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Tuesday, July 18, 2017
Ashadha 27, 1939 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 18, 2017/Ashadha 27, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

REFERENCES BY THE SPEAKER

Loss of lives in various tragic incidents

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as per the information received, 25 Central Reserve Police Force personnel were martyred and 6 others were injured in an ambush by Naxalites in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on 24th April, 2017.

Hon. Members, on 22nd May, 2017, 22 persons were killed and 59 others injured in a terrorist attack in Manchester, United Kingdom. In an another terrorist attack carried out on 3rd June, 2017, 7 persons were killed and 48 others injured in London.

On May 31, 2017, in a bomb blast near the Diplomatic Enclave in Kabul, Afghanistan more than 150 people were killed and in an attack on the 209 Corp of the Afghan National Defence Forces in Mazar-e-Sharif on April 21, 2017 caused deaths to more than 140 Afghan soldiers.

This House unequivocally and in strongest terms condemns these dastardly terrorist attacks and condoles the loss of innocent lives in these terror attacks and stands in solidarity with the people, Parliaments and the Governments of United Kingdom and Afghanistan and supports their efforts to bring the perpetrators of such heinous attacks to justice.

Hon. Members, 44 people have been reported to have died and many others injured after a bus fell into the Tons River in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh on 19th April, 2017.

In an another tragic incident, 23 persons have been reported dead after a bus fell into a gorge in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand on 23rd May, 2017.

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Hon. Members, 16 Amarnath pilgrims were reportedly killed and several other pilgrims were injured when a bus fell into a deep gorge in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on the 16th of July, 2017.

Hon. Members, more than 80 persons are reported to have lost their lives and several others injured besides large-scale loss of property due to heavy floods and landslides caused by heavy rains in some parts of the Northeast States including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura.

The flooding and landslides caused by the incessant rainfall brought by the south-west monsoon on 25th and 26th May, 2017 in Sri Lanka took the toll of more than 200 lives and caused severe damage to property affecting several lakhs of people. This House also mourns the loss of more than 150 lives in several landslides that took place on 12th and 13th June, 2017 in Bangladesh.

This House expresses its deepest condolences to the people, Parliaments and Governments of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on these disasters.

Hon. Members, 122 Myanmar Armed Forces personnel and their family members were killed in a tragic air crash on 7th June, 2017. On 17th June, 2017, a major fire broke out in Portugal in which 64 persons were killed and over 200 persons were injured.

This House expresses its condolences to the people, Parliaments and Governments of Myanmar and Portugal.

The House expresses its profound sorrow on these tragic incidents which have brought pain and suffering to the bereaved families and wishes speedy recovery of those injured.

Now this House will stand in silence for a short while in respect of the departed souls.

11.04 hours

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

11.05 hours

(At this stage, Shri K.C. Venugopal, Shri Kalyan Banerjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

... (Interruptions)

11.05 ½ hours

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour. Question No. 21, Shri Radheyshyam Biswas – not present.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, Paryavaran Mantri.

(Q.21)

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 o'clock.

11.06 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 22 to 40

Unstarred Question Nos. 231 to 460

*** 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.

12.00 hours

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

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

FELICITATIONS BY THE SPEAKER**Congratulations to ISRO Scientists
and
Indian Contingent of Asian Athletics Championship*****[Translation]***

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are aware, on 5th June, 2017, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the heaviest ever rocket GLV-MK(D) of the country to install the GSAT-19 (GSAT-19) satellite in Earth orbit.

With this launch our country has yet again exhibited its prowess and potential in the domain of space endeavours. This achievement of our space scientists has made us proud.

The House conveys its felicitations to all the scientists of Indian Space Research Organization who toiled day and night to make it happen with their skill. The House wishes them all success in their future endeavours.

Hon. Members, as we all know, at the Asian Athletics Championship, 2017 held from 6th to 9th July, 2017 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, the Indian contingent has carved out a history by securing the highest position in the medal tally by winning a total of 29 medals including 12 Gold, 5 Silver and 12 Bronze medals.

This remarkable achievement is a matter of national pride and will be a source of inspiration for all our sportspersons and sports enthusiasts.

I am sure all of you will join me in extending our felicitations to the Indian Contingent for this feat.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I have disallowed the Adjournment Motions.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.02 hours

(At this stage, shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav came and stood on the floor near the Table)

12.02 ½ hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution: -

- (1) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 (No. 1 of 2017) promulgated by the President on 4th May, 2017.
- (2) The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Ordinance, 2017 (No. 2 of 2017) promulgated by the President on 1st July, 2017.
- (3) The Central Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Ordinance, 2017 (No. 3 of 2017) promulgated by the President on 8th July, 2017.
- (4) The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Ordinance, 2017 (No. 4 of 2017) promulgated by the President on 8th July, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7060/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

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[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.O.1548(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 15th May, 2017, making certain amendments in the Schedule of the Intelligence Organization (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1985 under sub-section (2) of Section 6 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7061/16/17]

...(Interruptions)

12.03 hours

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJITU): I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 20 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993: -

- (1) (i) Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission, India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Memorandum of Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission, India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7062/16/17]

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(3) A copy of the 47th Annual Assessment Report (Hindi and English versions) regarding Programme for accelerating the spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for various official purposes of the Union and its implementation for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7063/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the first statutes of the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 632(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd June, 2017 under sub- section (1) of Section 27 of the Institute of Technology Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7064/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts) Regulations, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.726(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th June, 2017 under Section 52 of the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7065/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

18.07.2017

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): Hon. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Hon. Minister Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. 3/3017-Compensation Cess (Rate) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 18th July, 2017, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 1/2017-Compensation Cess (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 so as to increase the Compensation Cess rate on cigarettes as mentioned in the notification with effect from 18th July 2017 under sub-section (2) of Section 8 of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7066/16/17]

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12.04 hours

ASSENT TO BILLS*

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table the following twelve Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Eleventh Session of Sixteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 17th March, 2017: -

- 1 The Appropriation Bill, 2017
- 2 The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2017
- 3 The Finance Bill, 2017
- 4 The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2017
- 5 The Appropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2017
- 6 The Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2017
- 7 The Central Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017
- 8 The Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017
- 9 The Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017
10. The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017
11. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017
12. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2017

* Placed in Library, See No. LT 7067/16/17.

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

- 1 The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2017;
- 2 The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2017;
- 3 The Mental Healthcare Bill, 2017; and
- 4 The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

... (*Interruptions*)

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12.04 ½ hours

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
75th to 79th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2017-18): -

* (1) 75th Report on the subject 'Performance of Import and Export Trade Facilitation Through Customs Ports'

* (2) 76th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee Contained in their 43rd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Indira Awaas Yojna'.

* (3) 77th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee Contained in their 63rd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Administration of Prosecution and Penalties in Central Excise & Service Tax'.

* (4) 78th Report on the subject 'Stressed Assets Stabilisation Fund (SASF)'.

* (5) 79th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee Contained in their 91st Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Adarsh Co-Operative Housing Society, Mumbai'.

* These Reports were presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 29th April 2017, and 6th June 2017 under Direction 71A when the House was not in Session and the Speaker was pleased to order the Printing, Publication and Circulation of the Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The matter was duly notified vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 1st May 2017 and 12th June 2017.

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12.05 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS
204th Report

[English]

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the Two Hundred-Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Administration and Development of Union Territory of Lakshwadeep. ... (*Interruptions*)

12.05 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE
249th and 250th Reports

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture: -

- (1) Two Hundred Forty-Ninth Report on 'The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016.'
 - (2) Two Hundred-Fiftieth Report on 'The Major Port Authorities Bill, 2016.'
- ... (*Interruptions*)
-

12.06 hours

GOVERNMENT BILLS - Introduced

(i) Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, 2017**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): On behalf of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 18.7.2017.

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12.06 ½ hours

**(ii) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains
(Amendment) Bill, 2017***

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH
SHARMA):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Ancient
Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Ancient
Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 date 18.7.2017.

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12.06 ¾ hours

(iii) Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Bill, 2017*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to declare the institution known as the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to declare the institution known as the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I introduce ** the Bill. ... (*Interruptions*)

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 date 18.7.2017.

** Introduced with recommendation of the President.

12.07 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

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

Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter have been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

* Treated as laid on the Table

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(i) **Regarding setting up of Semiconductor Fabrication Unit in Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): Gujarat State Government has received a proposal from M/s N.O.V.F. II (Next Orbit Ventures Fund II) for setting up a Semiconductor Fabrication Unit for building an ecosystem for analog, digital and solar P.V. Wafer Manufacturing. The Next Orbit Ventures Fund (NOVF) has indicated its intention to set up fab and ecosystem units in Gujarat with a project size of over 6 crore dollars where the investment is spread over 5 years. The same proposal has been sent to the Government of India on 9.12.2016.

Subsequently, the State Government has received the High Level DPR of NOV F II from MOS, NOV F II for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication Manufacturing in India and the same has been forwarded to the Government of India on 13.01.2017 for necessary action in its final stage. So far as the request made by NOV F II for assistance from the State Government is concerned, the matter is being examined by the State Government and once a decision has been taken.

Therefore, I demand that assistance and orders be given from the State Government to take action in the matter of N.O.V.F. II.

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(ii) Need to construct an elevated road at Chap Dhala railway crossing near Siwan railway station, Bihar

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): The “Chaap Dhala” located near the railway station of Siwan, the district headquarters of my Parliamentary constituency, is a manned railway crossing due to which there is traffic jam in the entire city. This is the only route through which any part of the city can be reached. People have to face a lot of difficulties every day.

Therefore, I demand from the Government of India that an elevated road should be constructed between "Chap Dhala" to Daroga Rai College (about three km) so that people may have easier access to any part of the city and their problem can be solved expeditiously.

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(iii) Need to restart the unit of National Textiles Corporation at Chalisgaon, Maharashtra

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Around 11 units of the Textile Corporation running on PPP model in the country are closed and Chalisgaon Textile Mill is one of them and has also been closed for a long time. Inordinate delay in making it operational has led thousands of employees working in this mill and their family members to starvation and they cannot afford to wait till the announcement of the decision of the long pending court case. The problem of unemployment has gone from bad to worse in this area because of it. It is necessary that this mill should be made operational at the earliest in order to save the lives of these starving employees and their family members.

I would like to submit before the Government that we have held a meeting with officials concerned, leaders of various unions and local public representatives and MPs in this regard, but no concrete action has so far been taken in this matter. Adopting a humanitarian approach, let us try to find an amicable solution by consulting among ourselves so that this closed unit of the National Textile Mill can be made operational as soon as possible and the lives of thousands of unemployed mill workers and their family members who are subjected to starvation can be saved.

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(iv) Need to undertake repair of Pandhurna-Warud-Hathurna road declared as National Highway

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS (WARDHA): A commendable work has been done by announcing the conversion of Pandurna-Warud-Hathurna state highway of my Parliamentary constituency Wardha into a National Highway for which I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Road Transport. At the same time, I would also like to tell the Hon. Minister that the condition of this Pandurna-Varud-Hathurna road is very bad. Ever since this state highway has been converted into a National Highway, the State Government is also not repairing it. Passengers and trucks have to face a lot of difficulties in crossing it. Potholes have formed in the middle of the road and due to rain, many accidents have also occurred on this road.

Therefore, the Hon. Minister is requested to start the construction of this road at the earliest or get the same repaired, so that this road may become usable and in the meantime, make efforts to get the construction of the State road completed on a war footing.

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(v) Need to promote high-quality seeds with a view to increase agricultural productivity

SHRI LALLU SINGH (FAIZABAD): Despite India being the fastest growing economy in the world, farmers here are being forced to commit suicide due to farming being unprofitable. Providing special facilities to farmers at the Government level, arrangements have been made to provide loans of Rs. 1,00,000 crore to the farmers this year as compared to the last year. However, still more than 40 percent of farmer families are dependent on the loan system of the private sector. In 2016-17, 272 million tonnes of food grains are estimated to be produced which is higher than that of the previous many years. Experts are of the opinion that increased production of food grains can be helpful to some extent in solving the food crisis of the country, but it is not capable of solving the personal economic problem of the farmer.

I would like to suggest that there is a need to increase the productivity of farming to strengthen the economic condition of the farmer. In 2015-16, seeds of 310 new food grains have been discovered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, of which 155 are of wheat, rice etc., 50 are of oilseeds, 43 are of pulses and the remaining are of other food grains.

I would like to urge upon the Government to make arrangements for these newly discovered seeds to be used by the farmers in farming so that the productivity of the farmers and their income may go up.

18.07.2017

(vi) Need to set up adequate cold storages in Dindori Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (DINDORI): Through Rule 377, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that grapes, pomegranates and other vegetables are produced in large quantities in my Parliamentary constituency Dindori (Maharashtra). But in my Parliamentary constituency the availability of cold storage is very less than the requirement and their storage capacity is also low. As a result of which grapes, pomegranate and vegetables of the farmers worth crores of rupees are spoiled inflicting heavy loss to the farmers and hence they stuck in the debt-trap and are left with no option but to commit suicide. The capacity of the existing cold storages should be increased and they should be equipped with modern technology in order to ward off such a situation.

The Government is requested to provide financial and technical assistance to these cold storages from the Central level to expand and modernize adequate cold storage and operational cold storage to prevent spoilage of grapes, pomegranates and other vegetables in my Parliamentary constituency Dindori.

18.07.2017

(vii) Need to include Chhattisgarhi language in the Eight Schedule to the Constitution.

SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH (RAJNANDGAON): Chhattisgarhi language, with its rich dictionary and abundant literature, is the official language of the State of Chhattisgarh. Poems, plays, essays, research books, etc. have been written in Chhattisgarhi language. In 1885 Chhattisgarhi grammar, written by Shri Hiralal Kavyopadhyay and its English translation was published in "Journal of Asiatic Society of Bengal" in 1890. The administrative glossary has been published by the Chhattisgarh Official Language Commission. The script of Chhattisgarhi language is Devanagari. The number of people speaking and understanding Chhattisgarhi is more than the number of people speaking languages included in the Eighth Schedule. Many states have less area than Chhattisgarh but their languages are included in the Eighth Schedule like Kerala (Malayalam), Goa (Konkani), Manipur (Manipuri) etc. Chhattisgarhi is important not only from the regional point of view but also from the point of view of the history of a very ancient culture. The Chhattisgarhi terms are also found in Ramcharitramanas such as Makhi, Sowat, Jarhi in Baalkand: Pakhwara, larai in Bihar Kishkindhakand and Sorah, Aagi, Manduri in Varsha Sundrakand etc. Even at present, many terms are used equally in Chhattisgarhi and Hindi languages. Inclusion of Chhattisgarhi language in the Eighth Schedule will definitely enrich the Hindi language and help in its development. Chhattisgarhi language has made an extraordinary contribution in the literary development of the country as well as in the preservation of culture. I would like to request the Government to give due respect by including the official language of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarhi, which is spoken and understood almost in the entire State, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

18.07.2017

(viii) Need to shift the headquarters of Damodar Valley Corporation from Kolkata to Jharkhand

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY (KODERMA): DVC came into existence as the first multipurpose river valley project of independent India. The heritage of the people of India DVC came into existence as a result of untiring efforts made to control the erratic Damodar River. It spans over an area of 25000 sq. km covering the States of Jharkhand and West Bengal. Most of the operational area of DVC Damodar Valley Corporation lies in Jharkhand, but it is a matter of regret that its headquarters is in Kolkata and hence the officers/employees and other public have to go to Kolkata for every work which causes loss of time and money. Whereas the headquarters should be located only in the area where largest part of the project lies. I would like to request the Government to shift the headquarters of DVC from Kolkata to the State of Jharkhand.

18.07.2017

(ix) Need to review the closure of Dhanbad-Chandrapura railway line

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRDIH): Dhanbad-Chandrapura under East-Central Railway, also known as DC Line, was closed from June 15, 2017 in view of the fear of accident due to fire under the railway line. A population of more than 5 lakhs around 14 stations and halts within the stretch of 34 km has been affected due to the closure of the railway line. More than one crore passengers travel on this route every year. This route connects Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, with other States including Santhal Pargana. A total of 26 pairs of express/passenger trains were operated on this route. After the closure of the railway line, 19 trains were stopped permanently and 7 trains continued to be operated on the diverted route. While there is widespread resentment among the people of this region and agitation is being staged by various parties/organizations, the Railways is estimated to lose the revenue of crores of rupees. The transportation of coal produced from various projects of BCCL has been affected due to the closure of the said railway section. Coal being supplied from this region to various power plants of the country and other States is completely stopped due to which BCCL has suffered a loss of crores of rupees so far. The entire section of Dhanbad-Chandrapura railway section is not affected by the fire, then why was the diverted route not constructed before closing it, which is being talked about today? Why was the diverted route or diversion not constructed before the railway line was closed when the Railways was well aware of the presence of fire under this railway section for years.

I would like to request the Government to reconsider the closure of the railway line. All the discontinued trains should be run through the diverted route besides the work related to diversion/laying of new railway line should be undertaken on priority basis.

18.07.2017

(x)Need to ensure training and development of entrepreneurship and employment opportunities based on organic farming cultivation of fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants in Himalayan States

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK' (HARIDWAR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the border, backward, inaccessible and remote areas of the country where migration is taking place on large scale. People from the villages of the Himalayan regions of the country have left their homes and migrated elsewhere due to lack of employment. This has rendered most of the villages vacant. The people of the hilly region remain in the second line of defence after the military personnel and protect the country's borders.

I would like to request the Union Government that training, employment and entrepreneurship development should be ensured according to the needs of the Himalayan regions by placing thrust on organic farming, floriculture, fruit processing, vegetable, fruit, spice production, herb production, eco-tourism, adventure tourism, forest based industries so that migration may be checked and the economy of the region be improved and the villages of our border area are not rendered vacant.

18.07.2017

**(xi) Need to provide pesticides on subsidised rates to farmers of Churu
Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan**

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU): In most of the villages of Sujangarh, Bidasar, Taranagar and Rajgarh (Churu) of my Parliamentary constituency Churu, Katra is highly affecting the crops of Moth, Bajra, Guar, Oilseeds, causing huge damage to crops. Similarly, in the villages of Sujangarh, Bidasar (Churu) and Sridungargarh, Nokha (Bikaner), whiteflies are highly affecting the groundnut crop, due to which most of the groundnut crop is going to be failed, whiteflies' attack had become the order of the day during the last years also which caused huge losses to the farmers.

I would like to request the Government to make available high quality and subsidized pesticide chemical to the farmers on time to save groundnut and other kharif crops from the menace of whiteflies and Katre in order to ward off crop failure in my Parliamentary constituency.

(xii) Need to develop Sasthamcotta railway station under Trivandrum division of Southern Railway

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): The Sasthamcotta Railway Station comes under the Southern Railway, Trivandrum Division and it is one of the most important Railway Stations used regularly by hundreds of commuters. The station building lacks several necessities, including Waiting Hall, Refreshment Counters, Restrooms, Tea Stalls, Waiting Room and Toilet facility for ladies. There is no drinking water facility available at the Station and a lack of fencing on both sides of the Station enhances risk for passengers. The platform shelter is very small, and it needs to be expanded to provide facility to the commuters. There is no reservation counter and touch screen facility and electronic Display Board has not been provided on the Station. The overall area of the Station is very small and very often it is congested.

I would urge the Government to allocate a sum of Rs. 5 crores for overall development of Sasthamcotta Railway Station on priority basis.

18.07.2017

(xiii) Need to provide central assistance to Maharashtra for waiving loans of farmers

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): The Government of Maharashtra announced loan waiver for the farmers on June 24, 2017. The GRs that the State Government has issued so far towards waiving off farmers' loans makes it impossible for the farmers of Maharashtra to get loan waiver. The debt-ridden farmer is sad and worried because of it. Unless the Union Government helps the State Government, the farmers cannot get rid of debt.

The Prime Minister had assured to double the crop price during the Lok Sabha electoral campaign. Unfortunately, this assurance was not fulfilled. On one hand, farmers are not getting the price for their produce and on the other hand, the State Government is not providing any help to the farmers.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government to provide a financial assistance of Rs. 34000 crore to the Maharashtra Government for waiving off farmer's loan.

**(xiv) Need to revise the wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural
Employment Guarantee Scheme**

[English]

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): The MGNREGA was conceptualized to help the lowest of the down trodden with a minimum livelihood. It is now seen that even the unskilled agricultural workers in most of the States are getting more wages even at minimum level. The wages for the people governed under MGNREGA should be increased. For this Consumer Price Index-Rural should be made the yardstick since this is a better indicator of wage increase in rural areas. The increase in expenditure should not be a deterrent for increasing the wages under MGNREGA. The disbursement of low wages and delayed payments are affecting the livelihood of this section. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to ensure a revised higher wages and timely payment for those covered under MGNREGA immediately.

18.07.2017

(xv) Need to provide direct disbursement of fertilizer subsidy to the farmers

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Direct disbursement of fertilizer subsidy to the intended beneficiaries is being rolled out through all the registered fertilizers manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. A portion of the subsidy ranging from 5-15 % depending on the grade of fertilizer is given to manufacturers only when the retailer will acknowledge the receipt in the mobile fertilizer management system.

Mobile fertilizer management system expects capturing sale made by the retailer to the buyer or end user. This involves capturing sales details as well as buyers' details. There are many operational and implementation challenges such as identification of beneficiaries and determination of entitlement etc. This leads to exploring various options for handling these operational issues.

Benefits of direct subsidy to the farmers would check the corruption plug the loopholes and prevent wastage in subsidies. I, would, therefore, desire that the concerned department to expeditiously explore the usefulness of various identification instruments such as kisan credit cards, aadhaar cards, voter id card and bank accounts etc. for authentication of buyers.

18.07.2017

(xvi) Need to simplify the filing of returns and increase the exemption threshold under GST

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): The rush to implement GST regardless of whether India's six crore small traders are ready, makes it most difficult tax reform to accept and adopt. The current tax structure is rather unwieldy as GST regime has seven effective tax rate slabs instead of the much proclaimed 'One Nation One Tax formula. Businesses will have to undertake 37 annual filings (three a month plus an annual return) for each state the firm operates in. With the unorganised sector shifting to the organised sector, a significant labour absorption capacity that currently exists may get eroded. This can compound the already chronic problem of job creation and unemployment in India. There is need to simplify the process of GST filing.

It is very sad to note that the Government has fixed GST on Kadalai Mittai, Peanut candy and Pickles at 18%. Likewise, the GST on wet grinders, gadgets for physically challenged and the sanitary napkins are high. The Government should make these items as zero tax items for the benefit of people and respective sectors.

India has roughly six crore small firms, out of which a little over four crore firms don't own a computer or are not digitally literate. Operating costs are about to go up as business owners will have to hire accountants and computerise their operations. Under the GST regime, thousands of hitherto informal or unorganised MSMEs will shut shop for falling into the tax net. There is a need to increase the exemption threshold to one crore instead of 20 lakhs to protect MSME sector.

18.07.2017

(xvii) Need to regulate the flow of water in River Mahanadi in Odisha

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): There is a need to monitor opening and closing of gates of all barrages and dams on River Mahanadi by the Central Government with the help of modern scientific technology and to impress upon the concerned States not to resort to such activities that reduce or enhance the water flow in the river substantially.

18.07.2017

(xviii) Need to remove charges levied on withdrawals from ATMs and maintenance of minimum balance in bank accounts

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): From March 1, various public and private sector banks across the country have started charging customers for more than 3 and 5 cash transactions and as per the new rules of banks, different banks are charging different transactions in various ways besides levying charges on such services which were earlier free.

Apart from this, the bank has also made a rule making it mandatory for the customers to maintain the minimum balance of Rs.5000 in the account where on the one hand the Government is opening Jan Dhan account, the same bank is levying charges on its own will. At the same time, the bank levies a separate charge on digital payments and the bank customers across the country are very unhappy and angry.

Therefore, the Government should issue necessary instructions to the Reserve Bank of India to abolish the transaction charges and the rule providing for maintaining minimum balance.

18.07.2017

(xix) Need to amend section 108 of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014

[English]

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Andhra Pradesh was divided exactly three years ago, but there are issues relating to irrigation, employees, apportionment of assets and liabilities, increase in Assembly seats, division of High Court, division of institutions, etc., which are yet to be resolved.

AP Reorganisation Act does not allow for any kind of arbitration on any dispute between AP and Telangana after 1st June, 2017, since section 108 of AP Reorganisation Act gives power to President to remove difficulties ended on 1st June, 2017. It means, now, even President has no power to decide on disputes between both States. Section 108 says:

“If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act. the President may, by order do anything not inconsistent with such provisions which appears to him to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of three years from the appointed day”.

Since President is the head of the Constitution and it is the convention and practice to go to President for any dispute between the States, there is a need to extend Section 108 for, at least, two more years so that the above disputes can be resolved amicably between AP and Telangana. A letter by Government of Andhra Pradesh has also been written to Government of India in this regard.

Since Parliament is in session, I request Home Minister to immediately bring an amendment to AP Reorganisation Act and extend the period by two more years.

18.07.2017

(xx) Need to undertake a railway survey for laying a new railway line connecting Kazipet and Karimnagar via Huzurabad in Telangana

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): To give a boost to freight operation and passenger movement in the State of Telangana, I request the Ministry of Railways to initiate a railway survey for laying a new railway line connecting Kazipet (SCR) and Karimnagar (SCR) via Huzurabad (SCR). If Kazipet and Karimnagar are linked through a railway line via Huzurabad, the trains coming from the south towards west can be routed through Kazipet-Karimnagar-Nizamabad to Nanded, Aurangabad and other parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat. The 70 km line will serve as a direct link between Karimnagar and Southern Indian States through Kazipet, rendering greater mobility to freight and passenger movement in the region.

In this way, Karimnagar will become a crucial connecting railway hub in the State of Telangana, which further underscores the importance of this proposed line.

18.07.2017

(xxi) Need to reduce the tax slab under GST for assistive devices and appliances for physically challenged persons

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): There is no doubt, unlike any other Government in the past, this Government is very sensitive towards physically challenged persons and is doing everything possible for their welfare and wellbeing. But, it appears, the GST Council has other view-point on this section of the people. Different kinds of equipment for physically-challenged are mentioned under various Chapters of GST Act.

The House is aware that assistive devices for physically-challenged, right from Braille typewriters and Braille paper, Braille frames, slates, script writing guides to wheelchairs, urine collection bags, joint replacements, talking books, assistive listening devices, implants and other devices and instruments are now attracting 5% GST. But, at the same time, the inputs and raw-material for manufacturing these devices or equipment attract 18% GST. Even though the input tax is 18% and the final tax attracts 5% which otherwise means that the domestic manufacturer can claim refund, but I strongly feel that even this 5% pinches them the most.

Secondly, if you look at some of the orthopedic appliances, including crutches, surgical belts and trusses attract 12% and cars for physically-challenged attract 18%.

I feel that these slabs are on higher side and hence request the hon'ble Finance Minister and GST Council to bring them down to an acceptable level.

18.07.2017

(xxii) Need to review the proposed move to close down regional Offices of Rubber Board in Kerala

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Proposed move of Rubber Board to close down a large number of its regional offices in the state would make the Rubber Board's services inaccessible for farmers. Of the approximate 44 regional offices of the Rubber Board in the country, around 25 are in Kerala. Kerala has 12 Lakh rubber farmers and 90 percent of the total rubber production is from Kerala. Farmers largely depend on these regional offices during replantation, cultivation assistance and for availing rubber subsidy.

The Board's decision to close down, merge and reduce the strength of rubber board offices in the state will affect the farmers. They are already facing an economic crisis due to the sharp fall in prices of natural rubber. Hence, I request the Government for immediate withdrawal of the move.

18.07.2017

(xxiii) Need for capacity expansion of National Fertilizer Plant at Nangal, Punjab

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): In my constituency Anandpur Sahib parliamentary constituency, (Punjab) N.F.L. Plant at Nangal township has production of 7 lakhs metric tonnes. The plant has extra land, building and other infrastructure. One year ago, previous Government sent a proposal for its expansion to 13 lakhs metric tonnes with the cost of Rs. 5500 crores. The proposal lies with the Government of India. After Bank Guarantee, only Rs. 1100 crores are needed as equity fund in which Centre has share of only Rs. 900 crore and the share of Government of Punjab is Rs. 200 crores. The expansion of the said plant will fulfill the total consumption needs of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir. It will reduce export burden and save foreign exchange.

I would urge upon the Government of India to direct Government of Punjab to release its share money and Government of India should also make arrangement for their share of funds. The expansion of the N.F.L. Plant will create job opportunities and will be very beneficial for Punjab.

18.07.2017

(xxiv) Need to review the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (RAJMAHAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act. The Act has been enforced in six districts of Jharkhand namely Dumka, Deoghar, Godda, Pakur, Sahebganj and Jamtara. This Act was brought with the purpose that the tribal people of Santhal Pargana could get their land as protection rights. This Act was first enforced in 1885 during British era. A movement was launched by many tribals of Santhal Pargana for this act in which hundreds of tribals were killed. Kanhu Marmu, the pioneer of this movement, was hanged. "Hool Diwas" is celebrated every year on 30th June to commemorate it. This is an old law and many amendments have been made to it, but the Government is informed with regret that Santhal Pargana has not yet got the benefit of this movement. This movement is being used politically. It seems that efforts are being made to scrap it. This law is not being enforced properly as well. A number of agencies have arbitrarily misguided the Centre with respect to the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act.

The Government is requested to use the system prescribed as per appropriate rules for the amendment to the Act related to Santhal Pargana which is not being done at present. At the same time, I would like to recommend that this Act should be reviewed.

18.07.2017

(xxv) Need to grant the status of 'Rashtra Pita' to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Subhasha Chandra Bose

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the visionary leader and nation builder who uniquely represented the depressed class, and Subhash Chandra Bose, the great leader of modern world history, both of these great personalities had dreamt of the bright form of independent India and sacrificed their lives to realize that dream. It would not be an exaggeration if Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the real hero of the freedom movement, who gave the slogan of “Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom” to the countrymen, is called the Karana of Indian politics. Just as the great warrior Karna in the Mahabharata was subjected to injustice throughout his life and even till his death, Netaji was subjected to injustice after injustice not only throughout his life but even after his death, that too in his own country. At the same time, Subhash Babu, who was the thorn in the eye of the British rulers, got only neglect, insult, migration and death in his account. It is said that the British government was shocked to see the enthusiasm among the Indian youth for joining Subhash Babu's Azad Hind Fauj. Netaji's policies and actions were not presented as much appropriately as he deserved. Similarly, Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, in the 65 years of his life, had made a significant contribution to nation-building by doing countless work in various fields like social, economic, political, educational, religious, historical, cultural, literary, industrial, constitutional etc. As a social and religious contribution, movements like Manusmriti Dahan (1927), Mahad Satyagraha (1928), Nasik Satyagraha (1930), Yevala ki Garajna (1935), were launched for human rights like entry of Dalits and Dalit tribals into temples, drinking water, eradicating social evils like untouchability, casteism, social ranking etc. He edited five weekly and fortnightly magazines named Mook Nayak, Bahishkrit Bharat, Samata, Janata and Prabuddha Bharat to awaken the voiceless, exploited and uneducated people between 1927 and 1956. He drafted provisions for the Election Commission, Planning Commission,

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Finance Commission, Hindu Code equally applicable for men and women, state reorganisation, organising large states into smaller ones, directive principles of state policy, fundamental rights, human rights, Comptroller and Auditor General, Election Commissioner and strong social, economic, educational and foreign policies that strengthened the political structure. To strengthen democracy, the three organs of the state, the judiciary, the executive and the legislature, were made independent and separate and the principle of one person, one vote and one value was proposed in accordance with equal civil rights.

Therefore, I demand from the Government that keeping in view the sacrifice made by Subhash Babu and Dr. Ambedkar's vision of modern India, their pictures should also be printed on the Indian currency notes along with Gandhiji by giving them the title of Father of the Nation, which will be a true tribute to a true patriot.

18.07.2017

(xxvi) Need to allow celebration of Nag Panchmi festival in Sangli district, Maharashtra

SHRI RAJU SHETTY (HATKANANGALE): We have been promoting the traditional religious festivals celebrated in all the states across the country for centuries. This promotes national unity and is also necessary. Similarly, for many years, a festival like Nag Panchami is celebrated across the country to show one's devotion towards the snake god. A big festival related to Nag Devta (Snake God) is celebrated in Shirala in Sangli district of Maharashtra.

But the court has banned this festival due to complaints lodged against this festival by some animal welfare organizations in the last several days. The citizens in this area are facing problems in celebrating this festival because of it. Tourists from different States of the country come to this area to see this festival. This increases the employment for the local people. But, at present this has come to a halt due to court restrictions.

I strongly request the Government that if legal permission is given to celebrate the festival of Nag Panchami by making some amendments to the law, then it will prove to be a big step taken by the Government for the citizens of this state.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 19th July, 2017.

12.08 hrs

***The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Wednesday, July 19, 2017/Ashadha 28, 1939 (Saka).***

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