Submission of Action Taken Notes on the Non-selected Audit Paragraphs (Civil and other Ministries)".

^{*}The Thirty- sixth and Thirty- seventh Reports were presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 13th April 2021 under Direction 71A when the House was not in Session and the Speaker ordered the Printing, Publication and Circulation of the Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The matter was duly notified vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part - II No. 2483 dated 15th April, 2021.

14.05 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1st Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2019-20) pertaining to the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development^{5*}

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): I lay on the Table a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2019-20) pertaining to the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development.

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 $^{^{5^{\}ast}}$ Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4345/17/21

14.06 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on Official Language

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI): Chairperson Sir, with your permission, on behalf of Hon. Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, I beg to move the following:-

""That in pursuance of sub-section 2 of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, one member from amongst themselves to be a member of the Committee on Official Language vice Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma expired on 17 March, 2021."

HON. CHAIRPERSON The question is:

""That in pursuance of sub-section 2 of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, one member from amongst themselves to be a member of the Committee on Official Language vice Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma expired on 17 March, 2021."

The motion was adopted.

14.07 hrs

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS- FIRST BATCH, 2021-2022 Statement

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I rise to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Supplementary Demands for Grants - First Batch for 2021-2022.

... (Interruptions)

14.07 ½ hrs

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS, 2017-2018 Statement

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I rise to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Demands for Excess Grants for 2017-2018.

... (Interruptions)

14.08 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 3776*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today, may lay their approved text personally on the table of the House within 20 minutes.

... (Interruptions)

(i) Need to set up a Rail Coach Factory in Bhilwara Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA (BHILWADA): In my Lok Sabha constituency Bhilwara, the Railways entered into an agreement (MOU) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, a public sector undertaking to set up a MEMU coach factory. The land near Gulbapura was identified for the purpose and the Rajasthan government had even transferred the land to the Railways for the factory. The foundation stone of the factory was laid on 22.2.2013. Since then, more than 8 years have passed, no further progress has been made. Earlier, the Minister of State for Railways had expressed the intention of the Government to set up a factory. The local residents are having hopes of getting employment through it. The government should make concerted efforts in this direction. Therefore, a memo

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^{6*} Treated as laid on the Table.

workshop or other coach or equipment factory whichever is required ,should be set up on the available railway land.

(ii) Regarding grievances of farmers related to Bharatmala Project in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL (BANASKANTA): Currently, in my parliamentary constituency of Banaskantha district, the Bharatmala project is underway, which involves the construction of a six-lane highway road. This project has led to the acquisition of farmers' land within a width of 70 meters, causing several difficulties for the farmers.

- (1) Sometimes it happens that a road pass through the field of the farmer and the surveyed field is divided into two blocks because of the road. In such as case, there is no way to access the other part from anywhere. So, I request the Minister through you for making a the provision for constructing service roads on both sides of the road so that the farmer can access his field.
- (2) Currently, instead of constructing service roads on both sides, the company is building protection walls on both sides. Through you, I request that this practice should be stopped so that farmers can have access to their fields.
- (3)Several underpasses are being constructed at various locations on the road of the project for crossings. Due to their small size, farmers are going to face challenges for taking their tractor trolleys through these underpasses. Therefore, these underpasses should also be enlarged. I hope that action will be taken on all my above-mentioned demands at the earliest.

(iii) Regarding security scenario in Darjeeling

[English]

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): In North Bengal, Darjeeling constituency is in a highly sensitive zone.- Darjeeling is the only district in India with four international boundaries, i.e. Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and China. This region is turning into a hub for Drugs, Arms, Gold, and Human Trafficking. Drugs are smuggled into India through this route. Because of easy drugs availability, large numbers of our youths are becoming drug addicts, destroying thousands of families. Along with narcotics, criminals use this route for human trafficking, especially women and children. In recent years, foreign nationals staying illegally have been arrested, and many ISI and Terror modules busted here. I am worried that these criminal activities are used for funding Narco-Terrorism - Despite the threat to national security, the state Govt has done very little towards combating this menace. I request, Home Minister to investigate into all Trafficking by Central Agencies.

(iv) Need to undertake construction work of extension of platform and foot over bridge at Shankarpur Railway Station in Sitapur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (SITAPUR): I want to draw the attention of the government towards the expansion of Shankarpur Railway Station in my parliamentary constituency Sitapur. Survey for the construction of a 4-line station and signal station buildings has been completed. The District Magistrate of Sitapur has conducted a meeting and obtained the consent of the farmers for the acquisition of necessary land. Additionally, a high-level 500-meter platform and a foot over bridge are also planned. The tender for this has been issued, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the work could not commence. In such a situation, I urge the government to provide directions for the extension of the platform and the construction of the foot over bridge in public interest..

(v) Regarding Mega river linking Project in Saran, Bihar

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): The Commissionary of Saran has 3 districts under it with a population of about 1.2 crores. It has 4 major rivers- the Ganga, Gandak, Ghaggara and a tributary of Son flowing through it. During the monsoon, due to heavy discharge in Gandak from Nepal, where the Gandak canal is unable to hold water during monsoons, intermittent discharge of over 4 lakh cusecs is sent downstream, causing heavy flooding in Saran. The State Government of Bihar is preparing a mega project in Saran to link the 4 rivers and regulate the water levels. MECON, a PSU of Govt of India is preparing the DPR. However, there has been inordinate delay in the preparation of the DPR on the part of MECON causing continued suffering to the people. I request the Ministry of Jal Shakti to take cognizance of the matter and direct speedy completion of the project.

(vi) Regarding Deoghar-Pirpainti via Godda Railway line

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I have demanded, in my capacity as the Godda Lok Sabha MP, that the crucial Deoghar-Pirpainti via Godda railway line be constructed as per the new cost share of 50-50 as well. The state government agreed and wrote to the Railway Board that they are happily willing to contribute 50 per cent of the total cost.

In February 2014, the CCEA cleared this 127-km Deoghar Pirpainti via Godda rail project. The land acquisition has since started. However, in 2017 the Coal Ministry put up an objection saying that it has been allotted a coal block on the route between Godda Pirpainti. This came as a surprise, especially as prior NoC had already been provided by the Coal Ministry which allowed for the land acquisition to take place. Now, the Godda to Mahagama - 32 Km land acquisition process is complete and the Railways had awarded the work to lay the railway line.

However, the 30-km section between Mahagama and Pirpainti is stuck due to the coal companies last minute objections. Due to this hitch, the state government is not willing to fund the project, as the new alignment will go through Bihar. The people of the region are suffering since 72 years and due to this new problem, their hope seems to be dashed.

It is thus requested that you kindly intervene at the earliest and resolve this problem which is preventing the development of the region.

(vii) Regarding fixing price of forest produce in Chhattisgarh

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI (KANKER): It has been said that the Government of Chhattisgarh has given fair price to the collectors of forest produce at the time of

the global pandemic COVID-19. This claim is far from reality. The markets were completely closed during the Corona period. But the forest produce was taken to the traders in a planned way. The state of Chhattisgarh is the largest producer of many forest produce such as Mahua flowers, tamarind, gum and tendupatta in Asia.

According to government data, an annual income of about Rs One Thousand crore is generated with the collect and trade of forest produce. Usually, these tribal people collect the forest produce for sustenance of their livelihood but the traders buy the forest produce from these gullible tribals at very low prices. Even during the Corona pandemic, while the traders' community was made to reap profits, these tribals were exploited and deprived of their rights. I urge upon the government to ensure that forest produce collectors do not incur losses again in the coming years. Therefore, it is imperative to determine fair pricing for forest produce in Chhattisgarh so as to ensure that collectors get their due benefits.

(viii) Regarding alleged illegal mining of sand and stone in rivers in Chhattisgarh

SHRI CHUNNILAL SAHU (MAHASHMUND): In Chhattisgarh, illegal mining of sand and stones continues and rules are being flouted even after laying down the specified period of mine allocation. Sand mining is being carried out by the sand mafias from riverbanks through chain mountain machine with impunity. The orders of the National Green Tribunal are being violated. Officers of the concerned department have also failed to put a stop to this illegal act.

The mines have been allotted by the Department of Minerals in the lifegiving Mahanadi and Tandula Rivers or other major rivers of Chhattisgarh as per the contract system. But, the Departmental rules should also be followed along with sand and stone mining. Overloading of vehicles illegally has deteriorated the condition of transportation roads significantly.

When representatives and villagers oppose or file cases for the maintenance and repair of deteriorating roads, the sand mafia carry out deadly attack on them. It needs to be probed into as under whose patronage the arbitrariness of sand and stone mafia is going on in Chhattisgarh. If the department of mines remains indifferent towards it in this way, the contractors will keep on causing damage to environment through their arbitrariness.

Therefore, I urge upon the government to get the above matter investigated and provide appropriate directives for necessary action.

(ix) Regarding water crisis in Delhi

[English]

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA (WEST DELHI): Amidst raging heat wave in Delhi, the residents of the city are facing severe water scarcity as the Delhi Government has reduced supply. As per Economic Survey 2017 of the Delhi Government, 20% of the drinking water in Delhi was wasted due to mismanagement. As a result, the citizens are forced to flout social distancing norms and wait in long queues for tanker. The water supply is also said to be affected due to failure of the Delhi Government to check algae and high ammonia levels in Yamuna. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take immediate steps and direct the Delhi Government to resolve the water crisis being faced by residents of Delhi amid scorching heat and pandemic.

(x) Need to provide financial assistance to people affected due to Cyclone Tauktae (TauTe) in Gujarat particularly in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (AMRELI): Recent cyclonic storm TaukTe and torrential rains and storms have caused severe devastation across Gujarat, especially in Amreli district. Due to the cyclonic storm, with wind speeds of approximately 150 kilometers per hour, large trees were uprooted and fell in the villages. Many houses were affected, especially those made of tin and thatch were blown away in the storm. Due to continuous rainfall, the fields of farmers turned into puddles, the village roads were washed away, and the livestock and entire crops of farmers were destroyed. Electricity poles fell in the villages and power supply was disrupted in the area for several days. People had to live in the dark. The roads connecting villages and towns were damaged due to the storm and heavy rains. As a result, the residents of my parliamentary constituency, Amreli, have suffered heavy losses of life and property. Loss is so huge that it is very difficult for people to recover from it. .Due to Amreli being a coastal area, many villages near the coast have been inundated with several feet of water, As a result, the streets of entire villages have turned into slush, and the condition of fishermen, in particular, has become pitiable. The fishermen purchase boats by taking loans for their livelihood there .But in this cyclone the boats of the fishermen have been destroyed, rendering them unemployed. However, the loan installments by banks are still continuing.. Therefore, I urge upon the concerned department or ministry to assess the loss of life and property caused by this natural disaster and immediately provide financial assistance to the people of the Gujarat state particularly the people of my parliamentary constituency Amreli so that they could lead their livelihood as before.

(xi) Need to provide adequate compensation to farmers whose lands have been acquired for fencing purpose in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA (JAMMU): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to those border areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir where fencing has been done along the border. Due to fencing, the land at the other side of the border has been acquired and the farmers cultivating that land have been rendered unemployed.

Those farmers are facing starvation. What is the fault of these poor farmers in the system of erecting fencing? They have neither got any employment nor any compensation for the land which could enable them to support their families.

I would like to request the government to provide compensation to the farmers at the earliest so that they could support themselves and their children.

(xii) Need to include Bhojpuri, Rajasthani and Bhoti language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DUMARIYAGANJ): Bhojpuri, Rajasthani and Bhoti, the languages spoken in different States of India, have not yet been included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution while these three languages have been recognized at the international level. Mauritius has already recognized the Bhojpuri language, Bhutan has recognized the Bhoti language, and Nepal has recognized the Rajasthani language. So far as India is concerned, no action has been taken in this regard till now despite bringing in the Private Members Bills 19 times since 1969.Moreover, it is despite the fact that Bhojpuri is mainly spoken in various parts of the country, primarily in western Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, and northern Jharkhand. According to estimates, approximately 20 crore people speak the Bhojpuri language in 16 countries.

Bhojpuri language is being spoken all over the world in countries like Brazil, Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago etc.

Therefore, I demand from the Government of India to include Bhojpuri, Rajasthani and Bhoti languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

(xiii) Need to run a Vande Bharat train between Gorakhpur and Delhi

SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): My parliamentary constituency Gorakhpur is the main city of poorvanchal region of the state of Uttar Pradesh. It is also close to the neighboring state of Bihar and the bordering country Nepal. People from twenty districts of Poorvanchal including Gorakhpur and adjoining districts of the bordering states are dependent on Gorakhpur for their various needs. There is a large railway station at Gorakhpur. There is also a large Indian Air Force station here. A large number of people commute to Delhi from here but not a single train on the lines of Rajdhani Express is available from Gorakhpur to Delhi as a result of which it takes a lot of time for the people of the area to commute to Delhi. The Government of India has introduced a high speed train called Vande Bharat which completes its journey in a very short span of time.

Therefore, I demand from the Government to run a Vande Bharat train from Gorakhpur to Delhi at the earliest which will greatly facilitate the people of Gorakhpur and its surrounding districts in commuting to Delhi.

(xiv) Regarding recurring accidents at Muthlappozhi fishing harbour in Attingal, Kerala

[English]

ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH (ATTINGAL): The recurring accidents at Muthalappozhi fishing harbour in my constituency Attingal is a matter of urgent concern. Union Government had sought a report from the State Government of Kerala after this issue was raised by me in the Lok Sabha. The State Government has submitted a status report which denies the safety issues in the harbour. But the accidents are continuing and two fishermen have died recently. Around 56 fishermen lost their lives, more than 500 injured and many boats were destroyed so far. The unscientific construction has turned the breakwater region into a death trap for fishermen. I again urge the Government to conduct a scientific study and take corrective measures. Presently there is no permanent rescue operation team posted there. Many lives can be saved by deputing a permanent rescue operations team in the harbour and I request the Government to consider it at the earliest.

(xv) Regarding relaying of Sewage and water lines in North Chennai

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): North Chennai is one of the oldest (more than 150 years) and most historic part of the city. The infrastructures of sewage and water lines have got damaged over time. Sewage water getting mixed with potable drinking water has become a common problem in few localities of North Chennai, making public of these localities susceptible to waterborne infections. The situation has put many residents in a tough spot, as they are now buying water for drinking and other purposes. People belonging to lower economic groups are using the water, as they cannot afford to buy canned water.

As it involves huge costs, I once again request Centre Governments to provide fund to State Government under any Central Government Scheme for relaying of sewage and water lines in North Chennai to help the poor people of my Parliamentary Constituency.

(xvi) Regarding train connectivity between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Tiruvannamalai Railway Station in Tamil Nadu is 125 years old. The Passenger Train from Tambaram to Tiruvannamalai was running till 2007 on meter gauge. The work relating to conversion of meter gauge to broad gauge commenced in the year 2007 which temporarily disrupted the railway connectivity to Tiruvannamalai. After completion of conversion of railway track the daily passenger train which was operating between Tambaram to Tiruvannamalai has not been restored. The Temple city of Tiruvannamalai attracts lakhs of visitors for Dharshan of Lord Arunachaleshwarar and Girivalam. There is a huge public demand for direct train connection between Capital city of Chennai and Temple city of Tiruvannamalai. Hon'ble Railway Minister may take necessary action to resume daily direct train connectivity between the Capital city of Chennai and Temple city of Tiruvannamalai without any delay.

(xvii) Regarding inclusion of petroleum products under GST

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): The petrol prices have crossed the Rs 100-a-litre-mark in sixteen states and union territories. These include Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar, Punjab, Bihar, Ladakh and Sikkim. The Centre and states have to "work together" to bring the retail prices under control. The government failed to bring down the high excise duties. As much as 60% of the retail price of petrol, is at an all-time high elsewhere in the country and is made up of Central and state taxes. The finance minister had increased central excise duty on petrol and diesel by a record margin last year to mop up gains arising from international oil prices plunging to two-decade low, remained non-committal on cutting taxes to give relief to consumers. I urge upon the government to bring petroleum products under the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

(xviii) Need to provide financial assistance to farmers who suffered loss due to heavy rains in Osmanabad Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI OM PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR (OSMANABAD): My parliamentary constituency Osmanabad falls under the border areas of Marathwada. Last year, there was heavy rainfall here, resulting in significant losses to the farmers. Machinery used in drip irrigation and agriculture, which were quite expensive, got washed away in the river. Additionally, due to lightning strikes, many farmers' livestock died, and some were swept away in the river. Farmers are not in a position to buy them again. Regarding this terrible situation, the affected farmers have not received any assistance from the central government so far, nor has any announcement been made for it. The farmers have not received any kind of assistance directly. I want to apprise the Government that firstly, farmers in my constituency the farmers are already facing problems like suicide. Secondly, they are fighting an epidemic like Corona and thirdly, their fields, tools, and livestock have been severely affected due to heavy rainfall. In such a situation, it becomes the responsibility of the Central Government to come forward and help the farmers .Under the NDRF norms, only farmers having 2 hectares of land receive assistance. The farmers having more land than this are not provided any assistance as per NDRF norms. Therefore, farmers having more than 2 hectares of land also need to be given assistance on 2 hectares. Therefore, I request the Central Government to discharge its duties properly through kind consideration of providing the same assistance which is given for 2 hectares of land under the NDRF norms to the farmers having more than 2 hectares of land in my parliamentary constituency.

(xix) Need to provide a permanent solution to annual floods in Bihar

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT (SUPAUL): Millions of people are affected by the floods in more than half a dozen rivers including Gandak, Bagmati, Lakhandei, Kamla and Kosi in Bihar. The main reason for the floods is the water coming from Nepal, which makes Kosi, Kamala, Bagmati, Gandak, Mahananda, and Ganga extremely dangerous during the monsoon. During this time, more than half of Bihar's districts are severely affected. This not only causes loss of life and property but also significant damage to agriculture. In 1952, only 25 lakh hectares of land in Bihar were affected by floods. Today, this figure has increased to 68.8 lakh hectares, which is nearly 3 times as much. I request the government to find a permanent solution to the floods that occur annually in Bihar.

(xx) Regarding Talcher Thermal Power Station

[English]

SHRI MAHESH SAHOO (DHENKANAL): Talcher Thermal Power Station managed by NTPC completed fifty years of commissioning and both phases 1 and 2 have been shut down since 31st March 2021. Closure of this 460 MW plant has left the future of 829 employees and thousands of beneficiaries in uncertainty. Officers who were from power department have been transferred to various plants across the country.

A few years back it was announced that there will be a 3rd phase before the closure of Phase 1 & 2 but it is nowhere visible. Whether the old plant will be restarted or work starting on the 3rd phase or setting up a new plant is not known. Government should spell out its plan and provide a status report. And if the entire thing is scrapped what will be the next step?

I urge upon the Ministry of Power to take necessary steps and give directives in this regard.

(xxi) Regarding withdrawal of regulations in Lakhshadweep

ADV. A. M. ARIF (ALAPPUZHA): Lakshadweep is facing an unprecedented situation as regulations are being imposed arbitrarily and undemocratically by its administration neglecting the sentiments of native people. Even the Kerala High Court had to intervene in the issue and stay the operation of two controversial orders passed by the administration under its new administrator.

Of late, Seven Kerala MPs who had applied for entry permits to visit Lakshadweep have been asked to produce a sponsor's declaration vouching for their good conduct and signed before a magistrate or notary. Applying this unusual condition meant solely for migrant laborers in the case of visit of MPs is a breach of privilege of the democratically elected people's representatives.

I urge the Government to intervene urgently to ward off the anxiety and fear of the natives and withdraw the controversial regulations and ensure hassle free entry for the people's representatives at the earliest.

(xxii) Regarding demolition of a Church in Delhi

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Little Flower Catholic Church at Andheria Modh, Lado Sarai in Chhatarpur, Delhi at which thousands of devotees used to pray for the last 13 years, was demolished on 12th July, 2021 by the authorities. More than 450 families are members of this church under the Faridabad Syro Malabar (Syrian Catholic) diocese. This insensible act has created great distrust among the Christian minorities. This demolition is in violation of the Delhi High Court's directions in a case in 2002 and also against the clear directions given by the NHRC in 2016. Both, the High Court and NHRC directed the authorities not to single out any person or institution and allowed the functioning of the church to continue. The church authorities were denied the opportunity to exercise legal remedies before the demolition. I request immediate intervention of the Minister of Home Affairs in this matter so that the rights of minorities are protected.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, this Monsoon Session is very important. I request you to remove it. Please remove this. This House is meant for discussion.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House is adjourned till three o'clock.

14.09 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fifteen of the Clock.

(Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

15.0 ½ hrs

At this stage S/Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy, N.K. Premachandran and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal Ji.

... (Interruptions)

15.0 3/4 hrs

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

22nd Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, with your permission. I present the 22th Report of the Business Advisory Committee... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I request all the Hon. Members to take their seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House is adjourned till 11 A.M. on Thursday, the 22th July, 2021.

15.01 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 22, 2021/Ashadha 31, 1943 (Saka)

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https://sansad.in/ls

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