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Thursday, July 27, 2023
Sravana 05, 1945 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 27, 2023/ Sravana 5, 1945 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[**HON. SPEAKER** *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 101, DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.00½ hrs

At this stage, Shri B. Manickam Tagore, Sushri Mahua Moitra and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 101)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Speaker Sir, a major project of National Highway is in progress under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister. ... (*Interruptions*) There is no Parliamentary Constituency where any major work has not been done. I want to congratulate the Hon. Minister for this. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I want to share a big agony. ... (*Interruptions*) The NHAI has been formed by the Government of India and it also undertakes its own business. It is performing well, but the work of NH is done by the state PWDs. ... (*Interruptions*) Since that work is done by the state PWDs, the Ministry has no authority over it and there are no restrictions to it. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker Sir, I am talking about my Lok Sabha Constituency. Five years ago, the hon. Minister had got constructed four flyovers on NH 114A. ... (*Interruptions*) Similarly, on NH 133, NHAI is constructing a four-lane project on half of the stretch and NH is constructing the other half. ... (*Interruptions*) Despite this, those four flyovers have not been constructed in the last five years. The flyover to be constructed on NH 133 has not yet been completed. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that how flyovers will be constructed on NH in my Constituency and what action he is likely to take on this? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker Sir, the information given by hon. Member Nishikant Dubey is correct. ... (*Interruptions*) Particularly in the states, the work is done by State PWDs. The tender was issued. But, the contract was

terminated due to the slow progress of the Contractor. ... *(Interruptions)* A new tender has been issued now. There has been a lot of delay in issuing this new tender. An inquiry will be conducted about this delay, whether it occurred because of our Ministry or by the state's PWD.... ... *(Interruptions)* There has been a considerable delay here. There should be a time limit. This delay has compelled the hon. Member to ask this question. There will be an inquiry into this. ... *(Interruptions)* The officials who have caused this delay today, whether they are from the Ministry or from the State PWD, we will definitely take action against them. ... *(Interruptions)*

We had also sanctioned the ROBs for the said construction on 31.3.2021. ... *(Interruptions)* At present, the contract has been terminated and the new agency is being confirmed. I would like to assure the hon. Member that the new agency will start the work as soon as possible. ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Speaker Sir, the road being constructed by the National Highway Authority and NH is a very good road. The vehicles move faster on such roads even after following the speed limit. ... *(Interruptions)* I can see two problems there. Firstly, NHAI is not able to control the people who build houses along the roadside. The second problem is that speed breakers are being installed at so many locations and they are not visible at night. ... *(Interruptions)*

Third, there is a grave issue of animals in my Constituency too. ... *(Interruptions)* I see that in newspapers every now and then. I constantly get to read about it in regard to the Khajuraho National Highway which has been built recently. ... *(Interruptions)* What does the Ministry think about these three problems and what kind of action is it going to take in future? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI: Hon. Speaker Sir, one thing is true that we have constructed good highways in many states including that of in Madhya Pradesh. ... *(Interruptions)* Local farmers release their animals in open during the night and these animals stand in the middle of the roads. It is the main reason of accidents. ... *(Interruptions)* The state Governments will definitely be instructed to enact laws regarding this and to prevent animals from wandering. ... *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, we are also conducting a road safety audit regarding the increasing number of accidents occurring due to improvement in road quality. ... *(Interruptions)* As suggested by our hon. Member, we are quite conscious about the road safety. We will definitely overcome all these problems by conducting safety audit of each and every road. ... *(Interruptions)* We have accorded priority to formulate plans and take measures in this regard. It will definitely be implemented with the help of public cooperation. ... *(Interruptions)*

11.05 hrs

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Maintaining decorum and allowing smooth functioning of the House

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this Parliament, this House has had great traditions, high standards and high decorum, but the way you are behaving, the way you are conducting yourselves is against the principles of our democracy. I once again urge all of you to take it as our collective responsibility to uphold the dignity, decorum, and high traditions of the House. We have all been elected by the people to give voice to their problems, their expression and their emotions in the House. You indulge in putting up placards and sloganeering here, showing placards in front of hon. Ministers, and some of the hon. Members want to discuss with the Speaker in the well of the House, it is not an appropriate manner and it is also not in line with the parliamentary traditions. Our Parliamentary traditions have remained noble but, the entire nation is observing your conduct. Where do you want to take it to? Let's engage in a meaningful discussion and conversation. I will give you sufficient time, ample opportunity to raise every issue, but this behavior is not appropriate. Your behavior is not in accordance with the Parliamentary traditions. We are the largest democracy of the world. What behavior are you exhibiting here? The whole country is watching you.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you continue to behave and conduct like this, then I am not going to run the House in this manner.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**(Starred Question Nos. 102 to 120
Unstarred Question Nos. 1151 to 1380)**

*** 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.**

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2:00 pm.

11.07 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs

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

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

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I have received several notices of adjournment motions by some of the Hon. Members. Hon. Speaker has not allowed any notice of Adjournment Motion.

... *(Interruptions)*

14.00½ hrs

At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Shri Gaurav Gogoi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I request you to please go back to your respective seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please return to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

14.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Hon. Chairperson: Now the papers will be laid on the Table.

Item No. -2, Shri V.K. Singh ji.

[English]

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

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Highway Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Highway Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9722/17/23]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the AI Assets Holding Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the AI Assets Holding Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9723/17/23]

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers

:-

- (1) A copy of the Damodar Valley Corporation (salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the Chairman, Members and Member-Secretary of the Corporation) (Amendment) Rules, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 433(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th June, 2023 issued under sub-section (1) Section 59 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9724/17/23]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:-
 - (i) The Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 381(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd May, 2023.
 - (ii) The Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rules, 2023, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 437(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th June, 2023.
 - (iii) The Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2023, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 466(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2023.
 - (iv) The National Electricity Plan Notification (Amendment) Rules, 2023, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 467(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2023.
 - (v) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System)

- (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023 published in Notification No. L-1/261/2021/CERC in Gazette of India dated 6th April, 2023.
- (vi) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2023 published in Notification No. L-1/265/2022/CERC in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9725/17/23]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection 1(b) of section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9726/17/23]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:-

- (1) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for Petroleum Installations) Amendment Regulations, 2023 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Tech/7-T4SPI/(1)/2022(P-4116) in Gazette of India dated 29th March, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9727/17/23]

- (2) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2023 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/Auth/1-CGD(08)/2020(P-894) in Gazette of India dated 29th March, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9728/17/23]

- (3) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Determination of Natural Gas Pipeline Tariff) Amendment Regulations, 2023 published in Notification No. PNGRB/Com/10-NGPL Tariff (11)/2022 (P-4142) in Gazette of India dated 28th March, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9729/17/23]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE;
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** Hon. Chairperson, on behalf of
Shri Kaushal Kishore, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9730/17/23]
- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the National Capital Region Planning Board for the year 2021-2022.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9731/17/23]
- (4) A copy of the Metro Railways (Carriage and Ticket) Amendment Rules, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 395(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th May, 2023 under Section 102 of the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9732/17/23]
- (5) A copy (Hindi and English versions) of the [5] the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.No. LM/PM/0003/2021/UDAY/LGL/157 in Gazette of India dated 15th May, 2022 under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957 together with a corrigendum thereto (in English version only) published in Notification No. F.No. LM/PM/0003/2021/UDAY/LGL dated 24th May, 2023.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9733/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

14.02 hrs

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND
BILL AS AMENDED BY RAJYA SABHA***

[English]

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

‘I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2022, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th July, 2023, with the following amendments: -

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, ***for*** the word “Seventy-third”, the word “Seventy-fourth”, be ***substituted***.

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, lines 3 and 4, ***for*** the words, brackets and figures “(Third Amendment) Act, 2022”, the words, brackets and figures “(Second Amendment) Act, 2023”, be ***substituted***.

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.’

I lay on the Table the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022, as passed by Lok Sabha, and returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments.

14.02½ hrs

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

83rd to 90th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances: -

- (1) 83th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare)'.
- (2) 84th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Railways'.
- (3) 85th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department)'.
- (4) 86th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways'.
- (5) 87th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)'.
- (6) 88th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)'.
- (7) 89th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Acceded to)'.
- (8) 90th Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Requests for Dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to)'.

... *(Interruptions)*

14.03hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
59th to 65th Reports

[English]

SHRI JAYANT SINHA (HAZARIBAGH): Sir, I rise to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance: -

- (1) Fifty-ninth Report on the subject 'Cyber security and rising incidence of cyber/white collar crimes' of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (2) Sixtieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-third Report on the subject 'Anti-Competitive Practices by Big-Tech Companies' of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (3) Sixty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, Investment & Public Asset Management and Public Enterprises).
- (4) Sixty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (5) Sixty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (6) Sixty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Planning.

- (7) Sixty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
-

14.03¼ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PANCHAYATI RAJ
32nd to 35th Reports

SHRIMATI GITABEN V. RATHVA (CHHOTA UDAIPUR): Hon. Chairperson,
I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the
Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj:-

- (1) 32nd Report on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana pertaining to Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).
 - (2) 33rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 29th report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) pertaining to Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).
 - (3) 34th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 30th report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) pertaining to Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).
 - (4) 35th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 31st report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) pertaining to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
-

14.03½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

48th to 50th Reports

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:-

- (1) 48th Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 35th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Review of the Functioning of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)' of Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- (2) 49th Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 42nd Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Review of the functioning of National Institutes established for different types of disabilities' of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).
- (3) 50th Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 45th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).

14.04 hrs

[English]

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) (a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 301st Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. *

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (RETD.) DR. V. K. SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 301st Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 314th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2022-23) pertaining to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. *

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (RETD.) DR. V. K. SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 314th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2022-23) pertaining to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(c) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 317th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2022-23) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. *

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (RETD.) DR. V. K. SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 317th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2022-23) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9719/17/23, LT 9720/17/23 and LT 9721/17/23 respectively.

14.05 hrs

**OFFSHORE AREAS MINERAL (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION)
AMENDMENT BILL, 2023***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The motion was moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002."

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Hon. Chairperson, I oppose the introduction of this Bill under the Rule 72 of the Rules and Regulations. Keeping in view the Article 21 and Article 51 A(g), Union Government needs to relook into this Bill. ... *(Interruptions)* It will completely destroy the mining of national natural resources, especially sea mining, and the country's resources and environment. It is a complete violation of Article 21 and also Article 51A(g). ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Manish Tewari ji.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Ji.

... (Interruptions)

□ Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 27.7.2023

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I am very grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak. ... *(Interruptions)* The thing is, the entire House knows it... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What do you want to say about this Bill?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What is the objection you have?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, we are for No-Confidence Motion and it has already been moved. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Sougata Ray ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): There should be a discussion about the situation in Manipur. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister should come. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, it is a fact, and a clear legal position that introduction of a Bill can only be opposed under Rule 72, on the legislative competence. The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023, which is proposed to be introduced, seeks to amend the OMDR Act, 2022, which was enacted under the exclusive power of the Parliament under Entry 54, List I, that is the Central List, under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Entry states that regulation of mines and mineral development to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by the Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest. ... *(Interruptions)*

Further, Article 297 of the Constitution of India states that all minerals within the offshore areas shall vest in the Union. The States shall have no right over the minerals in the offshore areas. Hence, there is no question of legislative competence here. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I also want to say that during their tenure, allotment was done on a 'first come, first serve' basis through discretionary route. ... *(Interruptions)* These people did the said allotment and later due to the process being illegal, a CBI inquiry was conducted, charge-sheet was filed, and everything happened. ... *(Interruptions)* *[English]* We are now trying to bring in a very clear and transparent system of auction. This is the only thing we wish to bring through this Amendment. There is no question of any legislative competence. The Parliament has got full legislative competence. Therefore, I would request you to allow me to introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002."

The motion is adopted.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

□ Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

14.10 hrs**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377***

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: For the matters sought to be raised under Rule 377, as directed by the Chair in the announcement, the hon. Members, who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today, may lay their approved text of the matter in person within 20 minutes.

... (*Interruptions*)

**(i) Need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in
Latehar district, Jharkhand**

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Parliamentary Constituency Chatra is an extremely backward area and is affected with Left Wing Extremism (LWE). Barwadih block in Latehar district is highly affected with naxalism. There is severe lack of education facilities in this block. Economic backwardness, illiteracy and the scourge of naxalism are pushing the region towards darkness. Divisional Railway Manager, Dhanbad has sent a proposal to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Barwadih block in Latehar district. Ministry of Railways has also provided land for this purpose. Now, the matter is under consideration of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. If a Kendriya Vidyalaya is opened in this block, then the children of backward areas of Mahuadand, Garu, Bhandariya, Garhwa and Chhipadohar etc. will get good education and they can be connected with the mainstream of the society. Therefore, I request the Minister of Human Resource Development to take immediate steps towards opening a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Barwadih block of Latehar district.

□ Treated as laid on the Table.

**(ii) Regarding expeditious construction of bridge on N.H. 309 in
Ramnagar in Nainital district, Uttarakhand**

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT (GARHWAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards approval for construction of a bridge by the Union Government on Dhangarhi drain on the National Highway No. 309 near Ramnagar (Nainital). At the same time, I also want to inform that even the tender process of this project was started, but the said process is still stalled. Being a national highway, people face a lot of trouble in commuting to Ramnagar during the rainy season due to non-construction of a bridge thereon and vehicular movement too has become a constant problem. I would also like to inform you that the Dhangarhi drain near Ramnagar takes a monstrous shape every year during the rainy season and incidents of several vehicles getting washed away and people losing their lives occur every year. In the past, the State Government and Public Representatives too have made continuous efforts for construction of this bridge. But they could not succeed in their efforts.

After the construction of Dhangarhi bridge, there will be uninterrupted movement of vehicles in and out of Ramnagar and nearby hilly areas i.e. Garhwal and Kumaon during the rainy season and there will be no loss of life and property. I thank the Government of India for expediting the construction work of National Highways including all weather roads in Uttarakhand and because of this, the journey to Uttarakhand will become completely easy and smooth in the years to come. I urge the Union Government to expedite the construction process of the Dhangarhi Bridge so that people face no inconvenience while traveling to and from Ramnagar.

(iii) Need to step up safety measures to ensure security of passengers travelling in Khandesh Express

[English]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Train Number 19003 Khandesh Express which runs between Bandra Terminus and Bhusawal Junction has reported an increase in cases of theft in recent times. The train carries a large numbers of passengers on a daily basis and there have been complaints from them regarding repeated cases of theft and robbery by criminals who operate in the form of a gang and their modus operandi is to steal the belongings of passengers and get down at the nearest station by pulling the chain. These incidents are reported mostly in the Bhestan area which is also a halt station for Khandesh Express. I had taken up this issue with both the General Manager Western Railways and Railway Police, who had assured me of crackdown on these gangs and improving the safety and security of passengers. However, till now, no substantial action has been taken and there has been no decrease in the cases of theft and robbery which has created an atmosphere of fear and chaos amongst the passengers travelling on this train. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly look into the increasing cases of theft on Khandesh Express and also take strict actions against them and provide security and safety measures to ensure hassle free and safe travel.

**(iv) Need for CBI inquiry in Swarnrekha Multipurpose
Project in Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY SETH (Ranchi): Bihar was undivided in the year 1976. At that time, the Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project was brought for Chandil, Jharkhand. Under the said project, a large dam was proposed to be built on the Subarnarekha River and it was to be used for many purposes, including power generation, irrigation. It has been 45 years since the said project was conceived, but the project has not yet been completed. This project, which started at a cost of Rs. 150 crore in 1976, has cost more than Rs. 14 thousand crore today. Despite this, neither the displaced people received justice nor the said project got completed. The project severely affected 116 villages and more than 19000 families were displaced. Even today, when rain water rises over the dam level, hundreds of villages in this area get submerged. Some concrete steps need to be taken in this regard. The work done so far should be investigated by the CBI, so that the displaced people may get justice. It will help to complete the project and the common people, who are always in panic due to the said dam, may also live a normal life. The CBI should conduct an enquiry into the entire project.

(v) Regarding installation of electric pole and transformers on private land by Power Distribution Companies without the permission of land owners

DR DHAL SINGH BISEN (BALAGHAT): Electricity distribution companies install their poles, transformers etc. on private/Government land without the knowledge or consent of the land owners. In return, these companies do not pay any compensation or rent to the land owners. If the original land owners want to remove the poles, transformers etc. installed on their land for carrying out any construction work on their land or for any other use, then the companies do not remove the poles, etc. Even if they remove the poles, etc., they charge huge amount from the landowners. For shifting the said structures, the power companies charge even the Government departments. The farmers or landowners face a lot of financial and mental trouble due to this practice, In the absence of no-objection from power companies, even a lot of Government construction works get affected. Therefore, in public interest, I demand that the power companies should pay rent to the land owners for installing transformer, pole, etc. on their land and for carrying out any other work or they should not install poles / transformers on their land.

**(vi) Need to redress the grievances of
Mentha industry in Uttar Pradesh**

DR. SANGHAMITRA MAURYA (BADAUN): I would like to apprise the Government about the troubles being faced by mentha (menthol mint) traders of my Parliamentary Constituency Badaun and 8-9 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Mentha industry is an agro-based export oriented industry. 85% of menthol mint crop grown all over India is especially grown in 8-9 districts of Uttar Pradesh. This industry employs millions of farmers, rural labourers, more than 500 manufacturers and export units covered under MSME, several skilled and non-skilled employees. 75% to 80% of finished products of menthol mint are exported. The remaining 25% of products are sold in the Indian domestic market. Its total production in Uttar Pradesh is worth about Rs. 6000/- crore annually and foreign exchange of about Rs. 4000/- crore is received per year through its exports, thereby providing support to the economy of the state. This industry is currently battling an outbreak of synthetic menthol, which is being imported by foreign countries and the consumer goods companies are utilizing it using the code of natural menthol. The Government is requested to set aside the HSN code of synthetic menthol and separate the code of natural menthol and impose ban on the import of synthetic menthol and along with it, the Government should extend support to the natural menthol industry so that this crop can be saved and the employment of lakhs of farmers can be protected from getting destroyed.

(vii) Regarding alleged irregularities in construction of National Highway No. 731 in Shahjahanpur Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR (SHAHJAHANPUR): In my Parliamentary Constituency Shahjahanpur, a stretch from Shahjahanpur bypass to Khutar bypass on the National Highway No. 731 is being constructed. But the designated entities are allegedly using very substandard material in the work related to sub-section of National Highway No. 731. As a result, the quality of the work is very low. Due to the said inferior construction work, not only a large amount of Government fund is being misused, but the image of the Government is also getting tarnished. My request is that a high-level committee should be constituted at the ministry level and a detailed inquiry should be conducted against the so-called officials involved in the work being done on National Highway No. 731 from Shahjahanpur Bypass to Khutar Bypass stretch in my Parliamentary Constituency.

**(viii) Regarding omission of Section 49 of Madhya Pradesh
Reorganization Act, 2000**

SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL (DURG): As per the provision of the State Reorganisation Act 2000, the distribution of assets among both the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh took place under the ratio formula of 74:26. Due to Section 49 of the said Act, presently about 6 lakh pensioner families of both the States (which includes about 5 lakh pensioners of Madhya Pradesh and about 1 lakh pensioners of Chhattisgarh) cannot be paid their financial dues. There are many difficulties with regard to Dearness Allowance and other subjects. During the reorganisation of Bihar - Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh - Uttarakhand, a permanent settlement was made, but why wasn't such a settlement implemented for Chhattisgarh? Whereas all three states were formed together. I request that keeping in view the interests of the employees of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the said section may please be repealed.

(ix) Need to establish Khelo India Centre at Bolangir, Odisha

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Our Central Government has been encouraging and promoting sports activities at all levels in various parts of the country. India has significantly improved the medal tally at International Sports Events. Odisha has a huge potential in contributing to success stories in the sports. Bolangir Parliamentary Constituency has a sizable population of young people. There are many talented children who need nurturing. A Khelo India Centre is needed in Bolangir so that young talent can be tapped from the grassroots level. They can bring laurels for the nation in National and International Sports events. Government is establishing Khelo India Centres in several parts of the country to build the infrastructure of sports. I request the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to establish one Khelo India Centre at Bolangir, Odisha.

**(x) Regarding doubling of Maksi-Ruthiyai
railway line in Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH): Parliamentary Constituency Rajgarh is an agricultural based area and is situated along the midway of Agra-Mumbai National Highways. Despite having direct road connectivity from here to Indore, Mumbai, Gujarat, Bhopal, Nagpur, Agra, Delhi, this area has been hopeful of development since 70 years of independence. The Modi Government gave shape to the hopes of the people and thereafter in the past years, it fulfilled its resolve of building all the basic infrastructures and now it is moving towards self-reliance. The hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways have bestowed the historical gift of electrification of the Maksi-Ruthiyai railway line, the sole rail section of the Western-Central Railway in the entire Rajgarh Lok Sabha Constituency. All formalities including the survey for the doubling of the Maxi-Ruthiyai rail section have been completed and it is awaiting approval. With its approval, millions of people and the business community of entire Rajgarh Parliamentary Constituency, including that of Sarangpur, Biawar, Pachore, Narsingharh, Chanchouda, Kumbhraj and Ruthiyai will benefit from several railway services covering the direct, cost-effective and short-distance travel from Delhi to Mumbai. Additionally, the Railways will also receive a fast track route for freight, which will pave the way for overall development of Rajgarh. Therefore, as aspired by the people of Rajgarh Lok Sabha constituency, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to approve the doubling work of Maksi-Ruthiyai rail section.

(xi) Need to delegate power to MPs to take action against officers found guilty of negligence or irregularities in implementation of development schemes during DISHA meetings

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI): As per the direction of the Government of India, hon. Members of Parliament chair the meetings of DISHA committee. During the said meetings, several irregularities in the implementation of development works and Government schemes come to light. However, since Hon. Members of Parliament presiding over such meetings do not have the authority to take action against individuals responsible for such irregularities, there are no adverse consequences for those found involved in committing irregularities in development works and schemes. Therefore, I urge the Government to amend the guidelines regarding Disha meetings and to grant the Chairpersons, the hon. Members of Parliament, the authority to take action against corrupt officials and employees who commit negligence in implementing development works and Government schemes. It would ensure improvement in the quality of development work and enable the full implementation of welfare schemes aimed at public welfare and poverty alleviation.

**(xii) Need to complete the construction
of check dam at Balurghat**

[English]

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): The Atreyee river that finds mention even in the Mahabharata, flows from Bengal's Siliguri into Bangladesh before flowing back into South Dinajpur district. The Bangladesh Government has built one rubber dam 'Mohanpur Rubber Dam' some 18 kilometres away from Dinajpur city in Bangladesh to block and store the water from the flow of Atreyee river which has resulted acute shortage of water in the Atreyee River, which originally enters Kumarganj in South Dinajpur, India through Bangladesh. It was blocked by a rubber dam in Dinajpur in Bengal, so the water in the Atreyi River, known as the lifeline of the district for several years was almost non-existent during the dry season. As a result, farmers and fishermen have to face huge losses. Keeping that in mind, the irrigation department has started to build the check dam. So that the farming problems of farmers in a wide area including South Dinajpur are solved. The Irrigation Department has started construction of this check dam on Atreyee river in Shamshanghat area of Balurghat town. This half-built check dam has now become a bathing place for the residents of the city. It has also become a sightseeing spot. Therefore, I request the Government to complete the construction of check dam at Balurghat at the earliest.

(xiii) Regarding one Nation - One Voter ID

[Translation]

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR): Voting should be seen not only as a civic duty, but also as a fundamental right of a citizen. We should start implementing 'One Nation One Voter ID' in the country to ensure the convenience of the original voter card and empower the forgotten migrant voters. The way 'One Nation One Ration Card' was launched to enable migrant workers and their family members to avail the benefits of the Public Distribution System from any PDS shop in the country, which has been completely successful and today, a ration card holder can get his due ration from any ration shop in the country. The 'One Nation, One Voter List' initiative will bring improvements to the electoral process and initiative has been taken to link Aadhaar numbers with voter identity cards for enhancing transparency in the country's electoral system. The Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI had also once said that we should keep discussing 'One Nation, One Voter List' and 'One Nation, One Election' so that elections can be conducted in a fair and transparent manner, which will improve the voting process. Therefore, I would like to request for implementation of 'One Nation, One Voter ID' system in India. With its implementation, a large portion of the Government's revenue could be utilised for carrying out other welfare works benefitting the country.

(xiv) Need to provide relief and compensation to people affected due to heavy rains in Gadchiroli – Chimur Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GADCHIROLI-CHIMUR): The heavy rainfall in my tribal-dominated Parliamentary Constituency of Gadchiroli-Chimur in recent days has devastated the lives of the people in the region and it has caused significant damage to crops. The heavy rainfall has not only flooded fields, but it has also filled the rural roads with water, causing disruptions in transportation. The connecting roads of several dozen villages in my Parliamentary Constituency, particularly in Bhamragadh, Aheri, Allapalli, and Dhanora, have got severely damaged. I would also like to bring to the notice of the Government that opening of about 33 doors of Gosikhurd Dam has affected all the tributaries of the region and heavy water inflow into them has caused huge loss of lives and properties in the area. I would also like to apprise that heavy rainfall causes similar widespread devastation in my Constituency every year. I request the Government to immediately send an NDRF team to my tribal-dominated Parliamentary Constituency Gadchiroli and provide assistance to the people affected by the heavy rainfall. Additionally, allocation of funds should be made to provide compensation to the people in the region who have suffered crop damage due to the said heavy rainfall. Furthermore, measures should also be taken to check damage caused by heavy rainfall that occurs every year.

**(xv) Regarding four-laning of NH 30 from
Gorakhpur to Shrawasti**

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): India is rapidly developing today on a global scale. Along with it, Indian civilization and culture are being given a new direction. At present, the decision, from the perspective of tourism and faith, to create a Buddhist Circuit globally, has drawn the attention of believers of Buddhism worldwide. As a result, lakhs of Buddhist tourists from all over the world visit Sarnath (Varanasi), Kushinagar, Kapilavastu (Siddharthnagar) and Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh daily. Buddhist tourists typically start their journeys from Sarnath in Varanasi and then they proceed to Kushinagar, Kapilvastu, and Shravasti, ultimately reaching Lucknow. That is why it is very important to construct four lane roadways on Buddhist Circuit Expressway from Sarnath in Varanasi to Lucknow via Kushinagar, Kapilavastu and Shravasti. I would like to request the Government to construct four lane roadways at NH 30 passing from Gorakhpur to Shravasti under the said Buddhist Circuit. In addition, it should be declared as Buddha Circuit so that Buddhist tourists coming from different countries of the world would find it convenient enough while commuting.

**(xvi) Regarding delimitation of parliamentary and
assembly constituencies in Assam**

[English]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): The Election Commission of India has excluded Sri Sri Batatdraba Than, the birthplace of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev, with its allied satras and inherent revenue villages from the Batatdraba LAC and included it into Nagaon LAC in the proposed delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in Assam. Furthermore, the Government of Assam recently took a Cabinet decision to merge the existing Batatdraba LAC, into Dhing LAC. Batatdraba Than identifies with the satras that maintain the philosophy of Sankardeva, the inherent revenue villages centered around the Than under Batadrava Development Block and the entire Hatichung Mouza. But, carving out of the Batatdraba LAC in the referred proposal and renaming it into Dhing LAC will result in neglecting the faith and factual existence of Batatdraba as a place, which amounts to distorting its legacy and past glory. I urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for immediate intervention in this matter to restore the legacy of Nec Vaishnavism movement initiated by Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva and ensure that the current constituency of Batatdraba LAC is restored in the final new delimitation proposal of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in Assam.

(xvii) Need to provide small vehicle underpass, service roads and foot overbridge on NH-66 (Ramanattukara–Edappalli) in Kerala

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): The widening project of NH 66 Ramanattukara- Edappalli stretch is going on. There are so many concerns of convenience and accessibility of people who live around and use this National Highway. In my review meetings with project officials and locals to map the needs and demands between Punnayurkulam and Kappirikkadavu part in Thrissur district, there are some important demands raised. One is a Small Vehicle Under Pass (SVUP) in Pulampuzha Kadavu and Backside of CSM School in Thalikkulam Panchayat as both these areas are potential for flood impact. If there are no connection between two sides of the NH, the village remains divided in banks of Canoly river. Another need is the service roads in 4 and 5 wards of Talikkulam Panchayat. Absence of service roads in many parts of this project is already a serious concern. Another need is a SVUP in Mandalamkunnu in Punnayurkulam panchayat where a famous pilgrim centre is situated and which is also a coastal town. Another demand comes for SVUP in Edamuttam in Valappad panchayat. There is a high demand for a Foot Over Bridge in Nattika centre in Nattika Panchayat. I kindly request the concerned Ministry to consider and include these demands in the ongoing project.

(xviii) Need to increase the flight services from Kannur and Calicut International Airports and also include Kannur Airport in Point of Call list

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): I would like to raise a matter regarding the frequent cancellation of flights from Kannur and Calicut Airports to domestic and International destinations. Air passengers are facing difficulty in travelling to reach their destinations. The air passengers are depending now on Cochin and Mangalore Airports, which are very far away for passengers travelling from different districts of Malabar region of Kerala State. Now the Kannur International Airport is facing great losses in crore. Only two Airlines are now operating from this airport. As the number of flights decreased and the fare increased, the International Airlines are not operating their services. Despite having a wide runway with enough space to safely take off any type of aircraft and a terminal with all modern facilities, the airport faces neglect. Earlier Air India was operating direct flight to Delhi via Calicut airport but unfortunately this flight has also been cancelled last march 2023. Many representations have been made to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the inclusion of Kannur Airport in point of call list but they are still pending. I, therefore, request the Government to give a direction to Air India airline and other private airlines to increase their services from Kannur and Calicut International Airports to domestic and international destinations and also to include Kannur airport in point of call list.

(xix) Need to fix a time frame for assent of the Governor to the Bills passed by Legislative Assembly

SHRI S. RAMALINGAM (MAYILADUTHURAI): It is important to draw the attention of the Government that as per Article 200 of the Constitution of India, the Governor can withhold the assent but not indefinitely. However, it is important to emphasize that the bills are kept pending indefinitely without any reasons, thereby nullifying the will of the people. The Act of withholding the assent of the bill passed by the Legislative Assembly generally construed to the cessation of that Bill. Thus, by withholding the assent to a bill can completely negate the will of the legislature, and thereby negate the will of the people. In view of the same, I urge the Union Government to analyse this constitutional impasse and take suitable action to frame or fix a timeline to the Governor for assent to be given to Bills passed by a Legislative Assembly.

(xx) Need to take necessary steps to include the Road from Dakshin Barasat Railway station PWD road to Dhrubachand Halder college under Railway maintenance map and also release the fund for reconstruction of the road

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): I would like to take the opportunity to state that I had spent around Rs. 40 lakhs from my MPLADS fund for construction of a black top road from Dakshin Basarat Railway Station PWD road to Dhrubachand Halder college. The said road is under the jurisdiction of the Railways. Thousands commuters use this road daily. But the road has become dilapidated and one of the main reasons is that there are two big water bodies on one side of the road which lead to erosion of the soils beneath the road and also hinder the proper maintenance of the road. The two water bodies in question are also the property of Railways. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to take necessary steps to include this road under railway maintenance map and release fund for reconstruction of the said road at the earliest in order to safeguard the greater interest of the local people.

**(xxi) Regarding setting up of Trauma Care Centres in Anakapalle
Parliamentary Constituency**

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE): The National Highways Authority of India and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways are making concerted efforts to conduct additional road safety audits and eliminate black spots or areas with high occurrence of fatal road accidents. Based on NCRB data, around 5 lakh road accidents occur in India each year, causing approximately 1.5 lakh fatalities. Within Andhra Pradesh, there are roughly 25,000 road accidents annually, resulting in over 12,000 deaths and numerous serious injuries. Statistics shows that eighteen people die every hour in road accidents in the country. Road accidents in various cities, states and towns are continuously increasing in the country. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that we have two black spots in my Parliamentary Constituency Thotada junction and Purshotapuram. Hence, I request Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare to sanction Trauma Care Centers, one for district hospital Anakapalli and one for CHC Nakkapalli in my Anakapalle Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh.

(xxii) Need to sanction construction of railway line between Khamgaon and Jalna in Buldhana Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV (BULDHANA): My Parliamentary Constituency Buldhana is a very backward district. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways to expedite the approval for the Khamgaon - Jalna rail line. DPR has also been done in this regard and the Government of Maharashtra has also given its accent for 50 percent participation. Hon. Prime Minister too had given assurance for it during his election rally in my Lok Sabha Constituency. A meeting has also been held on 29th April 2023 in this regard, wherein it was asked to rectify minor flaws. Kindly instruct the concerned departments to expedite the necessary actions on priority in this regard. Therefore, I request the Government to grant approval for the Khamgaon - Jalna rail line in my Parliamentary Constituency / District Buldhana at the earliest. Thank you.

(xxiii) Regarding inclusion of Members of Parliament and State Legislatures for flag hoisting on Republic Day and Independence Day

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): On the occasion of the Republic Day, Ministry of Home Affairs issues an Office Memorandum every year. It is sent to all the Ministries / Departments of the Government of India and a copy of it is also sent to all the State Governments / Union Territory administrations. Similarly, on the occasion of the Independence Day every year, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, issues directives regarding the celebration of Independence Day. These directives are issued to all the State Governments / Union Territories as well as to all Ministries / Departments of the Government of India. These directives are based on a long-standing tradition, where on the occasion of the Independence Day, the hon. Prime Minister at the national level, hon. Chief Ministers at the state level, the Ministers / Commissioners / District Magistrates at the district level, the Ministers / Sub-Divisional Magistrates at the sub-division / block level, and the Sarpanch / Gram Pradhan at the Panchayat headquarters / large village level, hoist the Indian national flag. However, Members of the Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha / Legislative Assemblies / Legislative Councils are not included in the protocol for hoisting the national flag. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to include the Members of Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha / Legislative Assemblies / Legislative Councils in the said protocol for hoisting the Indian National Flag on national festivals such as Republic Day and Independence Day, and issue directives for unfurling of the Indian National Flag.

**(xxiv) Regarding pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for
SC, ST, OBC, SEBC, and EWS students**

[English]

SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL (BHADRAK): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment towards the payment of Pre Matric and Post Matric scholarships to SC, ST, OBC, SEBC and EWS students. As per stipulations of the Ministry, in the first phase, the 40% State share and top up maintenance allowance for hosteller students and in Second phase, 60 % share of the Central Government was released directly by the Ministry to the students account. Further, to maintain quality education / training as per NCVT standard and following the price hike in the market, prices of essential commodities are going up and up day by day. In view of the above situation, it is very difficult on the part of the students to maintain day to day college life. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to double the scholarship amount to the students to pursue their higher studies.

**(xxv) Regarding alleged irregularities in the management of land by
Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board**

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the issue of financial irregularities in the management of land by the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board. It is a matter of great concern that the available information regarding the number of Auqafs registered under Section 36(1) of the Waqf Act, 1995 for the past five financial years reveals significant gaps in the audit of accounts. There is no information regarding the actions taken by the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board against those who failed to submit separate Statements of Accounts and Audited Accounts for the Auqafs during the past five financial years. Additionally, there is insufficient information regarding the number of Chartered Accountants included in the panel of auditors prepared by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the remuneration they receive. These aspects warrant further scrutiny, as the lack of transparency in disclosing such information undermines the effectiveness of the entire declaration process. I kindly request the Ministry of Minority Affairs to thoroughly investigate this matter and provide detailed information on the number of Auqaf declarations for the past five financial years, as well as the total number of cases selected by the UP government for auditing purposes.

(xxvi) Need to permit representatives nominated by the Members of Parliament in meeting of local bodies pertaining to implementation of development schemes

[Translation]

SHRI PRINCE RAJ (SAMASTIPUR): The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and the Ministries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj are always striving and implementing different schemes for all-round development of rural and urban areas. For implementation of these schemes, meetings of Gram Panchayat, Zilla Parishad, Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council are held, in which the hon. Members of Parliament and MLAs also participate as ex-officio members. As per the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 2006 and the Town Development Act / Regulations, Members of Parliament can not nominate their representatives for attending the above-mentioned meetings. Around 202 Gram Panchayats, 2 Municipal Councils, 5 Nagar Panchayats and 1 Municipal Corporation fall under my Parliamentary Constituency. As a Member of Parliament, it is not possible for me to participate in all these important meetings due to busy Parliamentary works. Sometimes, meetings are convened on the working day of the proposed Sessions of the Parliament. I request the Union Government that after due consultations, the Bihar Government should bring a proposal to consider amendments in the above mentioned Act / Rules, and the persons nominated by the Members of Parliament should be authorized to attend such meetings.

(xxvii) Need to implement Crop Insurance Scheme and compensate farmers' losses incurred due to natural calamities

[English]

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI (ANANTNAG): The horticulture sector contributes to more than 8.2 percent of Jammu & Kashmir's GDP. Multiple spells of rains followed by hailstorm caused huge Shopian, damage to orchards across Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag districts of Kashmir. The fruit laden trees including apple, cherry and pear orchards have suffered extensive damage, endangering the livelihoods of around 45 lakh farmers. According to the estimates, the said calamity might have caused a loss of Rs. 200 Crore to the apple industry. It is pertinent to point out that the fruit industry has already suffered huge losses due to closure of NH- 44 last year and slashing down the import duty of the Washington apple by 20 percent. In the light of this event, the Crop Insurance Schemes become extremely important as they provide financial protection to farmers against losses incurred due to Natural Calamities or other unforeseen circumstances. The Fruit Association of Jammu and Kashmir has been demanding compensation for the losses incurred. There is a strong need for the Government to intervene and provide aid packages to the affected farmers and implement a Crop Insurance Scheme that covers trees or root stock.

(xxviii) Need to restart DC train and to provide stoppage of various trains in Giridih Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY (GIRIDIH): New trains should be started for Dhanbad - Mumbai, Giridih - Kolkata and Giridih - Patna routes. It is very important for the people of Giridih Lok Sabha Constituency. The Train no. 13319/13320, Dumka Baidyanath Dham Ranchi Intercity Express and Train no. 18625/18626, Hatia Purnea Court Express used to have a stoppage at Telo railway station, but the stoppage of both the trains at the said station has been suspended since Corona period. The operation of DC train should be started. The people of the region, especially the students, daily wage labourers and the rural people, who are dependent on it for commuting to the local market, will be benefitted and get relief. The Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Ranchi Hatia Kurla Express 08609-10 and Howrah Jodhpur Express 02385-86 have their stoppages at Parasnath Station. The stoppage of 12381/12382 Poorva Express, 12308 / 12307 Jodhpur Express and Lalkuan Express (weekly) should be provided at Gomo station. Stoppage of these trains will benefit a large population of Bokaro, Chandrapura, Bermo, Baghmara, Topchanchi, Gomoh and Gomia and it will also enhance the revenue of Railways. These long pending demands of the people of Giridih Lok Sabha Constituency should not be ignored as these are affecting lakhs of people. And the discontinuation of stoppages of already running trains is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

... *(Interruptions)*

14.14 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS...Contd.

(ii) Latest Developments in India's Foreign Policy

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I rise to apprise this august House of the key foreign policy engagements and initiatives taken by India since the Budget Session, which ended on 6th April, 2023. ... *(Interruptions)*

This period witnessed several crucial high level diplomatic engagements including interactions of the hon. President, the hon. Vice-President, and the hon. Prime Minister with foreign counterparts, in India and abroad. I myself visited a number of nations, as did our Ministers of State. And we received many of our foreign colleagues here in India. Through these efforts at multiple levels, we were able to advance our national objectives and interests in a volatile and uncertain world. ... *(Interruptions)*

In terms of the diplomatic engagements of the hon. President, she hosted the King of Cambodia from May 29th to 31st, on his first State visit to India. This marked the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Cambodia. The hon. President was the Chief Guest of the celebrations commemorating the 150 years of the arrival of Indians in Suriname in Latin America in June. She was conferred Suriname's highest distinction - 'The Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star'. Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I think this is a matter of pride for all Indians. Hon. President also visited Serbia in the same month.

Hon. Vice President visited the United Kingdom on May 5th and 6th to attend the coronation ceremony of King Charles III. He interacted with various leaders,

including the Presidents of Germany, Israel, and Brazil. He also met Indian students and diaspora members. In June, hon. Vice President engaged his counterparts from Zimbabwe and Gambia in New Delhi and received the Deputy Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

During this period, the hon. Prime Minister visited seven countries and each of these visits is notable and should be appreciated by all the hon. Members of the House. Bilateral visits were made to Australia, the United States, Egypt, France, and the UAE. The hon. Prime Minister participated in the Quad and G7 meetings in Japan, and he co-chaired the 3rd FIPIC Summit in Papua New Guinea. He also hosted the Prime Minister of Nepal and the President of Sri Lanka in New Delhi.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the official State Visit to the United States of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from June 20th to 23rd is only the second by an Indian Prime Minister. He was also accorded the rare privilege of addressing the Joint Session of the US Congress for the second time. He is the only Indian Prime Minister to have done it twice. In Washington D.C., the Prime Minister was given a formal State welcome at the White House. As a special gesture, the US Government had invited nearly 8000 members of the Indian Diaspora to witness the arrival ceremony. The Prime Minister held bilateral talks with the US President on June 22nd. President Biden hosted both the State Dinner and private dinner in honour of the hon. Prime Minister at the White House. The Prime Minister interacted with CEOs of tech companies individually, as also in a round-table that he and President Biden co-chaired. He invited them to strengthen their presence and operations in India. The Prime Minister addressed young entrepreneurs and participated in a skill and innovation meeting along with the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden.

Sir, this was truly a path breaking visit and I would like to highlight the key outcomes which are reflected in the Joint Statement. They are:

(i) Both sides agreed to augment technology cooperation especially through the initiative for Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) which focussed on artificial intelligence, semiconductors, space, quantum and telecom. India was included as a

Member in the Mineral Security Partnership, which aims to accelerate the development of sustainable global critical energy mineral supply chains. ... *(Interruptions)*

(ii) Under a Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, the defence industries and start-ups of both countries announced their intent to engage in co-production and other activities. A US company GE Aerospace announced that they would manufacture jet engines in India through transfer of technology to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for our Light Combat Aircraft indigenous production. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, this is a very important outcome. It has been our effort as a country to try to get engine manufacturing for the last 40 years. So, to get this, during this visit is truly something which the country should appreciate. ... *(Interruptions)*

(iii) The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed the Artemis Accords with the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for cooperation in civil exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes. ... *(Interruptions)*

NASA and ISRO announced that they would cooperate in human space flight and launch a joint effort to the International Space Station by 2024.

(iv) The two countries resolved six outstanding bilateral trade disputes in WTO through mutually agreed solutions. It is a very unusual and very exceptional way of resolving trade matters and again, Sir, this is something which the House should note and appreciate. The two countries agreed to strengthen collaboration between our respective SMEs and to boost innovation linkages. ... *(Interruptions)*

(v) In the semiconductor domain, three American companies, very well-known companies, made announcements to build a semiconductor assembly and test facility in India; and for training Indian engineers and workforce. ... *(Interruptions)*

(vi) In the Telecommunication sector, both sides agreed to collaborate towards a bilateral Trusted Network/Trusted Sources framework; enable participation of Indian companies in the US Rip and Replace Programme; and undertake ORAN reciprocal

pilot projects. India and USA agreed to also accelerate cooperation in the field of green hydrogen. ... *(Interruptions)*

(vii) To deepen people to people interaction - all hon. Members should have an interest in this particular part of the cooperation because we have a diaspora of 4.4 million Indians in the United States - the US has decided to open two new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad. India will also take steps to operationalise a new consulate in Seattle later this year and look for two other locations. ... *(Interruptions)*

(viii) We agreed to strengthen education partnerships and the US agreed to return 105 antiquities that were illegally trafficked to the United States. ... *(Interruptions)*

(ix) Given our shared vision of free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, we agreed to commence an Indian Ocean Dialogue and the USA will support our Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. ... *(Interruptions)*

(x) India and USA will work together for the development of Digital Public Infrastructure and also strengthen our cooperation in Multilateral Development Banks to address global challenges. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I think all hon. Members would be interested to know that Prime Minister himself led the 9th International Day of Yoga on 21st June at the UN headquarters in New York. It involved 135 nationalities and it set a Guinness World Record - world record for the number of countries for any single event in the past. ... *(Interruptions)*

Earlier, the Prime Minister participated in the G7 Summit and the Quad Leaders' Meeting in Hiroshima on 20th May 2023. ... *(Interruptions)* At the Quad meeting, the leaders reviewed the recent developments in the Indo-Pacific and discussed opportunities for Quad to work further on its priorities. ... *(Interruptions)* They released the Quad Leaders' Vision Statement. ... *(Interruptions)* They announced a new Clean Energy Supply Chains Initiative, a Quad Infrastructure Fellowships Programme, a Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience and we will be working together for the first ORAN deployment in the mid of Pacific in Palau. ... *(Interruptions)*

The leaders released a Quad statement on critical and emerging technology standards apart from reviewing the progress that we have made on our Maritime Domain Awareness Initiative. ... *(Interruptions)* They launched a Quad Investors' Network. ... *(Interruptions)* I am happy to inform the House that the Prime Minister has invited all Quad leaders to India for the next Quad Summit in 2024. ... *(Interruptions)*

Prime Minister participated in the outreach session of the G7 Summit. ... *(Interruptions)* He held meetings with 14 Presidents and Prime Ministers as also the UN Secretary General. ... *(Interruptions)* The details are there in my statement. ... *(Interruptions)*

With regard to his landmark visit to Australia, Prime Minister held a meeting with his counterpart on May 24. Signing a Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement was one of the highlights of the visit. ... *(Interruptions)* It shows the commitment of Modi Government to support students and explore the global workplace. ... *(Interruptions)*

During his stay, the Prime Minister interacted with a very wide array of public figures. ... *(Interruptions)* He participated in a Business Roundtable and addressed the Indian communities. ... *(Interruptions)* I think we all had the privilege of seeing it in person. ... *(Interruptions)* Many of us watched it in our country on our television screens. ... *(Interruptions)* Definitely, it was one of the most memorable visits made by any Head of Government to Australia. ... *(Interruptions)* I think many hon. Members would recall the words with which the Prime Minister Albanese greeted Prime Minister Modi, calling him 'the boss'. ... *(Interruptions)* I wish also to add that during the visit, Prime Minister announced our intention to establish a new Consulate in Brisbane, and this is something which we will be doing for the benefit of Indians abroad as well as for NRIs very, very soon. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would now like to say a few words about Prime Minister's visit to France. ... *(Interruptions)* He was the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade. It is the National Day of France. ... *(Interruptions)* It is like our January 26. ... *(Interruptions)*

We had a tri-services military contingent from India including the Punjab regiment. ... *(Interruptions)* Punjab regiment has a great history in France. ... *(Interruptions)* It helped to defend Paris during the World War I. ... *(Interruptions)* Prime Minister was given the rare honour of being conferred the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour. ... *(Interruptions)* This is France's highest civilian award, and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the recipient of this award. ... *(Interruptions)*

He held meetings with the President, the Prime Minister, the Heads of the two Chambers of the Parliament, with CEOs of Indian and French companies and we announced the setting up of a new Consulate in Marseille. ... *(Interruptions)* We also released a vision document about our strategic partnership that goes on till 2047. ... *(Interruptions)*

On his way back, Prime Minister visited the United Arab Emirates. ... *(Interruptions)* In Abu Dhabi, he held talks with Sheikh Mohammad, the President of the UAE and it resulted in three very important outcomes – the trade settlement in our national currencies, interlinking of payments of Central Banks and the establishment of a campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi. ... *(Interruptions)* Prime Minister received the President-designate of COP-28 because we will have a very notable role to play at that gathering. ... *(Interruptions)*

A month before this visit, Sir, hon. Prime Minister paid a state visit to Egypt. It was the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Egypt in 26 years. He held talks with the President of Egypt, and elevated our ties to "Strategic Partnership". We signed agreements in the fields of agriculture, protection and preservation of monuments and archaeological sites and competition laws. We announced direct flights between Delhi-Cairo and setting up of a Centre of Excellence of IT in Cairo. In a special ceremony, Sir, - this should be a matter of great pride for all Indians, for all Members of this House - Prime Minister was conferred the Order of the Nile', which is the highest state honour of Egypt. ... *(Interruptions)*

Another notable development, Sir, during this period was India's co-hosting of the 3rd Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation jointly with Papua

New Guinea on 22nd May 2023 at Port Moresby. Prime Minister was received with great warmth and courtesy when he arrived in Papua New Guinea. And, Sir, I think, all Members would have seen how the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea paid his personal respects to our Prime Minister in a manner in which so traditional in India. I think, it speaks great volumes today of India's standing, of Prime Minister's standing in the world.

During his stay in Papua New Guinea, the Prime Minister was conferred the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu by the Governor-General of PNG, the Companion of the Order of Fiji by the Prime Minister of Fiji, and presented with Ebakl, a symbol of leadership and wisdom, by the President of Palau. Each of these gestures, I think, Sir, should be noted and appreciated by Members, by all citizens of this country because it collectively reflects well on all of us. ... *(Interruptions)*

On the outcomes of the FIPIC Summit, Sir, I want to say that we launched the Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research Institute in Suva in Fiji, the Data Warehouse for Empowering Pacific Island countries which will host geo-spatial data. This will be in Papua New Guinea. We announced a range of health, IT, education and public delivery initiatives from a 100-bed hospital in Fiji, to an IT Centre, Jaipur Foot Camp and supply of sea ambulances. So, our development partnership today is something which is making a very deep impact among the countries of this region. ... *(Interruptions)*

For the first time, Sir, after we joined the SCO, we hosted the meeting of the Council of Heads of State. It was done by the Prime Minister on 4th July 2023 in a virtual format. They adopted the New Delhi Declaration and two Joint Statements on Countering Radicalization and Cooperation in Digital Transformation. I would like to inform you, Sir, that during the course of India's Presidency, we hosted 15 ministerial-level meetings, over 130 institutional meetings with a focussed theme SECURE which was an acronym that signifies our priorities. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would now like to talk, Sir, about our neighbourhood. Engagements with immediate neighbours have been prioritized after the Modi Government came into

office in 2014. Two prominent visits were those of the Prime Minister of Nepal and the President of Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister of Nepal paid his visit from May 31st to June 3rd. He and the Prime Minister participated in virtual ground-breaking ceremonies of six projects including integrated check-posts, railway lines, petroleum pipeline facilities and transmission lines. They witnessed the handing over of the Kurtha-Bijalpura Section of the Railway Line – I know, many Members would have an interest in that – and they reached understandings on electricity imports from Nepal and on sale to Bangladesh through India. They have also committed to expand the border petroleum pipeline infrastructure. ... *(Interruptions)*

As far as the President of Sri Lanka was concerned, this was his first visit to India in his present capacity. He had a very good discussion with our Prime Minister and we covered all aspects of connectivity from maritime, air and energy to financial and people-to-people connectivity. ... *(Interruptions)*

We signed agreements on development projects in Trincomalee district, on animal husbandry, renewable energy, and UPI interface. ... *(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister, Sir, raised issues related to the Tamil community in Sri Lanka, and I hope that the Members of Parliament with interest in this special subject should listen to this. ... *(Interruptions)* He re-iterated the need to fulfil the aspirations of Tamils. He underlined the importance of implementing the 13th Amendment and conducting Provincial Council Elections. ... *(Interruptions)* He also took up the issue of Indian fishermen. Sir, you are aware that this is an issue which is frequently raised in this House also. ... *(Interruptions)* He requested the Sri Lankans to approach it on a humanitarian basis. ... *(Interruptions)*

May I, Sir, touch briefly on the subject of G20. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to assure you that the pressing issues facing humanity are being highlighted. ... *(Interruptions)* We are focusing on Mission LiFE, popularisation of millets, human-centric approach to climate action and development, and use of technology to transform lives. ... *(Interruptions)* We have had a number of Ministerial Meetings of the G20 across India, including the Development Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi, and

other meetings in Hyderabad, Goa, Pune, Gandhinagar, and Chennai. ... *(Interruptions)* So, we are realising our intent to make India's Presidency a truly national endeavour and showcase India to the world. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would also like to assure you that the Ministers of the MEA have been very active during this period. ... *(Interruptions)* I, myself, have travelled extensively in Africa and Latin America. My colleagues, the Ministers of State, have done so as well. ... *(Interruptions)* May I say a few words, Sir, about 'Operation Kaveri'. This was an Operation which was launched because of an armed conflict in Sudan. ... *(Interruptions)* We used both Air Force and Navy to bring back more than 4,000 of our citizens. ... *(Interruptions)* So, once again, we have shown that the Modi Government will never leave its people behind during any crisis, anywhere in the world. ... *(Interruptions)*

As far as fishermen are concerned, we have been successful in bringing back 74 of them from Sri Lanka and 398 of them from Pakistan. ... *(Interruptions)* So, in conclusion, Sir, I would like to state that today, the Indian Foreign Policy serves as a force for good and stability. ... *(Interruptions)* We vigorously defend our national interests and also promote international cooperation abroad. ... *(Interruptions)*

Thank you, Sir. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9721(A)/17/23]

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please put down this placard. All of you may please return to your respective seats. I would like to request your leader Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury that if you want a discussion, I will allow you to speak. First, please ask your Members to take their respective seats. If the House is in order, then I will allow.

... *(Interruptions)*

14.33 hrs

At this stage, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Shri Hibi Eden and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY; THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Sir, this behavior will not be tolerated. When the hon. Minister of External Affairs was giving a message for the country and the world, at that time what they did, ... *(Interruptions)* Now, we will also not allow Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury ji to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): This is wrong. ... *(Interruptions)* I have a Point of Order. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury ji wants to raise a Point of Order.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, on 10th May 1978, the Leader of the opposition in this House, Stephen Sahab had brought a no-confidence motion against Shri Morar ji Desai. ... *(Interruptions)* And the day he moved a no-confidence motion, ... *(Interruptions)*

14.34 hrs

At this stage, Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Shri Kalyan Banerjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, please speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; THE MINISTER OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, I want to say that these people have given notice of no-confidence motion. Hon. Speaker has taken the cognizance of this notice and he has ten days' time to take a decision.

In these 10 days, whenever Hon, Speaker decides, the Government is ready for it. We have support of sufficient number of Members. ... (*Interruptions*) The people of the country have complete trust on Modi ji. The people don't trust these Members. ... (*Interruptions*) Why are these Members wearing black clothes? For 60 years, these people have committed*, so they have come here wearing black clothes. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, thank you very much.

14.37 hrs

**JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2023
As Reported By Joint Committee**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration.”

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRMAN: The motion was moved:

"That the Bill to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration.""

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Rajendra Agrawal ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Chairperson, I would like to say something. ... *(Interruptions)* Before I say something about this Bill, I would definitely like to say something about the hon. Members from the opposition. Hon. Chairperson, whatever they have in their minds is also reflecting on their bodies. ... *(Interruptions)* What are they hiding beneath these clothes? ... *(Interruptions)* What are they hiding beneath these black clothes? Their heart too is ... *, their words too are ... *. Have they got so

□ Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

much ... * that they are wearing black clothes to hide it? ... (*Interruptions*) Either to hide ... * or their ... * has increased so much that to hide their ... *, they have come here wearing black clothes. By the way, in the other House, a hon. Member also caught the attention of a crow. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, their past was dark, their present is dark and their future will also be dark. We are the warriors of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ... (*Interruptions*) We do not have a negative mindset. We have full confidence that they will certainly come out of this darkness. ... (*Interruptions*) We are confident that they will also see the light of the day. The sun will rise in their lives too and the ... * will vanish from their hearts and lotus will certainly bloom there for a developed India, a prosperous India. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Hon. Minister.

The House now stands adjourned till 3P. M.

14.39 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock.

Not recorded

15.00 hrs

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

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

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): You please assure that it will not happen. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Jan Vishwas Bill, 2023.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; THE MINISTER OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, the names of the Members, who have thrown torn papers on the Chair, should be made public. ... (*Interruptions*) It is a highly indiscipline act. It cannot be tolerated. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should not do this. Many of your hon. Members have torn papers here and thrown it towards the Chair. ... (*Interruptions*) I think it is an insult of the Chair and this kind of behaviour by senior Members like you is not right in this Temple of Democracy.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Rajendra Agrawal ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, you should dispose of at least the point of order. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon'ble Chairman: Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Chairperson, you have granted me permission to express my views on the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I gave notice. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: As per the directives of the hon. Speaker, I give you a ruling on it. I would like to draw the attention of the House to sub-rule (2) of the rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. It includes a provision that once permission is granted under the said rule, the discussion date on the motion will be fixed by the hon. Speaker, which will be within 10 days from the day of granting such permission. As per the tradition, after a no-confidence motion is moved in the House, the hon. Speaker consults the Leader of the House and the leaders of political parties and determines the date and time for the debate on the no-confidence motion. Thank you.

... (*Interruptions*)

15.02 hrs**JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2023
As Reported By Joint Committee... Contd.**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rajendra Agrawal ji.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL [Meerut]: Hon. Chairperson, you have granted me permission to speak on the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022.
... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I request you to take your respective seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: There have been extensive discussion on black clothes lately. I would like to make a small request that in the sixties, a famous actor was banned from wearing black clothes. A stampede had occurred in Kolkata. I request that a few hon. Members should be banned irrespective of their gender, so that there can be peace in the country and the states. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please express your views.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Hon. Chairperson, Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022 was presented in the Lok Sabha on 22th December, 2022 and it was sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the same day. This Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of senior parliamentarian Shri P.P. Chaudhary and I had the privilege of being a Member of the said Committee.

15.04 hrs

At this stage, Shri Anto Antony, Prof. Sougata Ray, Shri Kaushlendra Kumar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

This Amendment Bill envisages providing support to businesses by removing the fear of penalties for committing minor, technical and procedural errors. This Bill will go a long way in realising the dream of Ease of Doing Business, Ease of Living and *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, as the name of this bill suggests, it has been introduced to enhance public confidence in the governance system and towards Ease of Doing Business - commercial facilitation. It amends the penalty provisions of 42 different laws and decriminalizes them. ... (*Interruptions*) In many laws, instead of Fine, provision of Penalty has been inserted so that citizens can have ease in doing business. ... (*Interruptions*) These 42 laws relating to 19 Ministries / Departments include Indian Post Office Act, 1898, The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, Information Technology Act, Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act, and many other laws and they date back to the pre-British period or the British colonial period. ... (*Interruptions*) It is pertinent to mention here that under the leadership of hon. Modi ji, the work on Ease of Doing Business has been going on since year 2014. As a result, in terms of Ease of Doing Business, compared to the 132nd position in the year 2013 out of the list of 185 countries, we have jumped to the 63rd position by the year 2020. ... (*Interruptions*) This Jan Vishwas Bill has been brought under the leadership of hon. Modi ji to continue the said work. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson, the Joint Parliamentary Committee extensively discussed each of the 42 laws mentioned in the Jan Vishwas Bill under the leadership of Shri P.P. Chaudhary and it involved the relevant ministries / departments in this discussion. They also presented their report in Parliament on March 17th, 2023. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson, as I said, certain laws have been decriminalized in this Bill so that the compliance burden can be reduced. For example, the Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act, 1937 had a provision of imprisonment for 3 years if a mistake was committed in regard to grading of agricultural produce. Now, it has been removed and replaced with a penalty of eight lakh rupees. ... (*Interruptions*) Even in the IT Act, 2000, there was a provision of imprisonment of 3 years or fine of Rs. 5 lakh or both for disclosing personal information, which has now been replaced with a provision of a penalty of Rs. 25 lakh. ... (*Interruptions*) Similarly, many petty

offences under certain laws have been decriminalized. Similarly, in many laws, provisions for punishment have been replaced with fines so that offenders do not have to go to court. ... (*Interruptions*) This will also expedite the compliance of penalties and help in reducing the burden of work on courts. ... (*Interruptions*) For example, instead of fine up to one lakh rupees under The Patents Act, 1970, a penalty of Rs. 5 lakh has been introduced. ...(*Interruptions*)

After the recommendation of the Joint Committee, a proposal has been moved for decriminalization of 183 provisions of 42 Central Acts related to 19 ministries / departments. ... (*Interruptions*) It has been ensured that the quantum and nature of punishment is consistent with the gravity of the crime committed. ... (*Interruptions*) Imprisonment and fine, both are proposed to be removed in 60 provisions out of these 183 provisions. There are 47 provisions which propose to remove imprisonment and fine. There are 3 provisions which propose to do away with imprisonment. 10 provisions propose to remove fine. 2 Provisions propose to remove imprisonment and retain fines. 7 Provisions propose to remove imprisonment and enhance the fine. 108 Provisions propose to convert the imprisonment and fine into penalty. 80 Provisions propose to convert the imprisonment and fine into penalty. 2 Provisions propose to convert imprisonment into penalty. 26 Provisions propose to convert fines into penalty. ...(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson, I am concluding my speech. ... (*Interruptions*) The provision also includes increasing the penalty progressively for repeated violations of the law. ... (*Interruptions*) In this Amendment Bill, provisions have also been made for appointing Adjudicating Officers for fixing the penalty and to go to appellate against any decision. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson, by amending the 42 laws to enhance Ease of Doing Business, this Amendment Bill will also increase peoples' faith and assist in fulfilling the *AatmaNirbhar* (self-reliant) *Bharat* resolution of the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. ... (*Interruptions*) I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and hon.

Minister Shri Piyush Goyal for this. ... (*Interruptions*) I request the entire House to pass this very important Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this very important Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023. ... (*Interruptions*)

As the hon. Member of Parliament who spoke just before me said, I am also fortunate enough to be a Member of the Joint Committee which examined Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill. I want to bring a few points to the notice of this august House. ... (*Interruptions*) The Bill aims to decriminalise approximately 182 provisions of 42 laws across 19 Ministries in India. Offences under certain Acts will be replaced with monetary penalties, reducing the emphasis on imprisonment. Fines and penalties provided under various provisions will be increased by 10 per cent of the minimum amount every three years after the Bill becomes law. ... (*Interruptions*) The Bill specifies the appellate mechanisms for individuals aggrieved by the order passed by an adjudicating officer. Appeals may be filed with relevant authorities like the National Green Tribunal within specific timeframes. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I stand here on behalf of YSR Congress Party to support this Bill and want to bring to your kind notice some of the key concerns associated with the Bill. Replacing imprisonment with fines may not constitute true decriminalisation and might be termed as *quasi*-decriminalisation as fines still carry an element of censure and stigma, leading to functional differences. The number of offences deregulated by the Bill is relatively small compared to the vast regulatory framework in India. The Bill might not address the broader issues of over-criminalisation in economic legislations. The Bill's impact on true deregulation is limited, considering the vast number of imprisonment clauses in economic legislations. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I want to bring to the notice of this august House some of the unintended consequences on the judicial system. Decriminalisation could inadvertently shift the

burden of enforcement from the criminal justice system to administrative authorities, leading to potential inconsistencies in decision-making and enforcement practices. ... *(Interruptions)* Administrative authorities lack expertise and resources compared to the criminal justice system, and interpretation and application of regulations vary among different administrative bodies. Thus, inconsistent enforcement would create a perception of unfairness. Resource allocation within administrative authorities will be affected. Prioritisation of cases might be influenced by factors other than severity. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, before I conclude, I would say a few words about balancing economic growth and social justice. While promoting ease of doing business is essential, it should not overshadow the importance of protecting public welfare, social justice and environmental concerns. So, the Bill's impact on enhancing the ease of living and doing business will largely depend on its effective implementation and ongoing stakeholders' engagement. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would request the hon. Minister to address the issues raised by the YSR Congress Party, under the leadership of our dynamic leader, Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy *garu*, and take our suggestions into account. ... *(Interruptions)*

With this, I support the Bill. Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR (BIJNOR): Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

What I seem to understand about this Bill is that the provision of penalty has been introduced to replace the provision of punishment. It is a good step for the economy of the country. If someone is punished and sent to jail, then he or she could die and his or her business could also perish. So, it is a good step. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to say one thing related to this. All our Members of Parliament, such as Shri Rajendra Agrawal from Meerut, have discussed this matter related to businessmen in detail. Similar provisions for farmers should also be implemented so that the trust of 80 percent of the people of the country can be won. For example,

agricultural income is tax-free for farmers. But, GST is applicable on whatever agricultural goods they buy. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to say that these items too should be made available to them without charging any GST. There are many other laws in the country which need debates, such as the laws related to RERA, NCLT etc. If we go into their details, we find that the law enacted to save some people, hits many people elsewhere. The same applies to RERA as well as NCLT. ... *(Interruptions)*

Therefore, through you, I would like to convey that several additional provisions can be added to this Bill, which would increase people's trust on it. For this, more amendments should be brought in so that in the future, people feel that the Government of the country is functioning by taking us into confidence. ... *(Interruptions)*

Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister – Shri Piyush Goyal.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Chairperson, it is a matter of great pride for all of us that the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has consistently earned the trust of the country and has won the hearts of the people of the nation since the year 2014. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister had stated in the year 2014 itself that his government is dedicated to the poor people and Dalits of this country, its dedicated to the tribals and it will work with full concern for welfare of the mothers-sisters, daughters, women and the youth of the country. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, during the last nine years, we have witnessed through various schemes introduced by the hon. Prime Minister that how he has brought about changes in the lives of 140 crore people of the country, how he has earned the trust of 140 crore Indians and how he has instilled trust for Government in the hearts of around 140 crore citizens. ... *(Interruptions)* There was a time when whether one was a farmer or a businessman or a person running a small business or an MSME owner, all of them used to get trapped in the labyrinth of Government laws due to some small mistakes and they had to face the brunt of the courts for years. ... *(Interruptions)* There

used to be such a web of so many laws. ... (*Interruptions*) There were so many provisions due to which even a small mistake could have landed a person into jail. ... (*Interruptions*)

In such a situation, Hon. Prime Minister ordered us to have a comprehensive review of all the laws to ensure that each and every law is thoroughly examined once again. ... (*Interruptions*) How can the system be simplified? How can the system help in increasing trade and commerce on the basis of trust? How can this unwavering relationship of trust between the Government and consumers be strengthened? For this, the Prime Minister conducted a thorough study of the laws prevailing in the country, gathered information about them and our representatives went among the people to understand the issues they are facing? ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to express my gratitude to our Government officials and hon. Members who have provided us with valuable feedback, information and insights into the difficulties faced by the common people in their day to day lives and how we can address those issues by improving the laws. ... (*Interruptions*)

Approximately 1,500 such laws existed that were inherited from the past, some of which harbored a mentality of servitude and dated back to the pre-independence times and the Government, under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, was working on the said laws during the past nine years. ... (*Interruptions*) A lot of laws were so irrational that they lacked any relevance or meaningful purpose. ... (*Interruptions*) Around 1,500 laws were completely repealed, providing relief to the public and people. ... (*Interruptions*) I will communicate this to the hon. Members so that they can ensure that this message reaches the public. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to mention that there were approximately 40,000 such provisions, procedures and processes being governed, which had many possibilities of causing inconvenience to the public. ... (*Interruptions*) Under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, the Government has simplified or completely eliminated approximately 40,000 such compliance burdens, which the people had to follow over the past nine years. ... (*Interruptions*)

In a way, the Ease of Doing Business refers to simplifying conditions for industries and commerce and the Ease of Living refers to how common man can have convenience in his or her life without facing any trouble. ... *(Interruptions)* Many such provisions, around 40 thousand provisions, have been simplified or completely repealed as part of this process. ... *(Interruptions)* In this process, it was observed that there were many provisions where even minor mistakes could lead a person to face the brunt of the courts. ... *(Interruptions)* As per the old legal system, one had to spend a lot of money to get himself / herself acquitted from the court. ... *(Interruptions)* Even if a small fine was imposed, people used to face trouble because the fine had to be paid through the court. ... *(Interruptions)* There were hurdles in business transactions. ... *(Interruptions)* This atmosphere of fear caused distress to our small shopkeepers, vendors, hawkers, and those working in the MSME sector or the industrial sector. Around 3,600 such laws have been decriminalized which means the said people will no longer have to take rounds of courts. ... *(Interruptions)* Minor offenses, where no serious harm is caused to anyone due to a small mistake or misdemeanor, should not be considered criminal offenses. ... *(Interruptions)* Those offences should come under civil liability. ... *(Interruptions)* Those offences must attract fines, so that the people committing them do not commit such mistakes in future. ... *(Interruptions)* And they should keep this in mind going forward. ... *(Interruptions)* People should not suffer further, and, by paying a fine or penalty, they should be given another opportunity to improve. ... *(Interruptions)* I believe that the whole country has praised this step. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a general consensus on this subject across the country that this Government has initiated the process of decriminalization while prioritizing the national interest and public welfare. ... *(Interruptions)* The decriminalization of around 3,600 provisions across different laws is indeed a commendable work. ... *(Interruptions)* Today, I congratulate and thank the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for this. ... *(Interruptions)* In this context, when we sat to discuss different laws, it was noted that there are about 42 such laws, 42 Acts of Parliament, which have 183 provisions, wherein 19 ministries,

19 different departments or ministries are inter connected. ... *(Interruptions)* These laws also cause problems for the people. ... *(Interruptions)* Often there are reports of wrongdoings and even for minor mistakes, these laws trouble the common businessman, the ordinary trader, individuals associated with general industry or the general public. ... *(Interruptions)* 183 provisions, under 42 such laws being monitored by these 19 Ministries or Departments, have been decriminalized and it has happened for the first time in the history of India. ... *(Interruptions)* It has happened for the first time in the history of India. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the result of the visionary thinking of hon. Prime Minister, where 19 departments have come together to simplify so many laws by decriminalizing them. ... *(Interruptions)* People are being warned too that they have committed a mistake and they are being advised to not repeat it in future, as penalties will be imposed for it. ... *(Interruptions)* And they will have to pay the penalty. ... *(Interruptions)* If they commit the same mistake again, they will face even higher penalties. ... *(Interruptions)* If people commit same mistakes repeatedly, strict action can be taken against them. ... *(Interruptions)* Usually, we believe that a person engaged in a normal business, a small worker or a trader, is an honest person. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not this Government's intention to cast doubt on millions of honest businessmen or individuals associated with different industries of the country.

Hon. Chairperson, our Government believes all its people. This Government has full trust on small traders. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi trusts the wisdom, honesty and integrity of the 140 crore people of the country that they will do good work. ... *(Interruptions)* And if they commit a mistake inadvertently, they should be given a chance to rectify their mistakes. This process has been initiated under the "Jan Vishwas" Law. These are provisions which would not necessitate sending someone directly to jail for offences that do not cause serious harm or pose a threat to anyone. We have not touched any provision which could pose a serious problem. ... *(Interruptions)* Provisions related to minor offenses only have been taken for simplification and decriminalization, and only penalties have been prescribed for the

offence while heavier penalties have been reserved for repeat offenses. Such a calibrated approach not only enhances trust among people, but it also ensures that there is no ill-treatment of small traders or individuals associated with small businesses or industries. The Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Modi never tolerates any type of misbehavior and it aims to ensure that people are treated with trust and respect. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, after presenting this law, a Joint Committee was constituted under the Select Committee of Parliament. I want to express my gratitude to the Members of the said Committee and its Chairman Shri P.P. Chaudhary, who worked tirelessly day and night, and conducted almost 9 sittings within a short span of time. We introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha in December, and we are going to pass it today in July. The report of this Committee was presented on time on 20th March, 2023 in the Lok Sabha and on 17th March, 2023 in the Rajya Sabha. I thank Shri P.P. Chaudhary ji and his Committee Members for the hard work they have put in just under 90 days. The Committee has presented very good recommendations. For example, it said that fine shall be replaced by penalty. We have accepted it. It suggested that an adjudication mechanism and an appellate authority should be established for recovery of penalties. We respected this recommendation and out of the 7 general recommendations proposed by the Committee, we have accepted six of them. ... *(Interruptions)* There is only one provision for which the Committee suggested that even the past mistakes should also be reviewed under the amended provision, and relief may be granted against those mistakes under the said amended provision. When we legally examined it, we found that there are many issues with it. ... *(Interruptions)* So, we will not be able to implement this amendment with retrospective effect. This was the only suggestion we did not accept. I would like to compliment all the 31 Members of Parliament who were members of this Committee, because the profoundness and the dedication with which they worked in details on each and every provision seriously is really commendable and I would like to thank them for their suggestions and their hard work. ... *(Interruptions)*

As Hon. Prime Minister has said, this trend will continue. ... *(Interruptions)* This process is not over yet. ... *(Interruptions)* We have already constituted a Committee in this regard. ... *(Interruptions)* Committee's another recommendation was also that we should constitute one more Committee to look into further laws and try to review the finer points of those laws. ... *(Interruptions)* We have constituted such a committee - Working Group for Decriminalisation of Legislation. ... *(Interruptions)* It includes representatives from Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, legal professionals, law experts, as well as officers from seven different Ministries, and various organizations such as National Housing Bank, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Central Pollution Control Board. A Committee comprising members from all of these important bodies has been formed, which will continue to oversee this process further. ... *(Interruptions)*

Today, this Jan Vishwas Bill demonstrates the unwavering trust and confidence the people of the country and the nation have in the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his entire Government. ... *(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister Narendra Modi wishes to make India one of the three largest economies in the world by our third term, and this law is a pathway towards achieving that goal. ... *(Interruptions)* It is the determination of the hon. Prime Minister to make India a developed country, a prosperous country and by the time we all meet in the year 2047 to celebrate 100 years of independence, this country should become a developed country, a prosperous country where no person has any problem, a country whose economy will be one of the three largest economies of the world, a country where no person is poor, a country where every woman, every mother and daughter is respected, a country where every young person gets immense opportunities to work. ... *(Interruptions)* This Government led by Hon. Prime Minister Modi is working tirelessly day and night to fulfil that dream. ... *(Interruptions)* Prime Minister Modi has dedicated his entire life for the country. ... *(Interruptions)* Just as Prime Minister Modi does not stop or get tired, he has resolved that the country is on the move now and no one can stop this country anymore. 140 crore people of this country, except a few people who

do not realize their sense of duty, have trust in him and generally, there is only one name in the hearts of the common people of the country today, and that name is - Narendra Modi. ... *(Interruptions)* Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government has brought unprecedented changes in this country today. The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought changes and improvements in the lives of 140 crore people through various schemes, we all are unanimously and unitedly engaged in taking the country forward. ... *(Interruptions)* Keeping in mind the slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas aur Sabka Vishwas', given by the Hon. Prime Minister, we will govern on the basis of trust, we will run systems on the basis of trust, and we will take this country forward to new heights on the basis of trust. ... *(Interruptions)* I request you all to extend your support to this Bill. ... *(Interruptions)* I also request you to support this important Bill, so that a unified voice resonates in the country indicating that the entire House wants to win the trust of the nation. ... *(Interruptions)*

Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend certain enactments for decriminalisation and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion is adopted.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON.SPEAKER: Now the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Revision of fines and penalties

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran - Amendment Nos. 1 and 2.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman - Amendment Nos. 15 to 17.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Advocate Dean Kuriakose - Amendment No. 19.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

Clause 4 Savings

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman - Amendment No. 18.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

Schedule

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran - Amendment Nos. 3 to 13.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Schedule be part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short title and commencement

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman - Amendment No. 14.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 1 stand part of the bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Long title of the Bill were added to the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

[English]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.35 hrs

REPEALING AND AMENDING BILL, 2022

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 16 – Repealing and Amending Bill.

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE,
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** Sir, with your permission, I beg to move* :

“That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend an enactment,
be taken into consideration.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend an enactment,
be taken into consideration.”

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA (BHILWARA): Hon. Chairperson, I am speaking in favour of this Bill. Through this Bill, the basic principle of the Modi Government is: Minimum Government - Maximum Governance. ... *(Interruptions)* These laws are being repealed under this view. Some of these laws, particularly those related to financial appropriations need to be periodically repealed. There are certain old laws that are no longer relevant today. This Bill has been introduced to repeal those laws. ... *(Interruptions)*

Apart from this, the technical error in the Act is also being rectified. ... *(Interruptions)* I support this Bill and express my views in favour of it. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

□ Moved with the recommendation of the President.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; 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, this Bill is also important for the reason that it is based on our concept of 'Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business'. ... *(Interruptions)* Our UPA colleagues were saying lately that it should be passed without any discussion. ... *(Interruptions)* I am saying this to provide information that when the UPA was in power between the years 2004 and 2014, they could not bring any such Bill to repeal obsolete laws. ... *(Interruptions)* When Prime Minister Modi came to power in the year 2014, he thought that this is also an area where, in line with the concept of Minimum Government and Maximum Governance, we can enhance Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business for citizens. ... *(Interruptions)* Through the 'holistic government' approach, he observed that there are so many statutes that have no utility. ... *(Interruptions)* We have abrogated 1486 statutes so far. After that, we identified a total of 65 more such statutes that were no longer useful. ... *(Interruptions)* These statutes were causing problems to the citizens. Some people used to prepare their list. We introduced them in the Lok Sabha last time as well. ... *(Interruptions)* But, after that, we have brought an official Amendment. There were 11 more such statutes which dated back to the British era and had no utility. Even the citizens did not know them and they also used to face troubles because of them. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, today we have brought a total of 76 such statutes. If we pass these Bills, the number of such Bills will be 1562. It is a huge number. ... *(Interruptions)*

Since the NDA came to power under the leadership of Modi ji in the year 2014, the number of these Bills has reached 1562. If I give the figure during the UPA Government from the year 2004 to the year 2014, there is not a single such Bill. ... *(Interruptions)* It means that the citizens were getting distressed and the Government had no concern. ... *(Interruptions)* But, Modi ji is concerned about it. Therefore, we have brought those enactments that were pointless and had no utility. ...

(Interruptions) I would request that it should be passed unanimously. Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend the enactment be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

HON.SPEAKER: Now the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The First Schedule

Amendment(s) made:

Page 3, for lines 6 and 7, substitute the following, -

“1850	18	The Judicial Officers' Protection Act, 1850.
1855	28	The Usury Laws Repeal Act, 1855.
1857	05	The Oriental Gas Company Act, 1857.
1867	11	The Oriental Gas Company Act, 1867.
1871	04	The Coroners Act, 1871.
1881	16	Obstructions in Fairways Act, 1881.
1885	18	Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885.
1912	13	Delhi Laws Act, 1912.
1915	07	Delhi Laws Act, 1915.
1922	22	Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Act, 1922.
1923	06	Cantonments (House Accommodation) Act, 1923.

1934	15	Sugarcane Act, 1934.	
1941	12	The Delhi Restriction of Uses of Land Act, 1941	(3)

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the first schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Second and Third Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title

Amendment(s) made:

Page 1, line 3, for "2022", *substitute* "2023". (2)

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

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

... (*Interruptions*)

Enacting formula

Amendment(s) made:

Page 1, line 1, for "Seventy-Third", *substitute* "Seventy-Fourth". (1)

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

The full name of the Bill was added to the Bill.

... (*Interruptions*)

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

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move:

That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House now stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 28, 2023.

15.49 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 28, 2023 / Sravana 6, 1945 (Saka).

INTERNET

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