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Monday, March 8, 2021
Phalguna 17, 1942 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session

(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XI contains Nos.11 to 20)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 8, 2021/ Phalguna 17,1942 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Sixteen of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, with profound grief, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of two of our colleagues, Shri Mohan S. Delkar and Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan and seven of our former colleagues, Sarvashri Rajendra Kumar Sharma, Sarat Kar, M. R. Kadambur Janarthanan, M. Divikan, Mahavir Bhagora, Capt. Satish Sharma and D. Pandian.

Shri Mohan S. Delkar was a sitting Member of the current Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabha. He represented the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Parliamentary Constituency of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Shri Delkar served as member of various Parliamentary Committees. Shri Delkar was an active social and political leader and worked relentlessly for the upliftment of people belonging to Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Shri Mohan S. Delkar passed away on 22 February, 2021 at Mumbai at the age of 58 years.

Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan was a sitting Member of the present Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 16th Lok Sabha representing the Khandwa Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, Shri Chauhan was a member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1985 to 1996. An able Parliamentarian, Shri Chauhan served as a

member of different Parliamentary Committees. Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan passed away on 1st March 2021 at Gurugram at the age of 68 years.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma was a Member of the 6th and 10th Lok Sabha representing the Rampur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, Shri Sharma was a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1969 to 1974 and served as a member of various Committees of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Shri Rajendra Kumar Sharma passed away on 20th August, 2020 at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 80 years.

Shri Sarat Kar was a Member of the sixth Lok Sabha representing the Cuttack Parliamentary Constituency of Odisha. He was also a member of Odisha Legislative Assembly for three terms and had the distinction of having served as the Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly. Shri Sarat Kar served as Minister too in the Government of Odisha for multiple terms. He also served as the Chairman of various Committees of the Odisha Legislative Assembly. Shri Sarat Kar passed away on 12th October, 2020 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha at the age of 81 years.

Shri M.R. Kadambur Janarthanan was a Member of the 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th Lok Sabha and represented the Tirunelveli Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu. Shri Janarthanan served as Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and in the Ministry of Finance.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Janarthanan served as a member of various Parliamentary Committees.

Shri M.R. Kadambur Janarthanan passed away on 26 December, 2020 at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu at the age of 91 years.

Shri M. Divikan was a Member of 4th and 5th Lok Sabha and represented the Kallakurichi Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

Shri M. Divikan passed away on 11 January, 2021 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, at the age of 86 years.

Shri Mahavir Bhagora was a Member of the 14th Lok Sabha having represented the erstwhile Salumbar Parliamentary Constituency in Rajasthan.

Earlier, Shri Mahavir Bhagora served as a member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1993 to 1998.

Shri Mahavir Bhagora passed away on 16 January, 2021 at Udaipur, Rajasthan at the age of 73 years.

Captain Satish Sharma was a Member of the 10th and 11th Lok Sabha representing the Amethi Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh and 13th Lok Sabha representing the Rae Bareli Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Captain Satish Sharma served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha for three terms.

Captain Satish Sharma served as Union Minister in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas from 1993 to 1996.

Captain Satish Sharma passed away on 17 February, 2021 at Goa at the age of 73 years.

Shri D. Pandian was a Member of the 9th and 10th Lok Sabha from the erstwhile Madras North Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

Shri D. Pandian passed away on 26 February, 2021 at Chennai at the age of 88 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of our colleagues and former colleagues and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to their bereaved families.

The House will now remain silent for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

16.05 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

HON.SPEAKER: Om Shanti. Om Shanti. Om Shanti.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**(Starred Question Nos.181 to 200)
Unstarred Question Nos.2071 to 2300)**

*** For Questions, please refer to Master copy of English version, placed in Library.
You can also visit <https://sansad.in/ls/questions/questions-and-answers> for more information.**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 5:00 p.m.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Seventeen of the Clock.

17.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Seventeen of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

International Women's Day

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are well aware, 8th March is celebrated world over as International Women's Day. I extend my felicitation to our women Members and women of our country as well as those of other countries. Today is the day to celebrate the outstanding achievements of women. Today is also the day to remember the memorable feats they have achieved in various areas.

I, on behalf of the entire House, express gratitude to all the women of the world for their selfless services to the society, country and the whole humanity. I again convey my best wishes to them on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

. . . (Interruptions)

17.01 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Receipt of Message from the President

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following message from hon. President on 17th February, 2021:

"I am immensely pleased to acknowledge thanks expressed by the hon. Members of Lok Sabha for my Address to both Houses of Parliament in the joint sitting held on 29th January, 2021".

. . . (Interruptions)

(ii) Sitting of Lok Sabha

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, from 9 th March 2021 onwards, the sittings of the House will be held from 11:00 AM, instead of 4:00 PM. Hon. Members may also take their seats in the Lok Sabha Galleries.

—————
. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motion from several hon. Members regarding rise in prices of petroleum products. It is a very important issue. But I suggest that hon. Members may present their views on this issue before the House during the discussion on the Finance Bill.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have not granted permission for notice of any adjournment motion.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, all of you are requested to allow the papers to be laid on the Table.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The Papers will now be laid on the Table.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are a senior Member. You may speak after papers are laid on the Table.

. . . (Interruptions)

17.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, letters will be laid on the Table of the House. Item No. 3 to 5.

Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal.

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

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3755/17/21]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2019-2020.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2019-2020.
- (3) Statement showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3756/17/21]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2019-2020.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2019-2020 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3757/17/21]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2019-2020.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3758/17/21]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. CA-31037/5/2019-CA/PNG (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 9th November, 2020 regarding ordinances of Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy under sub-section (2) of Section 45of the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Act, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3759/17/21]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND
PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):**

Hon. Speaker sir, on behalf of Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report [Hindi and English versions] of the Competition Commission of India, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Competition Commission of India, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020, alongwith Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Competition Commission of India, New Delhi, for the year 2019-2020.
- (2) Statement showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3760/17/21]

- (3) A copy of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2021 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.40(E) in Gazette of India dated 22nd January, 2021 under sub-section (3) of Section 469 of the Companies Act, 2013.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3761/17/21]

- (4) A copy of the Competition Commission of India (Procedure in regard to the transaction of business relating to combinations) Amendment Regulations, 2020 [Hindi and English versions] published in Notification No. F. No. CCI/CD/Amend/Comb. Regl./2020 in Gazette of India dated 26th November, 2020 under Section 64 of the Competition Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3762/17/21]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.399(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 28th January, 2021, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1693(E) dated 3rd October, 2007, under Section 40 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3763/17/21]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. ICSI No. 01 of December, 2020 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd December, 2020 regarding resignation of the member of the Council of the Institute under Section 40 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3764/17/21]

- (7) A copy of the General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Officers) Amendment Scheme, 2021(Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.611(E) in Gazette of India dated 9th February, 2021 under sub-section (5) of Section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3765/17/21]

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

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited [Voluntary winding up of IIBI to the Equity shareholders of IIBI], Kolkata for the quarter ended 31.12.2020.
- (ii) Liquidator's Report on the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited (Voluntary winding up of IIBI to the Equity shareholders of IIBI), Kolkata, for the Quarter ended 31.12.2020, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3766/17/21]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2019-2020, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3767/17/21]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, on behalf of Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, I lay on the Table the following papers [Hindi and English versions] :

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3768/17/21]

- [2] Output Outcome Framework of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3769/17/21]

17.04 hrs

At this stage, Shri Hibi Eden, Prof. Sougata Ray, Dr. T.Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

17.05 hrs**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT,
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE****341st to 347th Reports**

[Translation]

DR. SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ [UNNAO]: Speaker Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests, and Climate Change:-

- (i) 341st Report on Demands for Grants (2021-2022) of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- (ii) 342nd Report on Demands for Grants (2021-2022) of the Department of Bio-Technology.
- (iii) 343rd Report on Demands for Grants (2021-2022) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- (iv) 344th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-2022) of the Department of Science and Technology.

(v) 345th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-2022) of the Department of Space.

(vi) 346th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-2022) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

(vii) 347th Report on Demands for Grants (2021-2022) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

. . . (Interruptions)

17.06 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

125th to 127th Reports

[English]

DR. MAHESH SHARMA (GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare:

- (i) 125th Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in its One Hundred Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants 2020- 21 (Demand No. 42) of the Department of Health and Family Welfare.
- (ii) 126th Report on Demands for Grants 2021-22 (Demand No. 44) of the Department of Health and Family Welfare (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).
- (iii) 127th Report on Demands for Grants 2021-22 (Demand No. 45) of the Department of Health Research (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

... (Interruptions)

17.06½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

6th and 7th Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy:-

- (i) Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) relating to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- (ii) Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) relating to the Ministry of Power.

... (Interruptions)

17.07 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

6th and 7th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (EAST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports [Hindi and English versions] of the Standing Committee on Railways:-

(i) Sixth Report on 'Passenger Amenities including Modernisation of Railway Stations'.

(ii) Seventh Report on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Railways.

—————
... (Interruptions)

17.07½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

10th and 11th Reports

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports [Hindi and English versions] of the Standing Committee on Water Resources:-

- (1) Tenth Report on 'Demands for Grants' (2021-22) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
 - (2) Eleventh Report on 'Demands for Grants' (2021-22) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
-

17.08 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

5th Report

[English]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): I beg to present the Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development.

17.08 ½ hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

[English]

(i) (a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2019-20) pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, I beg to lay the statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2019-20) pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3753/17/21

(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 8th Report of Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2020-21) pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, I beg to lay the statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 8th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2020-21) pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

... (Interruptions)

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3754/17/21

17.09 hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193
Empowerment of Women

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 13.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today is International Women's Day. The women Members in the House today want to discuss the subject of Women Empowerment.

International Women's Day is being celebrated today not only across the country, but all over the world. I urge all of you that today, this House should be dedicated to women, so that this House can be run by women Members from the Chair and women may discuss their issues and other issues prevalent in the country. Therefore, Hon. Members, I request you to please take your seats, I will allow your leader to speak. Now you speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would first request the Government to pass the Women Reservation Bill in this House. Congress Party and the Congress Party leader Madam Sonia Gandhi

have clearly stated that resolution of the Women's Reservation Bill should be passed today...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please discuss this when the House takes up this subject for discussion and debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Speaker Sir, the prices of gas, petrol and diesel are increasing indiscreetly and the Government is having discussion on Women's Day. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today we are having discussion on the subject of women empowerment. A Calling Attention Motion has been moved by women Members.

Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, what do you want to say?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; THE MINISTER OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, you have taken a very important decision. (English) It is very important that you have taken a decision to run the entire House by the lady members. ...(Interruptions)The entire proceedings of today will be run by the lady members...(Interruptions) You have taken this decision. ...(Interruptions) It is a right decision, Sir. I appeal to them....(Interruptions) Since a Calling Attention is already admitted for women

members, it may kindly be allowed to continue. ... (Interruptions) If they want, this Calling Attention can be converted into a discussion under Rule 193, a Short-Duration Discussion. ... ((Interruptions) [Translation] The Government is ready for that too. We are going to have discussion on the topic women empowerment, and you have dedicated it to women. International Women's Day is being celebrated all over the world today, so we will honour the women in this House and discuss about women empowerment. Let the whole discussion take place, let the discussion go on till late night. We do not have any objection. Therefore, while appreciating the decision you have taken and congratulating you, I request the women of all parties to please participate in this discussion. If there is any subject to be brought up here, please do so. We are open for discussion. We are ready for Short Duration Discussion too. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal ji, do you want to say something?

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal ji, please speak.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL (BHATINDA): Thank you, Sir. I would like to request you that today is Women's Day and the most problematic issue affecting women today is increasing prices of gas, petrol and diesel leading to rise in inflation... (Interruptions)

Sir, while this issue is also important, please first give time to the women Members to discuss and then allow a discussion on the issue of inflation and the ways to bring down the rising prices of gas, petrol and diesel. A discussion in this regard should also be held. ... (Interruptions). How would a woman manage her family? Please see the price of cooking gas today...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your respective seats. All of you want to have a discussion.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please return to your respective seats.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Please have a look at the cooking gas prices nowadays. See the prices of petrol and diesel too. When the price of crude oil has come down, then why does the Union Government not reduce the prices of petrol and diesel.

HON. SPEAKER: The women of the country want to have a discussion in the House now.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The women of the country want to discuss important matters in the House.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Punjab levies the highest tax. The VAT on petrol and diesel is being levied by the Congress party in Punjab. Then, how come they are even talking about it? First, reduce the tax in the States run by you, and only then suggest it to the Union Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, I would request you not to allow them to speak (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: All of you please take your seats. Today is International Women's Day. Let our hon. women Members of Parliament express their views.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till 7 P.M.

17.14 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Nineteen of the Clock.

19.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Nineteen of the Clock.

(Shrimati Rama Devi in the Chair)

At this stage Shri Hibi Eden, Prof. Sougata Ray, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian and some hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

. . . (Interruptions)

19.01 hrs**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377***

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, all of you who have been granted permission to raise matters under Rule 377 today, may lay on the Table the approved text of their matters in person within 20 minutes.

(i) Regarding inclusion of more products in Second Schedule of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act (APEDA Act)

[English]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ) : The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act (APEDA Act) was amended in 2009 which added Section 10A. This fixed a duty on the APEDA Authority to ensure intellectual property rights protection of special products in India and outside India as well. Special Products are listed in the Second Schedule to the Act. This will provide the much needed boost to demand for special Indian products in international markets. However, till date only "Basmati Rice" has been added to the list of Special Products.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

The Central Government must add “Kalanamak Chawal” under Second Schedule. It is a special aromatic rice from Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh. It is famous for its nutritional properties and rich cultural history. It is also known as Buddha Rice and has garnered huge demand in international markets due to the efforts of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh

This is very important to ensure that the interests of the farmers are appropriately protected around the world, which will enable a healthy and lasting source of income.

The Government may also consider Navara Rice and Palakkadan Matta Rice from Kerala, Joha Rice from Assam, Gobinbhog Rice from West Bengal, Chakhao Rice from Manipur, etc.

I request the Government to consider adding more products to the Second Schedule to provide a boost to the Special products of India.

**(ii) Need to provide stoppage of train Nos. 05114, 05113, 55008 and 55007
at Taria Sujan Railway Station in Kushinagar district, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI (DEORIA): I would like to request the Government that Taria Sujan Railway Station is the last railway station of Uttar Pradesh under my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency Deoria, District Kushinagar, and people from about 50 Gramsabhas, having population of about fifty thousand to two lakh, use train services from here. .People from the villages Ahiraulidan, Bakkhaash, Virwat, Badhachaur, Siswa Nahar, Mathia Sriram, Jamsadia, Rampur, Bangra, etc. located in Diyara region catch trains from Taria Sujan Railway Station for healthcare and daily jobs. They do not have any other means of transportation other than trains, that is why they have to face problems. Keeping in view the public interest, it is very important for trains to have their stoppages at Taria Sujan Railway Station.

Therefore, I would like to urge hon. Minister of Railways to kindly provide stoppage of the train no. 05114/05113 from Chhapra via Gomti Nagar and train no. 55008/55007 from Gorakhpur via Pataliputra at Taria Sujan Railway Station.

(iii) Need to construct a bridge on National Highway No. 30 between Raipur and Dhamtari in Chhattisgarh

SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU (MAHASAMUND): In Chhattisgarh, National Highway number 30 is being widened to four lanes from Raipur to Dhamtari. There are villages on both sides of the said route. Due to higher elevation of the roads, the houses in the villages such as Chataud, Darba Kurud and Dandesara, situated alongside the road, are steeped lower than the roadside and drainage and transportation facilities are getting disrupted. Even the children studying in primary school located in Chataud village under National Highway No. 30 are scared of crossing the high road. Therefore, construction of an Overhead Road Bridge needs to be done at the earliest so that children can go to school safely. Construction of an Overhead Bridge would save children and other people from accidents. Therefore, I request the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to take cognizance of the matter and immediately direct the concerned departmental authority to take appropriate action.

(iv) Regarding implementation of Atal Bhu-Jal Yojana in Dausa Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA (DAUSA): In Dausa and Bandikui Assemblies under my Parliamentary Constituency, Atal Bhujal Yojana was approved in the year 2020. Even after a lapse of 18 months today, neither the initial work could be started, nor has it been communicated to the Gram Panchayat through due publicity.

The Rajasthan Government is unable to implement the most important water schemes of the Government of India for its people. My Parliamentary Constituency will get developed only with the help of water harvesting. My suggestion is that any national-level voluntary organisations should be handed over the work related to implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana and funds should be given directly to the Gram Panchayats.

This scheme is scheduled to be completed within a period of 5 years. Out of this, 1.5 years have already passed. Hence, immediate attention should be paid to it.

**(v) Need to upgrade Lion Safari Park in Etawah Parliamentary
Constituency, Uttar Pradesh as a National Safari Park**

DR. RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA (ETAWAH): A Lion Safari Park has been built in my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, Etawah, in which around 18 lions are currently present and other animals also live therein. I would like to request that Etawah Lion Safari should be upgraded to a National Safari Park, so that tourists from the country and abroad can visit there.

(vi) Need to set up a Munsiff Court at Bilhaur Tehsil headquarters in Kanpur Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT (MISRIKH): It has been the intention of the hon. Supreme Court to decentralise the Judiciary and provide access of easy and speedy justice to the general public. By the order of the hon. Supreme Court, *Munsif* Courts have already been established in many tehsils of different States of the country.

But under my Parliamentary Constituency, Misrikh (UP), Bilhaur Tehsil under my Parliamentary Constituency, Misrikh (UP), is a very ancient and large tehsil and it comes under the District Magistrate, Kanpur city. It has about 409 revenue villages and Nagar panchayats and one municipal complex and 4 police stations. Tehsil Bilhaur headquarter is situated about 60 km away from Kanpur City district headquarter and 110 km away from Kanpur Dehat district headquarter and remote border of the tehsil is 75 km away from Kanpur City district headquarter and 125 km away from Kanpur Dehat district headquarter. There is high shortage of accessible means of transport to reach Kanpur Dehat district headquarter. Due to it, the litigants have to travel 6 to 8 hours from their homes. Thus, due to very long distance and lack of means of transport, the poor litigants are unable to get the anticipated justice, which is contrary to the natural principles of justice and the desire of the civilized society and the Supreme Court.

There is enough and proper space available for setting up of a court at headquarters complex of the Bilhaur Tehsil and in light of the Supreme Court order, civil courts (*Munsif* Courts) have also been established in new and relatively small tehsils around Bilhaur tehsil.

Therefore, I request that in light of the order of the Supreme Court, in order to provide the required affordable and accessible justice to people of Bilhaur, Tehsil Headquarter, District Kanpur City (UP), necessary action should be taken to establish a *Munsif* Court and to re-affiliate it to the jurisdiction of Kanpur City itself.

**(vii) Need to shift the food stalls located near foot overbridge on
Ahmedabad Railway Station platform**

SHRI HASMUKHBHAI S. PATEL (AHMEDABAD EAST]: In my Parliamentary Constituency Ahmedabad - East, Ahmedabad Railway Station is an A-1 category railway station and this station has been renovated by the Ministry of Railways and state-of-the-art facilities have been provided to the public. I am grateful for this commendable work. The length of platforms has been increased over the years, but catering stalls allocated at all platforms at the station have been set up just before and after the foot over bridges (FOBs). At Ahmedabad Railway Station there are more than 8 - 10 stalls between the F.O.B and which are very close and cause more congestion. Passengers traveling in unreserved coaches and Sleeper Class have no catering stalls near their coaches at railway platforms. My humble request is that the existing catering units should be removed from the FOB and placed around the upgraded platform areas near the unreserved and sleeper class coaches where there is no catering facility. It will be useful for passengers and will also reduce congestion.

**(viii) Need to install 10 KW transmitter for FM broadcast in Amreli
Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (AMRELI): At present, in my Parliamentary Constituency Amreli [Gujarat], FM is operational with only 100-watt transmitter capacity, which has a coverage range of only 6-7 km^o, whereas my Parliamentary Constituency extends up to a distance of 60-70 km^o. Due to the low transmission capacity of the 100-watt transmitter, the entire area's population is not benefiting from FM-radio. Considering the extensive distance of my Constituency, there is a need to install a 10 KWFM transmitter here having good capacity so that the people of the area can avail the benefits of FM radio. I have consistently raised this demand before the relevant department since 2014, but, no action has been taken so far on this demand. However, the districts that demanded for FM radio transmitter having 10 KW capacity after us, have received the approval. Therefore, I request hon. Minister to kindly take note of this urgent matter and arrange for the installation of a 10 KW FM transmitter at the earliest.

(ix) Need to construct a bridge on Bawanthadi river between Bhandra district (Maharashtra) and Balaghat district (Madhya Pradesh)

DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN (BALAGHAT): A bridge was constructed some 30-40 years ago by the Government of Maharashtra on Katangi-Tumsar Road on Babanthadi river in Bonkatta village at the borderline of Balaghat and Bhandara districts along Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra border. Due to the bridge remaining damaged for about 4 months, traffic thereon has been completely closed on the instructions of the Collector of Bhandara, Maharashtra. Even pedestrians cannot cross the bridge. Owing to the complete stoppage of movement of small and large vehicles, commuters, patients, businessmen, farmers commuting to Tumsar and Bhandara are in deep trouble. After the bridge having got damaged, the Maharashtra Government has not constructed any diversion route on the river, and construction of a new bridge has not been decided yet. Therefore, Maharashtra Government should immediately construct a bridge on this route or the Government of India should build a bridge on the interstate highway so that the public, businessmen and others can get relief.

**(x) Need to set up an AIIMS in Hamirpur Parliamentary Constituency,
Uttar Pradesh**

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR): Bundelkhand is an economically backward region, and there is a dire need for development of healthcare facilities on priority basis in this area. There is a lack of treatment facilities, especially for cancer and kidney diseases, and patients have to go to Delhi or Lucknow for treatment. Majority of the people residing in my Parliamentary Constituency Hamirpur (Uttar Pradesh) are economically disadvantaged, and they have to take loans for treatment, due to which they get trapped in the vicious cycle of debt and their entire life gets disrupted. Serious ailments such as heart defects, kidney cancer, liver cancer, spinal injuries, and other diseases force patients to travel to Delhi, Lucknow, or other major cities for treatment. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to expedite the construction work of an AIIMS in Mahoba and make arrangements for treatment of cancer and kidney diseases in Mahoba, Hamirpur, and Tindwari districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(xi) Need to restore passenger train services

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU): During the Corona epidemic (COVID-19) pandemic, the Government had suspended trains and other services to control the epidemic. Now, considering the convenience of the common people, the railways have resumed passenger train services from March 1st, 2021, renaming them as special trains. Under this initiative, the Railways have started operating 12 trains in my Lok Sabha Constituency, Churu. Earlier, the minimum fare for passenger trains used to be Rs. 10. However, now the minimum fare for these special trains has been set at Rs. 30 by the Railways, which is a heavy burden on the general public. A minimum of rupees 30 will have to be paid to board a station and alight at the next station. This fare is very high for the poor, farmers, and labourers. It has become difficult for people to travel by trains. I request the Government that keeping in view the interest of the common people, kindly make arrangements to run passenger trains as before.

(xii) Regarding revival of Cinchona plantations in Darjeeling and Kalimpong**[English]**

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The history of Cinchona Plantations in Darjeeling and Kalimpong is as old as the history of tea plantation in the region.

At the heights of its operations, the Cinchona Plantations were spread over an area of 26000 acres, ran 4 factories, and provided employment to around 7000 people.

The life saving Anti-Malaria drug Quinine was manufactured here and supplied across the world. Other plants Ipecach, Cardamom, Rubber, Mulberry, Turmeric, Mandarin Orange etc were also planted in these gardens.

However, due to the continued apathy, and neglect, these plantations are today struggling for their own existence. Despite immense potential and need for medicinal plants, Cinchona plantations are dying and the livelihood of thousands of workers are at stake.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Ayush Minister to kindly help rejuvenate the Cinchona plantations by taking them under the National Medicinal Plants Board and using the available land and manpower towards growing plants that will benefit the entire nation.

(xiii) Regarding effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disability Act

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (SHILLONG) : The Rights of Persons with Disability Act (RPD), promised equality and accessibility to everyone, yet its provisions remain confined to paper. Our public spaces and transport systems are largely inaccessible for the differently abled. Most footpaths are too narrow or broken for safe wheelchair use, all the buses don't have functioning ramps, our trains are not designed for wheelchair users, and several of our airports do not even have ambulifts.

Similarly, there has been no concerted effort to revamp government buildings or incentivize private buildings for a more inclusive infrastructure. I request the Government to be cognizant of this travesty on the rights of nearly 2.7 crore citizens of this country and do more to implement the RPD Act. Their social exclusion from mainstream society through systemic denial of access, and the general apathy of the society and political class, is something that needs to be remedied as soon as possible.

(xiv) Regarding construction of Rail over bridge in Chennai

Dr. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH) : Railways had approved the construction of Rail Overbridge at LC 2A & LC2B and people of the area were eagerly waiting for an early start of the project. The importance of ROB is not only for the people residing in the area, but also the whole of North Chennai. There are 18 lakh people residing in the areas. Large number of residents commute to South Chennai for work and other day to day activities. Non-availability of ROB is leading to congestion of existing roads and the public. Especially, children tend to follow unsafe practices like crossing the track at the existing LC. In fact, one of the biggest beneficiaries will be the Railway employees and their families, who reside in this area in significant numbers. I am very disappointed that a sanctioned project has been dropped. I, therefore, request the Union Government to revive the project at the earliest.

(xv) Regarding withdrawal of excise duty on petroleum products

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Citizens have anguish and deep distress regarding the spiraling fuel and gas prices. India is witnessing systematic erosion of jobs, wages and household income. The middle class and those at the margins of our society are struggling. These challenges have been compounded by runaway inflation and an unprecedented rise in prices of almost all household items and essential commodities. 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, which shot above Rs 100-mark in some places in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and is at an all-time high elsewhere in the country is made up of Central and state taxes. I request to withdraw the excise duty imposed by the government on petroleum products.

(xvi) Need to construct a bridge on Kao River in Rohtas district, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABALI SINGH (KARAKAT): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards construction of a bridge over the Kao River. Due to the absence of a bridge over the Kao River near the village Etdhiyaan in Karakat block of Rohtas district under my Parliamentary Constituency, the movement of people from Sanjhauli and Vikramganj in the Karakat block is getting hindered, and lakhs of people are facing difficulties. Therefore, I request the Government to immediately construct a bridge over the Kao River near the village Etdhiyaan in the Karakat block.

(xvii) Need to restart Hindi language-based services of Akashvani

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The Hindi language services of the utterly important Foreign Service Broadcast by All India Radio have been discontinued. On the other hand, broadcast services of languages like Urdu, Indonesian, Parsi etc. are still in continuing. Foreign channels are broadcasting their programmes in the areas adjoining the borders of the country. While spreading their propaganda among the people of Nepal, China's foreign broadcasting service, China Radio International is influencing a large part of Uttarakhand through Hindi broadcasts on shortwave radio. Earlier, the Hindi service of China used to be heard upto Almora, whereas now it is also audible in the common areas upto Bijnor. The format of All India Radio's popular Hindi language channel FM-Gold has been changed to make it only news-centric channel. This channel was the only channel providing information and entertainment in simple and standard Spoken Hindi language. It should be restored to its previous format. I request the Government of India to kindly consider the above points and take appropriate action.

(xviii) Regarding infrastructural needs in tandem with ecology and environmental aspect of Lakshadweep Island

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMAD FAIZAL P.P. (LAKSHADWEEP): Infrastructure such as roads, ports, and harbors, transportation needs to be in tandem with ecology and environmental aspect of Lakshadweep.

Necessary measures may be taken for the purpose.

(xix) Regarding closure of NTPC Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kayamkulam

ADV.A.M. ARIF (ALAPPUZHA) : Kendriya Vidyalaya, NTPC, Kayamkulam started functioning on 28-07-1999 in Project sector under the sponsorship of NTPC, Kayamkulam mainly to cater the educational needs of the wards of the project employees. Now NTPC plant in Kayamkulam has been closed for almost a decade and also, the authorities are closing down the KV attached to it too. Authorities have suspended admissions to the new classes. Kayamkulam NTPC School is the only KV in Alappuzha district and the future of the students studying there is in grave uncertainty. Including NTPC, there are several Central government institutions in the surrounding areas and has a population of around 20 lakh people. Closing down of the said KV will be a huge setback to the educational development and aspirations of thousands of poor students of the already backward district. Converting the KV from project sector to Civil Sector is a viable alternative to retain the School. I urge the Government to take urgent steps to convert the school from Project Sector to Civil Sector under MHRD and withdraw the decision of the closure of NTPC Kayamkulam Kendriya Vidyalaya as early as possible.

(xx)Regarding upgradation of existing infrastructure in ESI Model and Super Speciality Hospital in Asramam, Kollam

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The ESI Model and Super Speciality Hospital, Asramam, Kollam is one of the important hospitals rendering service to the insured persons. The infrastructure of this hospital is not sufficient to meet the requirements of patients. Number of patients depending on ESI Model and Super Speciality Hospital Asramam is higher compared to any other ESI hospital. Due to the lack of infrastructure, the insured persons are facing difficulties. The proposal for construction of additional block, development of existing blocks are pending with the ESI Corporation. It is highly necessary to increase the number of beds, strengthen the OP, more theatre and lab for the smooth functioning of the hospital. The delay in infrastructure development of hospital is causing much difficulties to the insured persons. Hence, I urge to initiate urgent action for construction of the additional block, develop existing block and provide other infrastructure in ESI Model & Super Speciality Hospital, Asramam, Kollam.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seats.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: All of you are gentle people and the public is watching you all. You may also make your point, as today is Women's Day.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please listen to what I am saying. There is a woman in every household and she is respected by all. It is Women's Day today, therefore, kindly respect womanpower. Please understand the power of women. In your house too, there are women; a wife, a mother. So, please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Today is the day of women empowerment, please take your seats.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please pay some attention to what I am saying.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, as you are all aware, International Women's Day is being celebrated all over the world today. In today's agenda, a Calling Attention Motion is listed in the names of Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana and Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi on the issue of women empowerment. It is a very important subject, and more and more Members, especially women Members,

want to express their views on this subject, which is not possible in the format of Calling Attention Motion. Therefore, respecting the sentiment of the House, this discussion listed under the Calling Attention Motion, has been permitted to be taken up as a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 so that more and more Members will get an opportunity to express their views.

Shrimati Navneet Ravi Rana - Not present.

Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi.

. . . (Interruptions)

19.03 hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193
Empowerment of Women ...Contd.

[English]

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE): At the outset, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to initiate a discussion on the occasion of the International Women's Day. Hon. Chairperson, I am also thankful to our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy *garu* that because of his special efforts, four women MPs are present in this august House from our YSR Congress Party, and I consider myself extremely fortunate to be one among those four MPs.

When I rise today to speak on the occasion of the International Women's Day, I start by reiterating the words of the founding father and architect of our Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar ji, who once said and I quote his words:

“I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which the women have achieved.”

Therefore, Madam, I urge upon the entire House and the Government to focus on the empowerment of women and realise the true potential of the Indian women which as per ancient Indian traditions was equated with the almighty or

Brahma as is visible in the famous Shloka of Atharva Veda that is “*Stri hi Brahma Babhuvith.*”

Madam Chairperson, as one among the 78 women Members of this Lok Sabha, I feel honoured to share my thoughts with the House and initiate this discussion.

Madam Chairperson, I am a Gynaecologist by profession and I witness the discrimination against women first hand. This is most evident at the time of pregnancy and delivery. I have always tried to contribute in my own small way towards changing the perception of women both politically as well as professionally.

Hon. Chairperson, I wish to emphatically say that let this be an occasion to remind ourselves that we have been privileged to come this far, and let us take this opportunity to reaffirm and pledge ourselves to ensure that irrespective of our political differences we work hard in helping young girls in schools, colleges, etc., to come up in life and break the shackles of patriarchy which they will be facing at every stage of their life.

Hon. Chairperson, in this regard I would like to applaud the efforts of the Central Government that range from opening of Jan Dhan accounts for over 22 crore women, giving soft loans to them under MUDRA Yojana, launching of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, to taking the initiative of granting permanent commission to

women in the armed forces. It is a matter of delight that such efforts have led to gross enrolment ratio of women in education and now being higher than males at all levels, something which has already been previously highlighted by the hon. Finance Minister Shrimati Nirmal Sitharaman ji.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to highlight some of the key measures taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the dynamic leadership of our Chief Minister Shri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy *garu*. Madam Chairperson, as it has been seen that malnutrition, stunting of growth, wasting and underweight conditions among children, and anaemia among women are endemic in certain areas of our State of Andhra Pradesh, to improve the situation the State Government has launched YSR Sampoorna Poshana programme which covered 3.18 lakh children and 0.66 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers in 77 Scheduled and Tribal Subplan Mandals spread over seven integrated Tribal Development Agencies.

Madam Chairperson, as a part of hon. Chief Minister Shri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy's constant efforts to empower women through various income support and direct benefit transfer schemes, YSR Cheyutha goes to play a cardinal role in leveraging the potential of women aged between 45 and 60 years in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The scheme envisages to provide financial assistance of Rs.18,750 per annum to women of SC, ST, BC, and minority communities for four years starting from 2020-21.

Madam Chairperson, the role of women in the State's rural and unorganised economy pivots around the SHG ecosystem. Therefore, to that end, YSR Aasara programme proposes to reimburse the entire outstanding bank loan of women SHGs as on 11th April, 2019, to the tune of Rs.27,168.83 crore in four instalments from the year 2020.

Madam Chairperson, with respect to women's safety, a very important point, our State Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken special steps for enhancing women's safety and security by enacting the stringent AP Disha Act, 2019. Amendments in the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been made for ensuring completion of investigation and trial within 27 working days, and for providing death penalty in case of sexual offences against women and children.

To implement the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act 2019, the Government has also sanctioned establishment of 13 exclusive special courts, appointment of 13 special public prosecutors, upgradation of women police stations as Disha police stations, augmentation of facilities for setting up of Disha forensic labs, Disha call centres and Disha app, establishment of Disha facilities in teaching and in district hospitals, and standard operating procedure for investigation of cases of sexual offences against women and children. ... (Interruptions) In this regard, I would also ask the Central Government's support ... (Interruptions) This year, as per his commitment towards women's empowerment, our hon. Chief Minister of Andhra

Pradesh Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has decided to take various measures in this direction which will come to include granting of five additional casual leaves to women working as State Government employees, 10 per cent discount to women on purchase of mobile phones on the occasion of International Women's Day, signing up of an MoU with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, the mission for elimination of poverty in municipal areas, and the mission of Hindustan Unilever for making sanitary pads available at YSR Cheyutha Shops at affordable prices.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I would request the Central Government to financially support the State of Andhra Pradesh including all the pro-women measures and also to replicate the best practices adopted by the Andhra Pradesh Government at the Centre as well as in other States. ... (Interruptions) Hon. Chairperson, Madam, Economic Survey 2021 has called for a bunch of incentives for female workers.

[Translation]

DR. SANGHAMITRA MAURYA (BADAUN): Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much.... (Interruptions)

Madam, today on the occasion of International Women's Day, we are getting the opportunity to express our views and I express my gratitude for it... (Interruptions) At the same time, I would also like to tell my opposition colleagues that if women are given only one such day in a year and if the hon. Lok Sabha Speaker has given one such day for discussion in the name of women, then we should have this discussion. So, our opposition should cooperate, rather than standing here and raising slogans to deprive women of their rights and privileges....(Interruptions)

Madam, I won't make big statements, but I would definitely like to discuss what is actually happening with women today, because the things that are happening with women, somewhere such kind of designs are being promoted by the opposition....(Interruptions)

Madam, history is the witness that women have played their part in every field since Independence till date and they have not only played their part but have also performed their duties efficiently.... (Interruptions) If a woman looks after the house, she works to raise the family and children well.... (Interruptions) If she walks out of the house as a working woman or as a politician, she does her

job very well there too, but still, I don't know why our society does not want to give women the respect they deserve.... (Interruptions) Women have adorned the posts of high stature like, the President of this country, the Prime Minister of country and even the august Office of Speaker of the Lok Sabha once, but somewhere our rights and entitlements are far-far away from us today.... (Interruptions) If we talk about other fields of work, whether it is Kalpana Chawla or Sunita Williams, who flew into space or be it Santosh Yadav, who scaled the Himalayas thrice -- we see not just one, but thousands of women who have achieved such feats. Yet, still women are considered physically and intellectually weak.... (Interruptions) It was believed earlier also and is believed even to date.... (Interruptions) If women were weak, then the fight that Mata Savitribai Phule fought and the work she did to confer the right to education to all of us by fighting a great battle, she would not have been able to get that right for all of us, if she were physically and mentally weak... (Interruptions)

If women were weak, then there would not have been any Rani Lakshmbai. If women were weak, there would not have been any Durga, Chandi and Kali.... (Interruptions) Whenever we need strength and courage, we chant the names of Goddess Kali, Goddess Durga, Goddess Chandi.... (Interruptions) ..When we need education, we remember the holy name of Goddess Saraswati and worship her, after all she was also a woman.... (Interruptions) Women have shown their strength from time to time. The society also needs to see and recognise that

strength. It is not written in any *Veda* or *Purana* that women should not be given equal rights or authority, but our society somehow ignore the teachings of *Vedas* and *Puranas* that we believe in and it also works to keep women behind.... (Interruptions) Even *Tathagata*, the Lord Buddha, worked towards granting women and men equal status mentally and spiritually... (Interruptions) In the same context, if we talk about *Sanatan*, then whether we talk about the ideal pairs of *Gauri-Shankar*, *Sita-Ram* or *Radhe-Krishna*, we invariably see that women were promoted everywhere. But now it is not acceptable to this society... (Interruptions)

Madam, people say that women are weak. If women were weak then the right to give birth to men would not have been given to women, but it would have been given to men themselves.... (Interruptions) Women are the mothers of all and the very same mother is called weak! ... (Interruptions) Daughters are prevented from studying. Our governments, whether in Uttar Pradesh or in any other State of India, are promoting women. Under the leadership of Hon. PM Shri Modi, the important task of promoting women and girls is being undertaken through campaigns like *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* or 'Mission Shakti'.... (Interruptions) For the due honour and respect to women, 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' or various such schemes are running. Today, our government is working to take women forward.... (Interruptions)

Madam, I would like to take some more time, because as women, we have got only one such day and even if this discussion lasts upto six hours instead of

three hours, we should get due time to express our views. Today, the plight of our daughters is such that they are brutally killed before taking birth and even if they are allowed to come to this world, they face deathlike plight at every step ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY (BANERJEE) (BIRBHUM): Madam, today is 8th March - Women's Day. But on this very day, I am unable to think whether a woman should be happy or not.... (Interruptions) I think that today we just unmindfully like thousands of posts on Facebook and post thousands of messages on Twitter and WhatsApp boasting that women are Goddess *Durga* ...(Interruptions) It may be better that instead of calling women Goddess *Durga*, we should go to our mother and thank her for what she has endured throughout her life, what she has suffered for us, and we should properly serve her for the rest of her life.... (Interruptions) A husband or son, rather than presenting a mere roseflower to one's wife or mother, may better make her a cup of tea every morning and tell her to take ten more minutes of rest on her heavy day-schedule. I think, shouldn't I tell my daughter to always speak truth and be a true human being than to be an obedient and coy daughter-in-law in some household." ...(Interruptions)

I do not blame the Government for this. When I hear the slogan of 'Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao', I feel the Government is doing this to change the minds of the society.... (Interruptions) When I hear this, it feels like someone is preaching to some ignorant animals. Sometimes they say that saving trees will change the climate, will it really do? Why do we still have to give this slogan, 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', it is because the society has not changed as yet....(Interruptions)

Madam, I would like to say that even today, aware persons like we MPs or the doctors etc. form only 2 percent of the society. The rest of the people still get tortured in the rural settings. Whether the GDP changes from 4 to 2 points or from 4 to 8 points, it does not matter to them.... (Interruptions) The common mother thinks only that her daughter may not face situation as in the case of Ayesha who committed suicide in Sabarmati.... (Interruptions) They have nothing to do with the TDS the Government levies.... (Interruptions) They only aspire that their son or daughter should get a good job after studies.... (Interruptions) When we talk about surgical strike or what action we are taking in which country, such common people have nothing to do with these things.... (Interruptions) They only hope that when their son and husband go out, they should come back alive to home after a day's work and they should not be killed by a criminal's bullet.... (Interruptions)

Madam, as this Bill is here.... (Interruptions) Let me make it clear that Hindi is not my mother tongue, so I end up making mistakes with genders in Hindi sentences. For example, when I say "*mujhe gussa aa rahi hai*", then someone teaches me that the sentence should be constructed using masculine gender prospective.... (Interruptions) When I say "*mujhe sharm aata hai*", they again say that I should use right gender ... (Interruptions) There are gender changes in this sentence also (Interruptions) I will deliberately not correct my sentences, and continue to say what I say.... (Interruptions) What I do want to say that let us pledge on this day that the laws we are enacting, the Bills we are passing, and the

judgments given in the Supreme Court should all work towards advancing the rights of women.... (Interruptions) These bills are being brought for the advancement of women.... (Interruptions) Today, on the occasion of Women's Day, let us have this pledge.... (Interruptions) We will not misuse it.... (Interruptions) The country also has to take such a pledge. Just as we think about a polio-free day, similarly, we should have a harassment-free India.... (Interruptions) Similarly, we want a dowry-free India... (Interruptions) Thank you.

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA (AMRAVATI): Madam Chairperson, I thank the House very much.... (Interruptions) **[English]** I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister of Women and Child Development to this issue. Thank you so much, Smriti Irani Ji ...(Interruptions) **[Translation]** First of all, I wish all the Members of the House a Happy Women's Day. ... (Interruptions) Especially all the MPs present in the House, my senior colleagues, Hon. Sonia Gandhi ji, Shrimati Rama Devi ji, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur ji, and Shrimati Smriti Irani ji, I have been personally learning a lot from them in this House for the last two years, particularly their patience, their work, their style of replies, and their work ethics.... (Interruptions)

Our society is the one where Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi and Rani Padmavati showed their valour to the world. The bravery of Kasturba Gandhi,

Sarojini Naidu, pilot Lakshmi Sehgal and Shrimati Indira Gandhi during and after the freedom struggle inspires us even today. Today, I am representing the region of Shrimati Sindhutai Sapkal and the first woman President hon. Pratibhatai Patil. We feel proud that she became the first woman President of our country. ... (Interruptions)

In this modern age of technology, women are contributing equally alongside their male counterparts. India's missile women, Tessy Thomas, Rohini Godbole and Nandini Harinath began the technology revolution in India. ... (Interruptions)

Madam, at the outset of my speech, I missed some points, so please give me two more minutes, because it is a very important subject. ... (Interruptions) Every woman in my State draws inspiration from Jijamata, who raised her son Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Raje... (Interruptions)

[English] *In Maharashtra, we say, "How should a king be? A king should be like Chhatrapati Shivaji". That is the kind of inspiration given to us by our Jijabai. *

[Translation] Tarabai Shinde from my Vidarbha region was considered as the first feminist who raised her voice for women's rights. I feel proud that I belong to the State where Savitribai Phule first started and laid the foundation of women's education. She started from a school in Pune, where women first began their

... English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Marathi.

education. Our great Savitribai was such a nice person. Everyone knows about the important contribution Rama Bai had in the life of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Mother Teresa, Ahilyabai Holkar inspire all of us immensely. Today, Women's Day is an occasion to celebrate for women. This day is meant to carry out good work with good motives.

I would like to request all the opposition Members that this is the first time that 78 women MPs have come to the House, so, every one of us here should be given a chance to express our views. I think we can stage this protest on some other day; it is not appropriate to do so on Women's Day today. ...(Interruptions) I would seek the attention of hon. Minister Smriti Irani Ji. I will tell you one story of mine. Everyone says that female feticide should be stopped. I think that since this Government has come to power in the year 2014, some work has been done towards it and the Government has been able to check feticide up to a great extent. The Ministry has started working on this. I will tell you my experience about the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" scheme. All the MPs are present here. I was actually an unwanted girl in our family. I am a girl child like that. Arrival of a second daughter was never welcomed in my family. They first went to a hospital and by chance, they could not find a doctor there then... (Interruptions) It is very important and is very emotionally connected with this subject. The first daughter was welcomed whole-heartedly, but when the second baby was conceived, they were afraid that it might be a daughter again, so they wanted to go to a hospital

because they did not want a girl child to be born again. They were thinking like "what will we do, if a daughter is born again? What will we do with two daughters at home?"

I was lucky that that day they could not find a doctor, and nothing happened to me, and that is why I am standing in front of you all today. **[English]** I am very proud that I am a proud daughter and my kids are proud of their mother. **[Translation]** I think there are many girls like me, who are terminated even before birth. Even today, people with such a mindset exist in India. ... (Interruptions) Those people feel sad about birth of girl children in their families and consider them a burden.

Hon. Sharad Pawar has set a great example in Maharashtra in this respect. Being satisfied with a daughter, he has given a social message to the people across the country.

I think you should give me two more minutes to speak. ... (Interruptions) I am glad that the Government of Shri Narendra Modi has made good efforts for women empowerment.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should take your seat now. It is with great regret that I am asking you to sit down please. Today is Women's Day, and even then our brothers feel uncomfortable for one such day.

SHRIMATI NAVANEET RAVI RANA: Madam Chairperson, please listen to one thing, give me two minutes to conclude my speech.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am saying it with a heavy heart. I pleaded to them all, but they did not agree.

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA: Hon. Chairperson, madam, I am happy that Shri Narendra Modi's Government is making much efforts for women empowerment. During his time, for the first time in the history of India, women were granted Permanent Commission in the Army. At this time, INSV Tarini, with an all-women crew onboard, completed the circumnavigation of the globe, after the green flag was waved by the Minister of Defence, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, ... (Interruptions) Recently, on 9th January, an all women pilot team of Air India completed its longest air travel via North Pole.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House now stands adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, 09th March, 2021 till 11 A.M.

19.29 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Tuesday March 9, 2021/ Phalguna 18, 1942 (saka)*

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